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### INAUGURAL SESSION

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*Head of Delegation*

**H.E Luz Elena Baños**

Chair of the Management Board

Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)

Representante Permanente de México ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) desde el 31 de mayo de 2019.

Luz Elena Baños Rivas es embajadora de carrera. Ingresó al Servicio Exterior Mexicano (SEM) el primero de diciembre de 1986. Es licenciada en Relaciones Internacionales (UNAM), maestra en International Service (American University) y maestra en Defensa y Seguridad Hemisférica (Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina, programa compartido con el Colegio Interamericano de Defensa de la OEA). Estudió el Curso Superior de Defensa y Seguridad Hemisférica (especialidad) en el Colegio Interamericano de Defensa (2006-2007, graduada con honores).

En su carrera como diplomática, la embajadora Baños ha estado adscrita en representaciones de México en Panamá, El Salvador, Trinidad y Tobago, Guatemala, Corea, Italia y los Estados Unidos. Antes de ser Representante Permanente de México ante la OEA, fue Directora General de Vinculación con las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (agosto 2016 – enero 2019). Como Representante Permanente de México ante la OEA ha ejercido la presidencia de la Junta Directiva de la Agencia Interamericana para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo; la vicepresidencia (2021-2022) y presidencia (2022-2023) de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica; así como la presidencia de la Comisión de Asuntos Migratorios (2023-2024).

La embajadora Baños es experta en temas latinoamericanos de seguridad y de cooperación internacional, tiene una distinguida trayectoria como funcionaria en la Secretaría de Educación Pública, en el Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, en el Festival Internacional Cervantino y en la propia Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores. Ha sido profesora de Derecho Internacional e Historia de México. Ha coordinado diversas ediciones y publicado artículos, ensayos, prólogos y crónicas en diversos medios, en temas de su especialidad como las relaciones con América Latina, diplomacia pública, diplomacia cultural, cooperación internacional y participación ciudadana. Fue colaboradora de la sección internacional del periódico “El Día” y trabajó en la revista “Tiempo”.

## INAUGURAL SESSION

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**H.E Luis Almagro**  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States

Luis Almagro was re-elected for a second term as Secretary General of the OAS on March 20, 2020. He was first elected as Secretary General of the OAS on March 18, 2015, with the support of 33 of the 34 member states and one abstention. Upon taking up the leadership of the OAS, he announced that the central theme of his administration would be “more rights for more people” and that he would work “to be the voice of the voiceless.” His priority at the helm of the General Secretariat is to put the Organization in touch with people’s needs and the new realities in the Hemisphere, as well as helping to ensure greater democracy, more rights, more security, and more development and prosperity for all.

As Secretary General, Almagro has prioritized defense of democracy and human rights in his daily work and has not hesitated to speak out when democracy and human rights are being trampled, as in the case of Venezuela, where he pressed for the enforcement of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), the “Constitution of the Americas,” as he calls it. He is the first OAS Secretary General to have invoked Article 20 of the IADC.

Pursuing a type of multilateral diplomacy predicated on principles, Almagro has also played an instrumental role in the search for solutions to the crisis in Nicaragua; he has put the struggle to restore democracy in Cuba at the very top of the regional agenda; he has increased OAS support for the Mission to Support the Peace Process (MAPP) in Colombia; he drove the creation of the Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), the first OAS mission of its kind; and he reinvigorated and expanded the OAS electoral observation missions, with the first-time deployment of missions in such countries as the USA and Brazil. Almagro also played a key role in ensuring elections in Haiti, mediated in the migrant crisis between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and deepened diplomatic efforts in the territorial differendum between Belize and Guatemala in relation to the Adjacency Zone, among other initiatives.

After announcing his intention of hauling the OAS into the 21st century, he transformed and modernized the Organization’s communications policy, bringing it closer to the citizens of the Hemisphere by giving it a more proactive presence on social media platforms. By mid-2017 the official OAS accounts had over 1 million followers. According to Twiplomacy, the Secretary General is the most followed leader of an international organization.

A career diplomat, he has extensive regional and international experience. Almagro was his country’s foreign minister from March 1, 2010 to March 1, 2015. Under his tenure, Uruguay set new records for exports year after year. He also defined several landmark initiatives of President José Mujica’s government that put the country on the global map. Uruguay decided to take in former prisoners from Guantanamo, granted asylum to dozens of Syrian families who were victims of their country’s civil war, and secured the endorsement of GRULAC for its election to a seat on the United Nations Security Council in January 2016.

Almagro was also ambassador to China for three years, after occupying senior diplomatic posts in his country’s foreign ministry and at its embassies in Germany and Iran.

In addition, he was elected as a senator in Uruguay’s national elections in October 2014.

Almagro is a lawyer by profession, is married to Luisa Fernanda Marín and has seven children. Apart from Spanish, he speaks English and French.

## INAUGURAL SESSION

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KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER

### **Mrs. Michele Sumilas**

Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Michele Sumilas is currently the Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR). PLR strengthens the Agency's policy voice and leadership in the interagency by better aligning budgetary considerations, planning processes, implementation discipline, and monitoring and evaluation with our development and humanitarian priorities.

Most recently, she served as the Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning. She previously served as Executive Director of Bread for the World, an anti-hunger Christian advocacy organization. Her government experience includes serving as USAID Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff during the Obama administration, and on the House Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations. Prior to serving in government, Sumilas worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Health Council.

