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United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

Solidarity in Action: Accelerating Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

CROSS-REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION TRENDS

**23 OCTOBER 2025 | 9-10:30 AM EDT
CONFERENCE ROOM 1521, UN SECRETARIAT BUILDING & ONLINE
CONTRIBUTION TO THE CELEBRATION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY**

OPENING SEGMENT

MS. THILMEEZA HUSSAIN,
DIRECTOR, REGIONAL
COMMISSIONS NY OFFICE
(RCNYO)



Ms. Hussain, a proud Maldivian, joined the RCNYO team as Director in March 2024. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Hussain was the Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the UN, concurrent Ambassador of the Maldives to the United States and non-resident High Commissioner to Canada, posts she assumed since 2019.

She served as the Special Envoy of the President of the 76th UN General Assembly between 2021 and 2022. Prior to this diplomatic appointments, Ms. Hussain was an adjunct professor of sustainability at Ramapo College's School of Social Sciences and Human Services. From 2009 to 2012, she was the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the UN, working on issues including gender, climate change, and sustainable development.

She has served as Minister of State for Home Affairs (North Province) and holds a Master of Science in Business Management from Colorado Technical University in the United States and Bachelor of Commerce from Murdoch University in Perth, Australia.

<https://www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice/>

OPENING SEGMENT

MS. DIMA AL KHATIB,
DIRECTOR, UN OFFICE FOR
SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION (UNOSSC)



Ms. Dima Al-Khatib took up duties as Director of UNOSSC in March 2023. She is a sustainable development professional bringing more than 25 years of leadership and management experience.

Prior to joining UNOSSC, Ms. Al-Khatib served in various capacities in field duty stations -- as UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova, Programme and Policy Coordinator at the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Kuwait, and UNDP Deputy Country Director in Libya.

Ms. Al-Khatib holds a Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Environmental Health from the Lebanese University and France University of Bordeaux II, and a Bachelor of Science and a Teaching Diploma in Environmental Health from the American University of Beirut.

<https://unsouthsouth.org/about/unossc-director/>;

<https://unsouthsouth.org/our-work/policy-and-intergovernmental-support/regional-work/>

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION TRENDS



Ms. Zeynep Orhun Girard, Chief, Capacity Development and Partnerships, UNESCAP

Ms Girard has over two decades of experience in strategy and programme management and statistics. She is an expert in strategic resource mobilization and building partnerships and networks including for South-South and Triangular cooperation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Her work straddles strategic planning, monitoring and quality assurance at the regional level, and spans development of methodologies, implementation of standards, building systems and tools for data collection and knowledge management, and data analysis.

She has vast experience in working closely with national statistical offices in Europe, Asia and Africa as well as regional bodies and mechanisms. She serves as lead in UNESCAP's role as Secretariat for the EDP Network.

<https://www.unescap.org/podcast/building-bridges-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-resilient-future>; <https://www.unescap.org/>

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION TRENDS



Ms. Maria Teresa Pisani, Chief (ad interim) Trade Facilitation Section, UNECE

Maria Teresa Pisani is currently Acting Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Prior to this, she headed the Sustainable Trade and Outreach Unit at UNECE, where she leads the work on policies and standards for sustainable and digital trade facilitation, and managed a global multi-stakeholder initiative on green and inclusive value chains in the textile and clothing industry.

At UNECE since 2011, she has been focusing on trade and environmental governance. Before joining the UN, Maria Teresa has been with the European Commission, and the ILO, and has managed World Bank funded projects for institutional reforms in emerging economies around the world.

<https://unece.org/>

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION TRENDS



Mr. Luis Fidel Yáñez,
Secretary of the
Commission,
ECLAC/CEPAL

Mr. Luis Fidel Yáñez assumed his current position in 2020, prior to serving as Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission since 2011. At ECLAC, he has also served Legal Adviser and Political Affairs Officer.

