



UNV Side Event at BAPA + 40:

Volunteerism as a Powerful Solution for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation: Sharing Experiences of BRICS Countries

Venue: Salón Rojo, Facultad de Derecho. Avda. Pte. Figueroa Alcorta 2263, Buenos Aires

Date: 20 March 2019 from 13:00 to 14:30

Background information:

UNV's strategy on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TC) seeks to support the UN Member States in delivering the 2030 Agenda through volunteerism as a powerful and fully integrated solution to SSC and TC. The strategy is in line with the UN Secretary General's report (2018) on the *Role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities*, where volunteer groups are recognized as important stakeholders in scaling up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SSC and TC.

At the same time, UNV has steadily increased its cooperation with BRICS countries, which have in their turn strengthened the role of volunteers not only in addressing national development priorities, but also in contributing to the 2030 Agenda through SSC and TC. To this end, in recent years Brazil has created the National Volunteer Programme *Viva Voluntário* to foster volunteering in Brazil through civic engagement; China has launched international volunteering exchange programmes in line with the Belt and Road Initiative; India has promoted the *Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sengathan Organization* and *National Service Scheme* to contribute to youth empowerment; Russia commemorated 2018 as the *Year of Volunteers in Russia* to increase the visibility of volunteerism and to engage citizens in volunteer activities; and South Africa has connected skills development and volunteerism through the *National Youth Service Programme*.

The side event presents an opportunity for UNV and its BRICS partners to showcase the added value of volunteerism and to share experiences and good practices in leveraging volunteerism as a powerful tool for SSC and TC. The event is organized on the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among developing countries.



Session timeline:

➤ **Opening remarks** (13:00-13:20)

Presentation of Side Event and Speakers: Ms. Hilda Paparoni, UNV LAC Regional Manager

Opening remarks:

- **United Nations Volunteers programme**, Mr. Toily Kurbanov, UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator
- **University of Buenos Aires**, Dr. Gabriel Capitelli, Secretary for International Relations

➤ **First segment: International Volunteer Exchanges** (13:20- 14:10)

- **Government of India**, Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Secretary (Youth Affairs), New Delhi
- **Government of China**, Mr. Zhang Yi, Deputy Director General of CICETE
- **Government of Russia** (contribution from the floor) by Mr. Boris Meshchanov, 1 secretary of the Department of international organizations, MFA of Russia
- **International Specialist UN Volunteer**, Ms. Silvia Illescas, Health Advocacy and Coordination Officer at World Health Organization in Lao PDR
- **International UN Youth Volunteer**, Ms. Kamilla Agdamova, Urban Resilience Programme Officer at United Nations Development Programme in Zimbabwe
- Q&A

➤ **Second segment: Inspiration Story by an Argentinian celebrity** (14:10 - 14:20)

- **Argentine Women's Football Association**, Ms. Evelina Cabrera, President.

➤ **Closing Remarks** (14:20 - 14:30)

- **United Nations Development Programme**, Ms. Silvia Morimoto, UNDP Country Director in Argentina.



UNV Side Event at BAPA + 40:

Volunteerism as a Powerful Solution for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation: Sharing Experiences of BRICS Countries

Venue: Salón Rojo, Facultad de Derecho. Avda. Pte. Figueroa Alcorta 2263, Buenos Aires

Date: 20 March 2019 from 13:00 to 14:30

Background information:

UNV's strategy on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TC) seeks to support the UN Member States in delivering the 2030 Agenda through volunteerism as a powerful and fully integrated solution to SSC and TC. The strategy is in line with the UN Secretary General's report (2018) on the *Role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities*, where volunteer groups are recognized as important stakeholders in scaling up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SSC and TC.

At the same time, UNV has steadily increased its cooperation with BRICS countries, which have in their turn strengthened the role of volunteers not only in addressing national development priorities, but also in contributing to the 2030 Agenda through SSC and TC. To this end, in recent years Brazil has created the National Volunteer Programme *Viva Voluntário* to foster volunteering in Brazil through civic engagement; China has launched international volunteering exchange programmes in line with the Belt and Road Initiative; India has promoted the *Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sengathan Organization* and *National Service Scheme* to contribute to youth empowerment; Russia commemorated 2018 as the *Year of Volunteers in Russia* to increase the visibility of volunteerism and to engage citizens in volunteer activities; and South Africa has connected skills development and volunteerism through the *National Youth Service Programme*.

The side event presents an opportunity for UNV and its BRICS partners to showcase the added value of volunteerism and to share experiences and good practices in leveraging volunteerism as a powerful tool for SSC and TC. The event is organized on the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among developing countries.



Main goal:

To enable knowledge sharing among Member States and other important stakeholders on how volunteering supports developing national capacities through SSC and TC, and to learn from relevant experiences and knowledge accumulated by BRICS in collaboration with other developing countries.

Design:

The event format will be a panel discussion for knowledge sharing, moderated by UNV. It will be opened by UNV and followed by key remarks from the University of Buenos Aires, with closing remarks from UNDP. The event will consist of reflections presented by Government officials from India and China, as well as inspirational stories by UN Volunteers from Russia and Honduras, and a representative of the Argentine Women's Football Association.