Sumilas attended Mount Holyoke College and received her Master's Degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

## FIRST PLENARY SESSION

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### *Head of Delegation*

#### **Mr. Luis Salazar**

Director – International Cooperation Council  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Luis Salazar is a citizen of Belize with expertise in international relations, trade policy and international negotiations and seasoned expert in inter-regional development cooperation in the Caribbean, Central America, and Europe. His expertise extends to policy research, private sector development, business strategy, financial analysis, and export development. He has extensive expertise in inter-institutional partnerships (WTO, EC, CARICOM, SICA, ACP, OAS, UN). He has served in senior management positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Belize from 1990-2006. He researched and provided policy advice and was the Head of the ACP-EU Desk leading to the conclusion of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement.

Mr. Salazar has private and public experience in different capacities and is a seasoned diplomat serving his country (Belize) in diplomatic postings (Mexico, United Kingdom and Belgium). He was later the Corporate Manager of FirstCaribbean International Bank (having as parent company the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce - CIBC) catering for a diverse clientele in the agri-industry, tourism, and services. His experience extends to marketing, sales, shipping, and logistics as a former Manager at the Citrus Products of Belize Ltd. He was an independent consultant in International Trade and Export Development from 2015 to 2017 and Station Manager at the Research, Development & Innovation Center under the Ministry of Agriculture. From 2019 to 2023 he was the Senior Researcher at the Office of the Agent of Belize to the International Court of Justice at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He currently is the Director - International Cooperation Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Mr. Salazar holds a MA from the Instituto Matías Romero de Estudios Diplomáticos (IMRED – Mexico's Diplomatic Academy, S.R.E.) and a BA in the Management of Tourism Enterprises (Licenciado en la Administración de Empresas Turísticas - LAET) from the Universidad del Valle de Mexico. He has a proven ability to work in multi-ethnic and demanding environments.



**Ms. Kim Osborne**  
Executive Secretary  
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

Kim Osborne is the Executive Secretary for Integral Development at the Organization of American States, with responsibility for the Development Pillar; one of the four pillars of the organization. Appointed by the OAS Secretary General, she was confirmed by member states in January 2017. Since then, she has been leading the Organization's hemispheric development agenda with a specific focus on building resilience and competitiveness with programs in education, innovation, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, climate adaptation, among others. She simultaneously holds the position of Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development spearheading the OAS' Cooperation and Partnerships for Development program, the Development Cooperation Fund, the OAS Scholarship and Training Program and the Scholarships Capital Fund. Ms. Osborne is also responsible for coordinating Policy Dialogue on development, overseeing over 12 Meeting of Ministers and High-level authorities in the Hemisphere. For over two decades, Mrs. Osborne has dedicated herself to the socio-economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean region, pioneering programs in tourism and small business development. She believes strongly in promoting an alliance model for development that maximizes multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation in all its modalities. Mrs. Osborne is a daughter of Dominica.

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

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**Embajadora Ms. Lorena Larios**  
Secretaria para la Cooperación Iberoamericana  
Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)

Lorena Larios Rodríguez es diplomática mexicana con rango de Embajadora.

Fue designada Secretaria para la Cooperación Iberoamericana por consenso de los veintidós países miembros de la SEGIB en Nueva York en septiembre de 2022. Anteriormente, ocupó el cargo de Cónsul General de México en Shanghái, supervisando operaciones para el traslado de insumos médicos durante la pandemia COVID-19.

Se ha desempeñado en diversas posiciones diplomáticas, entre otras, en la Misión de México ante las Instituciones Europeas, en Bruselas, Bélgica, así como en la Embajada de México en Estados Unidos. Asimismo, participó en la organización de Foros y la discusión de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

En la Cancillería mexicana ha colaborado en diversas áreas del ámbito multilateral así como de las relaciones con Europa.

Es licenciada en Derecho y tiene estudios de Maestría en Política Exterior, ha participado como delegada en múltiples Conferencias y Foros internacionales.

Condecorada con la Orden de Isabel la Católica por el Gobierno de España. Ha impartido conferencias sobre Migración, Política Exterior, Relaciones con la Unión Europea y Relaciones Comerciales con China, en instituciones educativas y empresariales en México, Estados Unidos, España y China.

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

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### *Head of Delegation*

#### **Olaya Ondina Dotel Caraballo**

Vice Minister of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development

Es licenciada en Ciencias Políticas en la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). Posee las siguientes maestrías:

- Maestría en Ciencias Sociales de la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), en Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Maestría Filosofía en un Mundo Global con la Universidad del País Vasco y la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo.

Actualmente es doctoranda en el programa de doctorado: La Globalización a Examen: Retos y Respuestas Interdisciplinarias con la Universidad del País Vasco.

Maestra e investigadora en la escuela de Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, UASD; investigadora asociada de la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO.

Ha participado en diversos grupos académicos internacionales, como son:

- Equipo de Trabajo sobre Desigualdad: Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO
- Educación y Vida en Común, del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO).

Su designación como viceministra de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo se hace a raíz del Decreto 330-20. Asimismo, fue designada por el Ministro de Economía, como Ordenadora Nacional de los Fondos Europeos para el Desarrollo, siendo por tanto la primera mujer Ordenadora Nacional en la República Dominicana.

Dotel Caraballo lleva más de 15 años dedicada a la investigación social y a la docencia. Entre los temas trabajados en las investigaciones realizadas se pueden señalar: ciudadanía, políticas sociales, movimientos sociales y democracia. También en los últimos 10 años ha realizado evaluaciones de políticas públicas, de proyectos sociales y ha diseñado políticas públicas.

Ha realizado investigaciones para instituciones como el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID); el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF), el Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas, entre otros organismos internacionales.

Además, ha realizado consultorías para las agencias: Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), Fundación DEMUCA, PCEB República Dominicana, ANESVAD y la Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos (OEI), entre otros.

