BEYOND SANTA MARTA: BI-REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR TANGIBLE ACTION

Participants' Bios

15 YEARS | AÑOS EU-LAC FOUNDATION | FUNDACIÓN

OPENING SEGMENT



Pablo Sader

Ambassador of Uruguay to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, & to the European Union

He earned a Doctorate in Diplomacy from Uruguay's Universidad de la República and a post-graduate diploma in legal sciences from Université Paris V. His senior posts include Uruguay's Ambassador to Belgium and Permanent Representative to the EU , with concurrent accreditation to Luxembourg. Previously he served as Uruguay's Ambassador to Finland. Ambassador to Malaysia and Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand, as well as Uruguay's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. In the Foreign Ministry in Montevideo he has held top policy positions, notably as Director-General for Political Affairs.



Pelayo Castro

Acting Managing Director of the Americas at the European External Action Service

Pelayo Castro has held senior positions in the European External Action Service, including Senior Advisor to HR/VP Josep Borrell, Head of Division for MENA, and Head of Division for Parliamentary Affairs. He previously served as Cabinet Member to HR/VP Catherine Ashton, Head of the EU Delegations to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Personal Assistant to the President of the Spanish Government, and Administrator in the European Parliament's INTA Committee. He holds advanced degrees from Georgetown University, the College of Europe, and the UAB, and has completed executive education at MIT Sloan and IESE.



Alberto Brunori

Executive Director of the EU-LAC International Foundation

He held various positions at the United Nations, including Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean; Representative in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. He was Coordinator of the Office of the Commissioner of CICIG in Guatemala and was Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan-UNAMA. He holds a degree from the Università degli Studi Di Pisa and a master's degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

SESSION 1

“A Common Agenda for Sustainable Transformation”

SPEAKERS



Orlando Baquero

CEO of the Association for Latin America (LAV)

Graduated in Business Economics, and later occupied different leadership positions for local and multinational companies in the food, pharma and agribusiness commodities sectors. He lived and worked in different countries in Latin America and in Germany, such as Business Development & Commercial Head LATAM at Ferro Pharma GmbH; Associate General Manager and Finance Controller Peru & Ecuador at OLAM AGRO PERU SAC, Olam International Ltd.; Finance Controller at Neumann Kaffee Gruppe – Hamburg; Trade Director at Grünenthal GmbH – Peru and México; Finance Manager and Operations Controller for Kraft Foods International – Colombia and Brazil; Production and Business Director at Grupo Textil Unión – Colombia.



Carlos Calzadilla

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's International Climate Protection Fellow at Ecologic Institute

His research focuses on transforming the built environment into a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive, just, and biodiverse system, with a particular emphasis on nature-based solutions and their application in Latin American cities. At the Ecologic Institute, Carlos Calzadilla Guerra contributes to the Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions teams. His work examines the implementation potential of nature-based solutions on vacant urban land in Latin American cities, focusing on their role in climate action and biodiversity enhancement. His work also involves developing policy instruments aimed at promoting the effective and strategic use of this underutilized urban resource.



Olga Montúfar

President of the Network of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women with Disabilities of Latin America and the Caribbean

Mechanical and Industrial Engineer and Law graduate, founder of the global movement of Indigenous people with disabilities. Fellow of the OHCHR Indigenous Leaders Program, OHCHR intern in Mexico. Currently president of the Network of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women with Disabilities of Latin America and the Caribbean; Coordinator of the Joint Monitoring Group of the PAD-OEA 2016-2026; Member of the Collective Coordinating Team of Latin American Women with Disabilities; Member of the Advisory Committee of the Ibero-American Disability Program (PID); Member of MILAC - FILAC; Member of the Civil Society Advisory Group (GASC) of UN Women Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean).

SESSION 1

COMMENTATORS



Diana Montero

European Commission

Deputy Head of Unit for EU Regional Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). She has worked on international cooperation, economic, and trade issues at the Commission's Secretariat-General, DG ECFIN, the cabinet of the European Commissioner for International Partnerships, the WTO, and NGOs in India and Sri Lanka. Graduated in International Relations and Economics at the University of Sussex and at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Holds a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) from Sciences Po in Paris and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Columbia University in New York.