To reach out to audience outside the event site, the sessions will be streamed through Facebook live.

Panelists:

- **United Nations Volunteers programme**
Mr. Toily Kurbanov, UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator
- **United Nations Development Programme**
Ms. Silvia Morimoto, UNDP Country Director in Argentina
- **Government of India**
Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Secretary (Youth Affairs), New Delhi, Government of India
- **Government of China**
Mr. Zhang Yi, Deputy Director General of CICETE
- **University of Buenos Aires**
Dr. Gabriel Capitelli, Secretary for International Relations, UBA
- **Argentine Women's Football Association**
Ms. Evelina Cabrera, president
- **International Specialist UN Volunteer**
Ms. Silvia Illescas, Health Advocacy and Coordination Officer at World Health Organization in Lao PDR
- **International UN Youth Volunteer**
Ms. Kamilla Agdamova, Urban Resilience Programme Officer at United Nations Development Programme in Zimbabwe



Annex 1. Panelists



Mr. Toily Kurbanov,
Deputy Executive
Coordinator, UNV

Mr. Toily Kurbanov (Russian Federation) took up his current appointment in August 2016. He joined UNV from Myanmar, where he had led UNDP's strategic support to the nation's democratic transformation in his role as UNDP Country Director since 2012. From 2007 to 2012, Toily worked as Deputy Resident Representative in Fiji and the Pacific Small Island Developing States, where he provided day-to-day management of UNDP. Toily joined UNDP in 2004 through the Leadership Development Programme, initially serving as Management Specialist in the Office of Planning and Budgeting at UNDP Headquarters.

Prior to joining the UN, Toily had a distinguished career in the Government of Turkmenistan: as Ambassador to Armenia (2000-2003), Chairman of the State Tourism Corporation (1999-2000) as well as Minister of Foreign Economic Relations (1997-1998). Toily was invited to join the government having succeeded in the banking sector, where he worked as First Vice President (1995-1997) and Director of International Settlements (1993-1995) at the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Toily holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Diploma in Economics from the Plekhanov Russian Academy of Economics.



Ms. Silvia Morimoto,
Country Director,
UNDP Argentina

Silvia Morimoto (Brazil) is the UNDP Country Director in Argentina. She was the Chief of Strategic Planning and Oversight of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) based in NY. In this role, she was responsible for leading the strategic planning and oversight team, which is responsible for the development of strategy and regional analysis, planning and management of performance of RBAP.

Silvia is a senior development practitioner with 25 years of professional experiences in international development assistance management. Prior to her current appointment, she served as the Chief of Staff of RBAP from 2012-2014, where she took a leadership role in supporting and implementing the vision for a more strategic, focused and result-oriented RBAP. From 2009-2012, Silvia served as the Deputy Country Director in UNDP China, where she was in charge of Operations, Partnership and Communications, managing a very complex portfolio of US\$70 million/year. From 2004-2009, before joining the Asia Pacific region, Silvia served in BDP as the Chief of the Programme Support Unit which she helped establish and also managed a portfolio of US\$0.5 billion/year. Prior to coming to UNDP Headquarters, Silvia worked for UNDP Brazil, UNFPA Brazil, and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency project.

Silvia holds a post graduate degree in Business Administration from the Fundação Getúlio Vargas-Brasília, and a graduate degree in Accounting from the UniCEUB Centro Universitario de Brasília-Brazil. Silvia is married and has one daughter.



**Mr. Zhang Yi,
Deputy Director General of
CICETE,
Government of China**

Education: 1987.9-1991.7 Bachelor of Economics, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China. 1999.10-2001.2 Master of Business Administration, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Professional Experiences: 1991.7-1995.11 Project Officer, Department of Aid to Foreign Countries, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade / Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, China. 1995.11-1997.2 Attached/Third Secretary, Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. 1997.2-1999.10 Country/Desk Officer, Department of Aid to Foreign Countries, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, China. 2001.2-2004.7 Country/Desk Officer/Deputy Director/Counsellor, Department of Aid to Foreign Countries, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation / Ministry of Commerce, China. 2004.7-2007.12 Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Embassy in Liberia. 2007.12-2008.8 Counsellor, Economic and Commercial Section, Consulate-General of China in Dubai. 2008.8-2012.12 Counsellor/Director, Department of Aid to Foreign Countries, Ministry of Commerce, China. 2012.12-2018.1 Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Embassy in South Sudan. 2018.2 to date Deputy Director General, CICETE.

Family: Married, has one daughter.



**Ms. Upma Chawdhry,
Secretary (Youth Affairs), New
Delhi,
Government of India**

Born on December 28, 1959, Ms. Upma Chawdhry is a graduate in BA Honours (English) with a Masters in (English) being a Gold Medalist in both and was also awarded an MBA degree with Distinction from Australia. Hailing from Jalandhar in Punjab, she joined the IAS in 1983 and was allotted to the Himachal Pradesh Cadre. She has held various assignments at different levels of seniority. Field postings included initial postings in remote and difficult areas of Rampur and Chopal of Shimla District before she was posted as Sub Divisional Officer of Shimla city and then as Deputy Commissioner, Solan where she prominently handled the Timber Trail ropeway accident. Secretarial/HOD/ MD/Secretary level assignments included work in various Departments/Organisations.