Cuenta con varias publicaciones entre las que están:

- Modelos de Ciudadanía. Un acercamiento Teórico. Revista Estudios Sociales, 2003.
- “Política Social en la República Dominicana: 1930-2007. ¿Inclusión o Asistencialismo?” (2007), coautora, junto a Rosa Cañete.
- “4% por la Educación: de campaña a movimiento social 2015”, auspiciada por el Foro Educativo.
- Fin de la impunidad: entre lo social y lo político. Reflexiones sobre la Marcha Verde y los partidos de oposición”, “Perspectivas No. 02/2017”, Fundación Friedrich Ebert.
- Formación Ciudadana, Participación Social y Política. Identidades, Núm. 15. Año 8.



## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

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### *Jefe de Delegación*

**Señor Bruno Sotomayor Villanueva**

Programs and Policies Office

Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI)

Graduado en Relaciones Internacionales y Comunicaciones de la Universidad Internacional de la Florida (FIU), cuenta con maestría en Relaciones y Comercio de la Universidad de San Martín de Porres de Perú. Viene desempeñándose profesionalmente en el ámbito de las Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación Internacional desde hace 14 años, ha trabajado en distintos puestos en el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú y actualmente ejerce funciones en la Dirección de Políticas y Programas de la Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional (APCI) y ha representado a esa Agencia en diversos foros internacionales vinculados a la cooperación internacional. También es profesor universitario, con más de 10 años de experiencia, en temas vinculados a las Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación Internacional.



**Ms. Raquel Artecona**

Economic Affairs Officer

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Raquel Artecona is an Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Her research focuses on trade, investment, and regional integration. Recent projects include the new industrial policy in advanced economies, the role of multilateral development institutions on supporting development in Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. health care reform and trade in services, technical standards and U.S. market access and studies on commercial relations between the United States and Latin American and Caribbean countries. She also provided technical and analytical support to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process and has worked with multilateral and regional development banks on a variety of trade and development projects.

Before joining ECLAC, she was an Economic Analyst at the World Bank where she conducted research on gender, trade, and labor issues. She is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Development Studies, Feminist Economics and Singapore Economic Review (SER).



## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

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*Jefe de Delegación*

**Ingeniera Margelia Palacios**

Directora de Cooperación Internacional  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá

Con una demostrada capacidad para fomentar la Cooperación Técnica Internacional y canalizarla hacia el desarrollo nacional. Comprometida con el fortalecimiento de la cooperación global y la promoción del progreso sostenible. Con trayectoria y experiencia destacada en el liderazgo de proyectos respaldados por organismos internacionales, roles también para la formulación de políticas educativas.

**Actualmente es la Directora de Cooperación Internacional** en el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá, desde donde impulsa y lidera acciones e iniciativas para visibilizar las capacidades institucionales para el desarrollo de la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular ante la comunidad internacional, fortaleciendo la presencia de Panamá en el sistema internacional de cooperación.

Dentro de la Cancillería también ha ocupado puestos como Gerente de Proyectos en la Oficina de Gestión Estratégica, Gerente de Proyectos en el Área de Organización y Administración de Procesos y como Directora Logística de Cumbres Internacionales, liderando la planificación y ejecución de importantes eventos internacionales, dirigiendo de manera integral todas las tareas para el diseño, planificación, asesoramiento, ejecución, conceptualización y coordinación de las diferentes Cumbres Internacionales de Presidentes y Jefes de Estado celebradas en Panamá.

En el ámbito de la Educación ha sido parte de consejos consultivos y asesores, ocupando cargos gerenciales que le permitieron coordinar y apoyar en la ejecución de acciones para la formulación y gestión de políticas educativas.

Ha sido Directora Ejecutiva de Programas de Competitividad y Apertura Comercial desarrollados con el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) y el Banco Mundial. Ha dirigido Proyectos para el fortalecimiento de la Gestión del Comercio Exterior en Panamá lo que le ha permitido demostrar su capacidad para administrar fondos de Contratos de Préstamos con organismos internacionales contribuyendo así al desarrollo económico de Panamá.

Académicamente su perfil profesional la posiciona como una líder efectiva en su campo con una formación que incluye una Maestría en Administración de Empresas, una Maestría en Evaluación, Formulación y Gestión de Proyectos de Inversión, una Licenciatura en Ingeniería Industrial Administrativa y un Bachillerato en Comercio, Ciencias, Letras y Filosofía.

Margelia Palacios ha demostrado tener un impacto significativo en el ámbito de las políticas públicas y en la cooperación internacional gracias a su capacidad para liderar equipos multidisciplinarios. Su compromiso con el desarrollo sostenible es admirable.

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

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### *Jefe de Delegación*

**Licenciada Karla Majano de Palma**

Directora General

Agencia de El Salvador para la Cooperación Internacional (ESCO)

Especialista en negociación, gestión y ejecución de proyectos de cooperación internacional, profesional orientada al cumplimiento de objetivos y metas con más de 15 años de experiencia en el ámbito Gubernamental.

Experiencia en asuntos multilaterales, economía internacional y programas sociales, con gran capacidad de solución de conflictos, pensamiento estratégico e innovador.

Interconectada con líderes de cooperación internacional, actores políticos, multilaterales y agencias financieras internacionales. Con un alto grado de sentido social.

Posee una especialización en Aspectos Generales de los Sistemas Políticos y Gestión Pública de la Escuela Centroamericana de Gobierno y Democracia Fundación Hanns Seidel.

Certificación de estudios en Diseño y Formulación de Políticas Públicas del Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública y un Certificado de estudios en Política Pública de Acceso a la información y transparencia del Servicio Civil Chile, entre otros.

