

**Side Event in the Framework of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation,
22nd Session: in the World of Work (May 2025)**

South-South Cooperation and Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization in the World of Work

29 May 2025, 9:00-10:30 am

ILO Office in New York, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 30th Floor

Partners Involved: UNOSSC, Permanent Missions to NYO- Brazil, Indonesia, New York University, ILO, UN agencies

1. Background and Rationale

South-South Cooperation (SSC) has emerged as a critical mechanism for fostering solidarity, mutual learning, and collaboration among developing countries. As nations strive to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leveraging science, technology, and innovation (STI) becomes imperative in addressing pressing global challenges such as poverty eradication, climate change, employment generation, and digital inclusion. In this context, Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents unprecedented opportunities to enhance productivity, improve service delivery, and drive socio-economic transformation. This side event aims to explore how SSC can facilitate knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and collaborative action in deploying STI, particularly AI, to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event will showcase best practices, highlight policy frameworks, and discuss strategies to enhance SSC's role in enabling inclusive and sustainable development. It can support of discussions in the Second World Summit for Social Development, as well as the review of SDG 8.

The rapid advancement of AI and other emerging technologies is reshaping the world of work, presenting both opportunities and challenges for developing countries. While AI has the potential to boost productivity, create new job opportunities, and improve working conditions, it also raises concerns about job displacement, skills gaps, and the need for regulatory frameworks that ensure decent work for all. Through South-South Cooperation, countries can exchange best practices on labour market policies, skills development strategies, and social protection measures to harness AI for inclusive growth. Strengthening institutional capacities and fostering dialogue among governments, workers, and employers will be essential in ensuring that AI contributes to just transitions and decent work in the Global South. Some topics in the workshop:

- **AI and Job Transformation in the Global South:** AI is expected to augment or change many more jobs than it eliminates, but whether these changes are positive depends on governance and management strategies.
- **Regulatory Challenges and AI? What to expect in terms of SSTC?:** The presentation underscores the need for global labour standards to address issues such as algorithmic dismissal, worker surveillance, and the protection of fundamental rights.

2. Objectives

- To explore how South-South Cooperation can drive STI solutions, including AI, to accelerate the 2030 Agenda: the impact of AI/ digitalisation on Social Protection
- To identify best practices and successful models of STI collaboration among Global South countries: a reflection on BRICS 2025 Brazilian Presidency, as well as G20 (South African Presidency) : Artificial Intelligence was the main topic of BRICS EWG, along with Just Transitions.
- To discuss policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms that can enhance cooperation and knowledge-sharing in AI and digital transformation, while fostering dialogue and innovative solutions for sustainable development.

3. Key Discussion Topics

- The role of STI and AI in addressing major development challenges such as employment, skills development, social protection, climate resilience, public services, agriculture, healthcare, and education.
- **AI in the Global South:** lessons learned from BRICS EWG and G20 EWG discussions on AI, as well as implementations of Ministerial Declarations therein.
- **Social Dialogue and AI:** Job quality improves when workers are involved in the design and integration of digital technologies, highlighting the importance of collective bargaining and social dialogue.
- **Policy Issues:** Prioritizing worker redeployment and training over job losses, strengthening active labour market policies, and investing in underfunded sectors like the care and green economies.

4. Expected Outcomes / Discussion Questions:

- Increased awareness of the potential of SSC in promoting STI and AI for sustainable development: the example of BRICS LEMM
- Identification of key policy recommendations for strengthening AI-driven cooperation among developing countries and roadmaps for cooperation in the Global South on AI.
- Strengthened partnerships between governments, international agencies, and private sector stakeholders to promote AI and STI adoption.

5. Structure of the Panel

- **MODERATOR:** Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon – Special Representative to the United Nations & Director, ILO Office for the United Nations in New York
- **SPEAKER:** Mr. José Gilberto Scandiucci – Minister-Counselor, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN (Focus on Brazilian Presidency of BRICS, LEMM, AI as a critical topic, etc)- 7 min

- **SPEAKER:** Mr. Dwi Wisnu Budi Prabowo – First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN- AI in Indonesia, the ASEAN context- 7 min
- **SPEAKER:** Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang – Trust Fund Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) , UNOSSC: South-South Cooperation and AI: Challenges and Opportunities- 7 min
- **SPEAKER:** Ms. Muserref Yetim– Clinical Professor, Program in International Relations, New York University: An Academic perspective- 7 min
- **DISCUSSANT:** Ms. Anita Amorim – Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, ILO – 5 min