Paulo Gustavo Iansen de Sant'Ana

Minister Counselor at the Embassy of Brazil in Berlin

He graduated from the University of São Paulo. His professional expereince took him to the Embassy of Brazil in Buenos Aires, where he headead two sectors of educational cooperation, dissemination and legal cooperation (2006-2009). He also worked in the Embassy of Brazil in Berlin, as chief of the printing sector. Furthermore, he worked at the Brazilian Embassy in Tel Aviv, head of both commercial and cultural sectors from 2013- to 2015. He was representative, alternate, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the National Immigration Council from 2015 to 2018. And most recently was positioned as representative, alternate, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the National Committee for Refugees.



Christian Burgsmüller

Head of Division of Americas.1 at the European External Action Service

He has held senior roles in EU delegations across North and South America, including postings in Canada, the United States, Brazil, and Argentina. In Brussels, he has served at the European Commission and as Cabinet Expert to EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, building expertise in trade policy, global affairs, and bi-regional relations. He is a lawyer with a Ph.D. in constitutional law from the University of Cologne.

MODERATOR



Zirahuén Villamar

Researcher at Minor – Project Office for Education and Research

Economist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), he holds a Master's degree in European Integration Studies from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a PhD in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin. He has taught and conducted research at UNAM, worked as Program Manager at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Mexico, and served in the Mexican diplomatic corps in Berlin. He is currently a researcher at Minor Projektkontor. His work focuses on international political economy, global governance, foreign policy, and relations between Germany and Latin America.

SESSION 2

“Rule of Law, International Security and Global Issues”, presented by the German Federal Foreign Office ”

OPENING REMARKS



Annette Walter

Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the German Federal Foreign Office

Promotes political dialogue and strategic cooperation with the region. She has extensive diplomatic experience in cultural, bilateral and multilateral affairs, with experience in cities such as Rome, Brussels, Berlin and Quito. She has worked on issues of human rights, the environment, the promotion of women's rights in foreign policy and the strengthening of trans-regional alliances. She has a background in Regional Sciences with a focus on Latin America and Economics from the University of Cologne, complemented by studies in Escola de Administração de Empresas de la Fundação Getúlio Vargas of São Paulo.

SPEAKERS



Sabine Kurtenbach

President a.i. of GIGA

Interim president of the GIGA (German Institute for Global and Regional Studies) in Hamburg, where she has been working as a researcher since 1993 with a focus on post-war societies, youth violence and conflict transformation in Latin America, particularly in Colombia and Central America. She holds a PhD in political science with a comparative historical-structural analysis of wars and state organization, and combines high-level academic research with advice to German development agencies and international institutions. Her current work examines how communities in different regions—from Latin America to Africa to Southeast Asia—conceptualize peace and recover from armed violence.



Claudia Zilla

Senior Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs / Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Specialist in Latin American international relations, feminist foreign policy and German-Latin American cooperation. Her career includes studies on political systems, democracy, populism and development in the region, as well as the analysis of German and European foreign policy towards Latin America

SESSION 2

COMMENTATORS



Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia

Ambassador of Perú to Belgium, Luxembourg, and Mission to the European Union

He has a degree in International Relations and is a career diplomat trained at the Diplomatic Academy of Perú, with studies in Law in Buenos Aires and Lima. He received specialized training in Diplomatic Relations in Paris and a Diploma of Higher Studies in International Administration from the University of Paris. He has served in Peruvian missions in Venezuela, Colombia and Geneva, and was Consul General in Buenos Aires. He served as Alternate Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and as Permanent Representative in Geneva. Previously he was appointed Ambassador of Peru in Switzerland and concurrent in Liechtenstein. In Torre Tagle he held senior management positions, including areas of Human Rights, Multilateral Affairs, Protocol, Europe and advice to the Ministerial Office.



Holger Dreiseitl

Head of the Division responsible for Germany's role in the United Nations at the Federal Foreign Office

He has held various positions in German diplomacy, including serving as spokesperson at the German Missions to the United Nations in New York and to the European Union in Brussels. He has extensive experience in international relations and strategic communication.
His main areas of work include global governance, economic sustainability, and human rights. He is a political scientist by training, having studied at the University of Erlangen, University College Dublin and Duke University (USA).

MODERATOR



Astrid Bosch

Head of Project, LAK-FSDRIO, GIZ

She directs the GIZ Project that supports the German Foreign Office in its Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean (Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative for the Promotion of Stability, Democracy and the Rules-Based International Order -LAKFSDRIO). She is a lawyer and criminologist, a specialist in crime prevention and strengthening the rule of law and the management of international technical cooperation projects.