### **Su rol ante la OEA:**

- Fue Presidenta de la Junta Directiva de la Agencia Interamericana para la Cooperación y Desarrollo de la Organización de Estados Americanos a partir del dos de noviembre de 2021 hasta el 15 de febrero de 2024, cuando entrega dicho cargo a la actual Presidenta, la Embajadora Luz Elena Baños Rivas
- Durante la Presidencia de El Salvador ante la JD se establecieron 3 Grupos de Trabajo dentro del Organismo, conformados por diferentes Estados miembros, responsables de identificar acciones y estrategias para el fortalecimiento de la Cooperación Internacional en la Región.
- Así mismo, promovió la participación de las Direcciones de Cooperación de la Región en los diferentes espacios y el intercambio de buenas prácticas a través de CooperaNet, siendo El Salvador referente al poner a disposición el intercambio de buenas prácticas en materia de la Ley Crecer Juntos, liderado por el Despacho de la Primera Dama de El Salvador.

### **Actualmente, es la referente oficial de cooperación internacional por parte de El Salvador ante los siguientes organismos:**

- Responsable de cooperación internacional de la República de El Salvador en la reunión de Directores de Cooperación del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)
- Ante la Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB) es responsable de cooperación internacional designada por la Presidencia de la República de El Salvador y punto focal para las gestiones en materia de Cooperación Iberoamericana.
- Así mismo ante el Programa Iberoamericano para el Fortalecimiento de la Cooperación Sur-Sur (PIFCSS) es Responsable de Cooperación Internacional de la República de El Salvador ante la Reunión del Consejo Intergubernamental y representa a El Salvador como País Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo.

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

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### *Head of Delegation*

#### **Mr. Greg Howell**

Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Greg Howell serves as the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Previously, Mr. Howell served as the Deputy Mission Director in USAID/West Africa and in USAID/Guatemala. Also, he worked as the Director of the Economic Growth Office in USAID/Guatemala and USAID/El Salvador as well as the Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Growth and Infrastructure in USAID/Afghanistan. Mr. Howell has managed economic development programs in USAID/Africa Bureau's Office of Sudan Programs, the State Department's Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, USAID/Iraq and USAID/East Africa. Prior to joining USAID, he worked as an entrepreneur and economic development consultant in South Africa.

Mr. Howell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from The American University's School of International Service and a Master's degree in International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He speaks Spanish and French.

## FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

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### **Ms. Julia Benn**

Head of Secretariat: International Forum on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Julia is the Head of the Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD, She steps up, leads and coordinates the maintenance and improvement of the quality, comparability, relevance, accessibility and user-friendliness of the TOSSD data on official development support.

With over thirty years of experience working on Development Co-operation and Global Affairs, Julia served for 16 years as Head of the Statistical Standards and Methods Unit at the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate (OECD-DCD), as well as the Head of the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT). Prior to these positions, Julia served as a Development Finance Analyst and Senior Policy Analyst at the OECD-DCD. Before joining the OECD, Julia advised the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on ODA Statistics, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Côte d'Ivoire and Geneva on International Finance Institutions. Julia holds a master's degree in international economy from the University of Helsinki.



### *Jefe de Delegación*

### **Marcio Lopes Corrêa**

Sistemas de Informação sobre Cooperação Internacional  
Agência Brasileira de Cooperação (ABC)

19/10/1962 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Graduation: International Relations; MBA in Development Projects

2004-2024: Head of Unit - Multilateral Technical Cooperation, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Current professional profile:**

- Development cooperation policy, regulation and methodological tools.
- Coordination of technical cooperation programs in Brazil with 20 international organizations.
- Senior delegate to governing boards of regional and multilateral organizations in the area of development cooperation.

### **Publications:**

- MBA's monograph: Modelling for performance assessment of technical cooperation projects (Getulio Vargas Foundation-FGV, 2001);
- Article: "Los 40 años del Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires y la experiencia brasileña en Cooperación Sur-Sur". Revista Española de Desarrollo y Cooperación N° 43, Julio-Diciembre, 2018. Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo y Cooperación.
- Article: "Quantification of South-South cooperation and its implications to the foreign policy of developing countries". South Centre. Policy Brief Nr.41, July 2017.
- Document: Guidelines for Multilateral and Bilateral Technical Cooperation (Brazilian Cooperation Agency - ABC, 1st to 6th editions, 2000-2024).
- Book: International Cooperation in practice: between hegemony and autonomy. Author's Edition, 2010, ISBN 978-85-911583-0-0. 2nd Ed. www.plexinovativa.org, 2021.
- Article: Model for analysis of international disputes. Revista Científica Multidisciplinar Núcleo do Conhecimento. Year 05, Ed. 12, Vol. 16, pp. 05-37. December 2020. ISSN: 2448-0959.
- Book: Contemporary Themes of International Cooperation. www.plexinovativa.org, 2021, ISBN 9786599427404

## FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

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**Ms. Delores Wade**

Director, Multilateral Technical Cooperation  
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Ms. Delores Wade's work in project development and monitoring includes her current position in the External Cooperation Management Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, which coordinates and monitors externally - supported projects and programmes. As Director for the Multilateral Technical Cooperation Unit in the Division, Ms. Wade provides oversight for projects and programmes supported by UN agencies, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organization of American states.

Ms. Wade also spent years in community development in rural and peri urban areas of Jamaica and contributed to Education as a classroom teacher and teacher trainer. Ms. Wade's educational experiences include, among other qualifications, an MSC in Public Administration, a BSC in Arts and General Studies and numerous courses in Project Management.

She is a published writer of short stories.



**Almudena Fernández**

Chief Economist, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP's Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, she leads the SDG Policy Team, providing strategic policy advice on economic trends, forecasts and challenges across the region and their impact on achieving the SDGs. She is also leading the research and knowledge production of the Regional Bureau for LAC, including the production of the Regional Human Development Report 2025. Almudena has 15 years of experience in technical positions at UNDP, where she has led the development of content and knowledge products in the region and specializes in issues related to inequality, poverty, innovation, and sustainable development in LAC.

## FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

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### *Jefe de Delegación*

**Sr. Mariano Berro**

Director Ejecutivo

Agencia Uruguaya de Cooperación Internacional de la Presidencia de la República

Director Ejecutivo de la Agencia Uruguaya de Cooperación Internacional (AUCI), de la Presidencia de la República, desde el año 2020 a la fecha.

Se desempeñó como Consultor de proyectos de cooperación internacional del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), Banco Mundial, Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Unión Europea, GIZ de Alemania, así como en Uruguay y América Latina.

Fue Asesor del Ministro de Deporte y Juventud, en temas de cooperación internacional, entre los años 2000 y 2002.

Se desempeñó como Asesor del Ministro de Economía y Finanzas en cooperación internacional (financiera y no-reembolsable ligada), desde abril de 1995 hasta febrero 2000.

Integró, como representante de Uruguay, el Comité de Cooperación Técnica del Mercosur responsable de la cooperación del Mercosur 1992-2001 y el Comité Consultivo Conjunto Mercosur-Unión Europea.

Fue Director de Cooperación Internacional de Presidencia de la República Oriental del Uruguay de 1991 a 1995.

Ha participado, junto a otros autores, en diversas publicaciones, entre ellas, Guía de Cooperación al Desarrollo; Manual de Convocatorias de la Cooperación al Desarrollo; América Latina y la Cooperación Internacional; Educación a distancia en el Medio Rural.



### *Jefe de Delegación*

**Sra. Melissa Sánchez**

Profesional del Departamento de Negociaciones Internacionales y Monitoreo

Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID)

Melissa Sánchez es una especialista senior en materia de cooperación internacional para el desarrollo. Cuenta con amplia experiencia en la negociación y creación de nuevas alianzas estratégicas y proyectos de cooperación internacional entre gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe y organizaciones multilaterales, así como países de la OCDE.

Desde el año 2012, Melissa se desempeña en la Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), a cargo de negociar proyectos y programas de cooperación con Estados Unidos, Canadá, países de Asia Pacífico en particular Japón, China, Corea del Sur y países de ASEAN.

Antes de unirse al equipo de AGCID, Melissa trabajó por más de 5 años como especialista en temas democráticos y electorales en el Departamento para la Cooperación y Observación Electoral de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) en Washington, DC.

Entre sus estudios encontramos el título de Internacionalista entregado por la Universidad de Chile y también un Magister en Relaciones Internacionales, con especialización en Seguridad Humana, del Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, de Carleton University, Canadá.





**Barbara Kotschwar**

Adjunct Professor, Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)  
Georgetown University

Barbara Kotschwar is currently principal of Economic Insights, a consultancy focused on international trade, investment and the digital economy and is a professor at Georgetown University. Dr. Kotschwar has worked at the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and Organization of American States, where she advised governments across the globe on trade, investment and regional integration. Her private sector experience includes serving as Executive Director of Visa's global polity institute. At the Peterson Institute for International Economics her research focused on trade, investment and regional integration as well as the political economy of Latin America. Her work on trade, investment, the digital economy and gender equity has been widely cited. A joint citizen of the US and Canada, she holds a PhD from Johns Hopkins SAIS and undergraduate degrees in economics and political science from McGill University.



*Jefe de Delegación*

**Ministro Mateo Estrémé**

Director General de Cooperación Internacional  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Mateo Estrémé es un diplomático argentino de carrera. Actualmente se desempeña como Director Nacional de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto de la República Argentina, área que abarca la cooperación técnica argentina tanto en el ámbito bilateral, multilateral y triangular.

El Director Estrémé a lo largo de su carrera diplomática se desempeñó entre otras funciones como Subsecretario de Malvinas, Antártida y Atlántico Sur, Director de Africa del Norte y Medio Oriente, Director de Organismos Internacionales, y Jefe de Gabinete del Vicecanciller.

En el exterior, prestó funciones en la Misión Permanente de la República Argentina ante Naciones Unidas en Nueva York en diversas etapas de su carrera, siendo la última como Representante Permanente Alterno de la República Argentina ante Naciones Unidas, Encargado de Negocios a.i. . Asimismo se desempeñó como Cónsul General y Director del Centro de Promoción de la Argentina en la ciudad de Nueva York .

Es sociólogo de la Universidad de Buenos Aires y politólogo de la Universidad de Belgrano.





### **H.E. Chet Neymour**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the OAS  
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the OAS

His Excellency Chet Donovan Neymour is an accomplished professional and diplomat with expertise in the disciplines of economics, finance, human resource and project management, policy development and international relations.

Ambassador Neymour most recently served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations in New York (May 2021-February 14th, 2022).

Ambassador Neymour was born in Steventon, Exuma, The Bahamas, and received his education at Queen's College High School and College Preparatory in The Bahamas, Elmira College in New York (BSc Business Administration /Economics) and American University in Washington, D.C. (MA Economics).

Ambassador Neymour has a distinguished career which spans in excess of 37 years of professional experience including 5 years of private sector experience in banking, hospitality and construction management in The Bahamas and 4 years of employment in the Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington D.C., with appointments as Special Envoy, Ombudsperson, a.i., and Director of Procurement, respectively.

Ambassador Neymour has 28 years of Public and Foreign Service experience in The Bahamas in varied senior capacities, including his tenure as Deputy Director of Economic Planning and of the Multilateral/International Financial Institutions Section, respectively, in the Ministry of Finance, and Deputy Chief of Mission/Chargé d'Affaires in The Embassy of The Bahamas in Washington D.C. and Alternate Representative of The Bahamas to the OAS.