6. Organizing Partners

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- UNOSSC
- Private Sector and Academic Institutions: New York University, BRICS Policy Center

Moderator: Ms. Cynthia Samuel- Olonjuwon



Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon is the Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for the United Nations in New York and special representative to the Director General. With over 40 years of experience in the world of work, she has held various leadership positions within the ILO, including Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa. She joined the ILO in 1995 and has been instrumental in developing and implementing regional strategies to deliver high-quality decent work results that advance social justice. Her efforts have fostered opportunities for regional cooperation, particularly with the African Union, African Development Bank, and Regional Economic Communities. ([Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon - International Labour Organization](#))

[International Labour Organization](#)

Prior to her tenure at the ILO, Ms. Samuel-Olonjuwon served as an Assistant Director at the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association (NECA) and lectured on gender, industrial sociology, and group dynamics at Ahmadu Bello University. She holds a BSc in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Industrial and Labour Relations from the University of Ibadan. ([Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon - 100Women | Avance Media](#))

Key Note Speaker : Mr. José Gilberto Scandiucci (Brazil)



Mr. José Gilberto Scandiucci is a seasoned diplomat from the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving since 1999. Currently, he holds the position of Minister-Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, overseeing economic, social policy, environmental, and budget issues. His extensive career includes roles such as International Affairs Advisor to Brazil's Federal Supreme Court and Superior Electoral Court, Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance, and Head of the Financial Policy Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Internationally, he has served in various capacities,

including Chargé d'Affaires in Doha, Minister-Counselor in Rabat, and Advisor to the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank in Washington. He holds a PhD in Economics from UNICAMP and degrees in Law and Economics.



Speaker 2: Mr. Dwi Wisnu Budi Prabowo (Indonesia)

Mr. Dwi Wisnu Budi Prabowo is a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, currently serving as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York. In his role, he focuses on multilateral diplomacy and development cooperation, contributing to Indonesia's initiatives within the UN framework, particularly in South-South and

Triangular Cooperation.

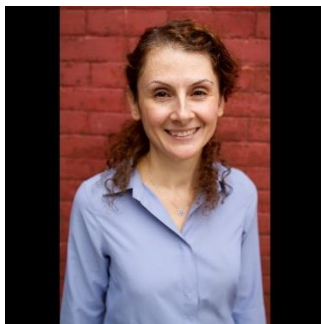
Speaker 3: Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, UNOSSC



Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang currently serves as Trust Fund Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), overseeing management of the [UN Fund for SSC](#), the [India-Brazil-South Africa Facility](#), the [India-UN Development Partnership Fund](#), and the [G77 Perez Guerrero Trust Fund \(PGTF\)](#). Prior to her current role, Ms. Wang served as Officer-in-Charge/Director a.i. during transitions (2022-23), and Deputy Director (2017-22) for UNOSSC. In these capacities, she led policy support, system coordination, knowledge management, programme and operations. Previously, Ms. Wang served as SSC Lead Advisor (2014-17) and Poverty Practice Manager (2009-13) in UNDP HQs, and led teams on Governance, HIV & AIDs, gender, and disaster risk management in UNDP at country level (2002-09).

Before joining UN, she worked for Asia Europe Foundation in Singapore, University of London in UK, Ministry of Education in China, and in media. Dr. Wang holds a PhD in Education and International Development from University of London, UK, a MA in British Studies from Beijing Foreign Studies University, China, and a Post-graduate Diploma on Inclusive Health Management from University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Speaker 4: Muserref Yetim, New York University, TBC



Professor Yetim is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Program in International Relations at New York University. Raised in Istanbul, Turkey, she took her BA with honors in Economics and International Relations from Istanbul University, and then was awarded an MA in Politics and International Relations from Bogaziçi University in 1998. She finished her studies in the US at the University of Texas at Austin in 2006 with a PhD in Politics

Discussant: Anita Amorim, Head Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit



Anita Amorim is the Head of the Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit in the Partnerships and Field Support Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO). She leads the promotion and development of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) within the ILO, fostering strategic alliances with emerging economies, BRICS countries, and regional organizations. With

extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy, South-South and triangular cooperation, and social justice, she has played a key role in mainstreaming SSTC across ILO policies and programs to advance the Decent Work Agenda globally.