She has the distinction of having worked as Deputy/Joint Secretary to two Chief Minister's from different political parties over a continuous tenure of five years. While on deputation with the Central Government over two stints and a total period of 12 years, she served as Deputy Secretary/Director in DoPT (Personnel Management in Division of Establishment Officer) and later as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture both in Departments of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and later of Department of Agriculture and thereafter as Executive Director FCI. She was National Control Officer during first outbreaks of Avian Influenza (bird flu).

She was Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie from December 2016 to 31st December 2018. She is a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), New York.



**Dr Gabriel Mario Capitelli,
Secretary of International
Relations of the University of
Buenos Aires**

Veterinary Doctor UBA (1985). Higher Diploma in Anthropology. Psychology BA. University of Buenos Aires PhD. Professor. Animal Welfare Chair. School of Veterinary Sciences (UBA). Professor. Behavioral anatomy. Extracurricular, School of Veterinary Sciences (UBA). Professor. Specialization in small animals. Clinical Ethology. School of Veterinary Sciences (UBA). Postgraduate Professor. Master in Animal Reproduction and Master of Medicine in Sports Equine. School of Veterinary Sciences (UBA). Coordinator. Center for Transdisciplinary Studies of Welfare and Ethology. School of Veterinary Sciences (UBA).

Member of the Academic Council of the Center for Infectious, Endemic and Emerging Diseases of the University of Buenos Aires. Director of the Master in Animal Production. School of Veterinary Sciences and School of Agronomy (UBA). Director of the Specialization in Animal Welfare. School of Veterinary Sciences and School of Agronomy (UBA).

Former Secretary of University Extension. School of Veterinary Sciences (UBA) - period 2010-2014. Secretary of International Relations of the University of Buenos Aires



**Ms. Evelina Cabrera,
President of the Argentine
Women's Football Association
(AFFAR)**

Ms. Evelina Cabrera is a former Argentine soccer player and coach. Ontological coach, sports manager and President of the AFFAR.

She began her career as an amateur footballer at the age of 21 at Club Atlético Platense. Due to a health problem, in 2012 she had to stop playing football but decided to remain linked to the sport activity from another role: soccer coach. Her first experience was at Club Atlético Nueva Chicago, where she was part of the coaching staff with her partner Mariela Viola.

She led the Argentine national team in the Homeless World Cup, an annual soccer tournament with teams of homeless people from different countries, organized by Mexico City in October 2012. In 2013, Cabrera, being an official of the municipality of Tigre, founded the Argentine Women's Football Association together with fellow Argentine players and coaches.



**Ms. Silvia Illescas,
Health Advocacy and
Coordination Officer
(International UNV) at World
Health Organization in Lao
PDR**

Ms. Silvia Illescas is overseeing the implementation of the grants provided by the Global Fund in Lao PDR which add up to US\$ 34 million to fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She works closely with the Ministry of Health multi/bilateral organizations, UN agencies, and the Civil Society to improve the health outcomes for people living with and affected by HIV, TB and Malaria.

Silvia is passionate to work for development, in the past she has helped to organize fundraising events to fund water and sanitation projects in remote communities in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, she assisted in implementing many mini grants addressing socio-economic, educational and physical rehabilitation barriers affecting people with disabilities and landmine victims, visiting their homes and businesses to ensure that the grants were making a direct impact on their lives. At the United Nations in Geneva, she contributed to civil society's response to human rights protection, peace and security and sustainable development, and promoting respect for gender and human rights.

Her academic background includes a Bachelor of Law at the University of Central America with research in International Humanitarian law and Human Rights, and a Masters in the Economic Analysis of Law and Public Policy at the University of Salamanca. She speaks fluent Spanish, English and French.



**Ms. Kamilla Adgamova,
Urban Resilience Programme
officer (UN Youth Volunteer) at
United Nations Development
Programme in Zimbabwe**

Ms. Kamilla Adgamova's work as UNV is focused on the Urban Resilience Programme in Zimbabwe. Through this Programme she helps vulnerable urban populations, especially youth and women, to gain employment and unlock economic benefits through provision of WASH services.

After finishing her bachelor's in political science and master's in social sciences, Kamilla decided to focus on the issues of global development in her work. She completed an internship in UN DESA, where she helped to raise awareness on pressing issues of socio-economic development. After that, Kamilla started working in the Moscow office of UNIDO, where she contributed to the implementation of projects on energy efficiency increase, sustainable city and waste management initiatives. This work has helped her to develop project coordination and communication skills and gain knowledge on climate change mitigation and technical cooperation for development.

Being passionate about sustainable consumption, urban policies, waste management and protection of environment, Kamilla raises awareness among her friends, relatives and community on conscious consumption practices and engages in volunteering initiatives on waste clean-ups, and recycle practices.