Ambassador Neymour was the founding Secretary to the Securities Board of The Bahamas (now the Securities Commission of The Bahamas). Ambassador Neymour was also integral to the formulation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Act (2014), Regulations and related follow-on Foreign Service Modernization Initiatives and has served in other leadership roles at the Foreign Ministry, including Department Head of the Economic and Technical Division.

Ambassador Neymour has extensive international and multilateral experience including his appointment as the representative for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (2015-2016) and his appointment as UN-CARICOM Member States Representative on the United Nations Committee of Experts on Financing for Development (2016-2017) Member of the UN Credentials Committee (UNGA 76th Session).

Ambassador Neymour has also served as The Bahamas' Representative on the UN Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the OAS Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP).



### *Head of Delegation*

#### **H.E. Senator Michael Halkitis**

Minister of Economic Affairs

The Bahamas Ministry of Economic Affairs

**Senator, The Hon. Michael B. Halkitis** was born on February 1st, 1969, in Nassau, Bahamas to Inez Brown. He attended Old Bight All Age School in Cat Island, Yellow Elder School in Nassau and graduated from St Augustine's College. Mr. Halkitis began his higher education at the College of the Bahamas and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Western Ontario in 1991.

A Chief Financial Officer by profession, Mr. Halkitis started his political journey in 2007 when he was elected to Parliament for the first time as Member of Parliament for the Adelaide Constituency and served as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. He is credited for digitizing the Ministry of Finance and introducing major taxation reforms which have been applauded for their seamless integration and functional operability.

He was thereafter appointed to the Senate in 2007. Following his successful campaign in the 2012 elections, he became the Member of Parliament for the Golden Isles Constituency and was appointed Minister of State for Finance by Prime Minister the Rt. Hon Perry G. Christie.

His political journey continued as he received his most recent appointment as Minister of Economic Affairs and Leader of Government Business in the Senate by Prime Minister, the Rt. Honorable Philip Davis during the recent 2021 appointment of Cabinet Ministers.

He oversees the financial services industry and trade, takes on the crucial task of improving our country's ease of doing business, and directs our country's digitalization efforts. He plays a critical role in helping to stabilize the country's finances.



#### **Mr. Mark Lambrides**

Director of the Department of Sustainable Development

OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

**Mark Lambrides is the Director of the Department of Sustainable Development at the Organization of American States (OAS).** In this capacity, Mark provides leadership and direction for OAS-led initiatives that contribute to improved environmental management and practices, including in the sectors of water, biodiversity, climate change, natural hazards and sustainable energy throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to returning to the OAS, Mark worked at The Nature Conservancy, where he served as Director, Low Carbon Future, and before that he was a Senior Energy Specialist at The World Bank. Previously, Mr. Lambrides worked for fifteen years at the OAS as the Energy Section Chief. Mr. Lambrides received his M.A. in International Relations, with concentrations in International Economics and Latin American Studies from The Johns Hopkins University - The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and he received his B.A. in Political Science and Spanish, with concentration in International Business from Kalamazoo College.

## SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

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### **Aurélien Lechevallier**

Director General for Globalization, Culture, Education and International Development  
Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

A graduate of the School of Commercial High Studies (HEC), Sciences-Po Paris and a former student of the ENA, Aurélien Lechevallier began his career in 2004 at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a deputy and then head of office, before becoming an advisor to the director of international cooperation and development. Three years later, he was sent to the US State Department in Washington to serve as First Secretary at the French Embassy in the United States. In 2010, he moved to Lebanon, where he successively held the responsibilities of second counselor, counselor of cultural action and cooperation and then director of the French Institute of Beirut at the French Embassy of Lebanon.

Back in France, he was seconded to the French presidency as diplomatic advisor to the special envoy for the conservation of the planet of the President of the French Republic from 2013 to 2014. Then, until 2016, he was seconded to the City of Paris as diplomatic advisor and general delegate for international relations.

From 2017, and for 5 months, he evolved as a project manager at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before being placed at the disposal of the Presidency of the Republic as deputy diplomatic adviser to Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic. In 2019, he was appointed ambassador to South Africa.

Aurélien Lechevallier is currently Director General for Globalization, Culture, Education and International Development at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, replacing Michel Miraillet.



### **Señor Antón Leis García**

Director  
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

Antón Leis García holds a Law Degree with Extraordinary Prize from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. He holds a master's degree in law from Harvard Law School and a double Master's degree in Public Administration from the London School of Economics and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, where he specialized in economics and development policies. He speaks English, French and Portuguese. Prior to his appointment as Director of AECID, Mr. Leis held the position of Advisor to the Secretary General of the OECD. In previous positions at the OECD, where he is a civil servant, he has worked on development issues at the G20 and G7 levels, notably as coordinator of the OECD's participation in the Deauville Partnership, a G7 initiative to support the Arab Spring countries. He has also worked on competitiveness and private sector development issues in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood countries. Previously, he worked as a project manager and governance and private sector specialist at the African Development Bank based in Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire. Previously, he was a legal advisor at the World Bank, working on Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa regions. In the Spanish administration, Leis was an advisor to the General Secretariat for International Affairs, EU, G20 and Global Security in the Cabinet of Ministers. He was also advisor to the Secretary of State for International Cooperation.



**Ambassador Simone Turchetta**  
Permanent Observer of Italy to the OAS  
Permanent Observer Mission of Italy to the OAS

Simone Turchetta was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Observer of Italy to the Organization of American on July 11, 2022. A career diplomat since 2001, his first assignment was as Head of Section at the Office for South America at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Rome. In 2003, he worked as Counselor to the Minister for Italian Communities Abroad, and in 2005 he was appointed the Minister's Deputy Head of Cabinet. In 2006, he was assigned to the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in New York as Chief of Staff to the Permanent Representative, where he oversaw Latin American dossiers. In 2010, he was posted to the Italian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. Between 2013 and 2016, he was Counselor in the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From 2016 to 2021, he was the Head of the Economic and Commercial Office at the Embassy of Italy in Madrid, Spain. Mr. Turchetta graduated in Economics from Rome University "La Sapienza". He is fluent in English and Spanish, beyond his native Italian. He is married and has three children.



**Félix Fernández-Shaw**  
Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories  
European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Félix Fernández-Shaw is Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) since October 2022. He was previously Director for Sustainable Development Policy and Coordination (April 2018-October 2022).

He has worked on sustainable development policy and the EU's external action budget since 2009, including as Expert in the Cabinet of the HRVP Federica Mogherini (where he was also responsible for relations with Africa, 2014-2018), Head of Development Cooperation Coordination Division at the European External Action Service (EEAS), and as a diplomat in the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU including chairing CODEV WG in the Council.

From 2000 until 2009, he worked on Justice and Home Affairs matters at the Spanish Ministry of Justice as Director General for International Legal Assistance and Legislative Policy, at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Director General for Justice and Home Affairs in the EU, and as Relex JHA Migration Counsellor at the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU. He started his career at the Embassy of Spain to Romania.

## SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

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**H.E. Ambassador Youssef Amrani**  
Permanent Observer  
Permanent Observer Mission of Morocco to the OAS

Youssef Amrani is a Moroccan diplomat and politician of the Istiqlal Party. Amrani was appointed by His Majesty the King ambassador of Morocco to the United States on October 19, 2023. Since October 2013, he has held the position of chargé de mission at the Royal Cabinet.

In June 2019, he was appointed Ambassador to South Africa, Botswana, Malawi and to the Kingdom of Eswatini. He also served as Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM) in 2011, before being appointed Minister-Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in January 2012.

Amrani was also Consul General of Morocco in Barcelona, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of HM the King to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Belize in 2001 and Ambassador to Chile in November 1999.

In 1996, he was also the ambassador of His Majesty the King to Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.



**Msgr. Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano**  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
Permanent Observer Mission of The Holy See to the OAS

Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano (born 29 September 1976) is a Spanish priest of the Catholic Church who works in the diplomatic service of the Holy See.

Cruz Serrano was born in María, Almería, on 29 September 1976. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Almería on 15 September 2001. He earned a doctorate in Canon Law in 2002 and then entered the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy to prepare for a career as a diplomat.

He entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See on 1 July 2004. His early assignments included stints in the papal representations in Zimbabwe, Ireland, and Chile, and then in Rome in the Section for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State. He participated in translating the encyclical *Fratelli tutti* for its release in October 2020.

On 5 February 2021, Pope Francis appointed him Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Organization of American States.

He is the author of *La reserva penal a la sede apostólica*.



## SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

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**Mr. Jaime Arteaga**  
Director  
Arteaga & Associates

Administrador de Empresas con maestría en Estudios Políticos. Más de 25 años de experiencia en desarrollo de negocios, diseño, gestión, análisis e implementación de proyectos que involucran alianzas público-privadas, trabajando con agencias de desarrollo y organizaciones empresariales. Actualmente es director de Jaime Arteaga y Asociados (JA&A), una empresa de con la misión de promover el desarrollo en Colombia y Latinoamérica a través de las sinapsis entre los sectores privado y público.

JA&A se ha convertido en una de las principales compañías de desarrollo que sirve a diferentes industrias en 10 países de América Latina, construyendo relaciones sostenibles e implementando alianzas público-privadas. JA&A proporciona sus servicios a un amplio número de grandes empresas, gobiernos (Gobierno de Colombia, EE. UU., Gobierno de Canadá y Gobierno de Suiza) y donantes multilaterales.

JA&A es fundador de la Brújula Minera, el Barómetro de Petróleo (los estudios sindicados del sector extractivo en Colombia), el Observatorio Colombiano de la Industria del Cannabis-OCIC, el Observatorio de Inversión Privada para la Paz, el Monitor de Desarrollo Territorial y el Índice de Inversión Social Privada.



**Beatriz Mejía Asserías**  
Director, Environment LATAM, Public Policy Center  
Coca-Cola Company

Beatriz Mejía nació en Cali, Colombia. Es profesional en Finanzas y Relaciones Internacionales de la Universidad Externado de Colombia, tiene un Master en Política Comparada y un Master Ejecutivo en Administración Pública en la London School and Political Science – LSE.

Tiene más de 18 años de experiencia en gestión de proyectos de desarrollo sostenible, con foco en cooperación internacional y alianzas público-privadas.

Su experiencia profesional la inició como asesora en la Dirección General del Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA), gestionando alianzas con actores de gobierno local para el desarrollo productivo de las regiones. También fue analista del Banco Mundial en temas de ambiente de negocios para PyMES, y luego fue ministra consejera de Relaciones Exteriores en el Ministerio de Relaciones encargándose de relacionamiento entre los gobiernos de Colombia y Reino Unido.

Ha sido directora de Coordinación Interinstitucional en la Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación, encabezando la articulación entre el Gobierno Nacional y el sector privado. También ha sido consultora de Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) e Innovación en el Fondo de Población de Naciones Unidas (UNFPA).

Beatriz también fue directora de Economía, Cambio Climático y Ciencia de la Embajada del Reino Unido en Colombia, liderando el trabajo de sostenibilidad y manejo de recursos de cooperación internacional en proyectos y políticas públicas de lucha contra la deforestación y uso del suelo, transición a una economía baja en carbono, ciencia e innovación. En este rol, también hizo parte de la preparación y participación de Colombia y Reino Unido en la COP26.

Antes de su actual rol en Coca Cola, donde se encarga de acompañar a los equipos de Latinoamérica y el Caribe en los temas de política pública ambiental y en su relacionamiento con gobierno y multilaterales, se desempeñó como gerente de Sociedad y Sostenibilidad en Diageo Colombia.

## SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

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**Lara Vincent**  
Director of International Accounts  
Sawyer Products

With over 12 years of dedicated experience, Lara Vincent currently serves as the Director of International Accounts for Sawyer Products Inc. Her extensive experience in managing international logistics and facilitating partnerships worldwide has been highly instrumental in driving Sawyer's international expansion. Lara's strategic insight, commitment to excellence, and desire to positively impact the world make her pivotal to the advancement of the company's growth and success.



**Abby Daniell**  
Director, Worldwide Public Sector, Latin America and the Caribbean  
Amazon Web Services (AWS)

As the Latin America and Caribbean programs team manager at Amazon Web Services, Abby Daniell is the executive responsible for implementing education, workforce development, diversity and inclusion, disaster preparedness, sustainability, cybersecurity, and other programs in the Latin America and Caribbean market. With more than 25 years of global private and public sector business experience, she has created this dynamic programs team to enable the AWS Public Sector organization to expand into these regions.

Abby is quoted in international press and speaks at public sector and industry events regarding cloud technologies and education, innovation, and workforce development.

She previously worked as the commercial director at the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica where she formed part of the management team and assisted U.S. companies doing business in Latin America. Before joining the U.S. Embassy, Abby was the associate publisher of The Tico Times, Central America's leading English-language newspaper. She represented the newspaper at the Inter-American Press Association. She lived and worked in Costa Rica for two decades and is a fluent Spanish-speaking professional.

Abby moved to Costa Rica after working as a communications director on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. for a member of congress from Seattle, Washington.

She holds a Master of Business Administration from The George Washington University School of Business in Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Abby loves the outdoors and is an avid hiker, runner, and PADI certified Open Water Diver. She has served on several nonprofit boards of directors, including the Costa Rican North America Cultural Center.



## SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

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### **Mr. Miguel Porrúa**

Digital Government and Data Coordinator  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Miguel es el coordinador del clúster de Datos y Gobierno Digital (Data-Driven Digital Government, o DDG) de la División de Innovación para Servir al Ciudadano del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) desde diciembre de 2018. El Sr. Porrúa cuenta con más de 25 años de experiencia profesional, tanto en el sector público como privado. Antes de incorporarse al BID en 2013 como especialista en Gobierno Digital (e-Gobierno), fue especialista sénior en e-Gobierno en la Secretaría de Asuntos Políticos de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) y director de Relaciones Gubernamentales de la compañía de gobierno electrónico govWorks para América Latina, en donde llevó a cabo varios proyectos de gobierno electrónico en la región. Previamente, Miguel trabajó en la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional y Desarrollo (AECID) y en el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD). Miguel es autor o co-autor, entre otras, de las siguientes publicaciones: *América-Latina Puntogob*, *Transformación digital y empleo público* y *Guía de Transformación Digital del Gobierno*. En 2019, Apolitical incluyó a Miguel entre las 100 personas más influyentes del mundo en gobierno digital.

Miguel tiene una Licenciatura en Economía y Empresa por la Universidad de Oviedo (España) y un MBA de la Escuela de Negocios Thunderbird (Arizona, Estados Unidos).

## CLOSING SESSION

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### *Head of Delegation*

#### **His Excellency Steve Ferrol**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the OAS

H.E. Steve Ferrol is a National of the Commonwealth of Dominica and is currently the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the United States of America and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the Organization of American States. In September 2023 he was elected as member of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council, representing the Eastern Caribbean for the term 2024-2026, a UN-recognized International Organization established in 2015, with the rights and privileges for addressing climate change, resilience and energy security in small island states.

He was from 2020 to August 2023, Senior Consultant/Specialist and Co-owner, of SED&J Consulting Services, providing Governance, Public Administration, Legal, Maritime and Labour Services, to Government Agencies and The Private Sector.

He was formally employed with the Government of Dominica for a period of more than 40 years commencing 1979 to 2020.

He held the position of Secretary to the Cabinet from March 01, 2012, to December 2020. As Secretary to the Cabinet he was also the Head of the Public Service. He previously held the combined positions Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Employment, Trade, Industry, and Diaspora Affairs for eight (8) years and was appointed Ambassador at Large in 2005. He was the first Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States from July 2011 to October 30, 2012. He is currently The Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the International Maritime Organization.

He has long-term experience and expansive training in areas of Maritime Law and Administration; Administrative Law, Public Policy & Administration; Governance; International Law; International Trade; International Relations and Diplomacy; Labour Law, Relations, and Negotiations; Disaster Management, Climate Resilience Policy and Administration; and has represented Dominica at the highest levels in the region and internationally, in various disciplines, and has headed several high level technical and policy committees. Ambassador Ferrol in his capacity as Secretary to the Cabinet was the focal point for the Climate Resilience Policy Board and Advisor to the Prime Minister on the Climate Resilience Executing Agency for Dominica (CREAD), under the Climate Resilience Act.

Ambassador Ferrol's other areas of public service and experience include the following positions namely: Maritime Administrator, Registrar of Ships, Deputy Permanent Representative of Dominica to the International Maritime Organization and Officer of the Customs and Excise Division.

Other areas of service and experience outside central government include Deputy Chairman of the Dominica Port Authority; President of the Public Service Union; Board Member of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliate and President of the Dominica Family Association; and Diocesan, Catholic Youth Co-ordinator.

Ambassador Ferrol holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (L.L.B (Hons.) (Lon.), with the University of London and a Master of Law Degree LL.M. (Internal legal studies) with the University of East London.