He is a lawyer and holds a bachelor's degree in legal sciences from the Catholic University of Chile. He has studied international relations at the postgraduate level and holds a diploma with a specialization in international relations from the International Studies Institute of the University of Chile. (Chile currently serves as the Chair of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2025-2027)

<https://www.cepal.org/en/staff/luis-fidel-yanez>; <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-south-south-cooperation-latin-america-and-caribbean>

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION TRENDS



Ms. Yuko Naab, Chief of Partnership and Resource Mobilization, UNECA

Yuko has over 15 years of experience in international development, including 10 years of country-level experience in providing advisory, technical and coordination support in the area of effective development cooperation, effective aid management system and mutual accountability framework.

Prior to joining UNECA, she worked as Policy Advisor, Effective Development Cooperation, the Development Impact Team at UNDP/BPPS.

She also played a strategic oversight role in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Secretariat, worked as an in-house aid effectiveness technical advisor to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Rwanda and, Head of the Development Partners Group (DPG) Secretariat in Tanzania.

<https://www.uneca.org/>

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION TRENDS



Mr. Karim Khalil,
Secretary of the
Commission,
UNESCWA

Mr. Khalil is the Secretary of the Commission and Head of the External Relations and Communications, which handles the Commission's relations with the Commission's 20 Member States and development partners, as well as communications with the media and the public.

<https://archive.unescwa.org/about-escwa/executive-secretary/secretary-commission>; <https://www.unescwa.org/about/external>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Alasdair Charnock, Principal Partnership Officer, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank/AIIB

MODERATOR

Mr. Charnock has over 15 years in the international development sector in positions focused on fundraising, resource mobilization and partnerships.

Prior to joining the AIIB, he was with the African Development Bank for more than 5 years. He also has extensive experience in the NGO sector including with CARE International where he held senior positions such as the Regional Strategic Partnerships Director in West Africa and Director for Global Strategic Resource Mobilization.

<https://www.aiib.org/en/index.html>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



**Minister
Plenipotentiary Nada
El Egizy**, Head of the
Sustainable Development
and International
Cooperation Department,
League of Arab States

Minister El Egizy joined the Arab League in 1992 and acquired proficiency in economic and social development at the regional and international levels. In her recent capacity she led a number of initiatives including End of Hunger in the Arab Region sub-committee, the Multi-stakeholder sub-committee to support the attainment of SDGs in conflict-affected countries in the Arab region, the Regional Initiative on Climate Security, the SDG-Climate Facility Project, De-Risking Investment Task Force in the Arab Region, the Arab Youth SDGs Platform.

She launched the largest regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platform in the Arab region, “The Arab Sustainable Development Week”, bringing together representatives from Arab governments, experts, civil society, private sector, youth, media and philanthropic organizations.

<http://www.arabmpi.org/en/home>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Enrique O'Farrill Julien, Executive Director of the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID)

Mr. Julien has more than 30 years of experience in International Cooperation.

He has led technical negotiating teams for bilateral and triangular cooperation with various countries such as Japan, Germany, the United States and Spain among others. He has led negotiations with multilateral partners including the European Union (EU), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the World Bank.

(Chile currently Chairs the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean)

<https://www.agcid.gob.cl/>; <https://www.agcid.gob.cl/acerca-de-agci/quienes-somos/director-ejecutivo>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Martin Clavijo,
Executive Director,
Uruguayan Agency for
International
Cooperation, Office of
the President

Mr. Clavijo assumed his current post in March 2025. He has served as Secretary of International Relations and Open Government. Municipality of Canelones, with responsibilities in institutional and political relations and the coordination of cooperation projects.

He has also served in the Directorate of International Relations and Ministry of Health, on international cooperation and projects with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO); Political Advisor in the Parliament of the Republic. He has a degree in International Relations from the University of the Republic.

(Uruguay is President of the SEGIB South-South Cooperation Programme/Ibero-American General Secretariat)

<https://www.gub.uy/agencia-uruguay-cooperacion-internacional/>;
<https://segib.org/es/>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Martin Vidal,
National Director of
Policy for CELAC
Director General for
Political Affairs, Ministry
of Foreign Relations of
Uruguay

Mr. Vidal is a career diplomat with 25 years of experience in foreign service. He assumed current post as Director General for Political Affairs in March 2025 and, prior, as Asesor del Ministro (Adviser to the Minister) for Political Affairs; Regional Director for Latin America at the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security (2023-2024); Representative of Uruguay to the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal; and Ambassador of Uruguay to Canada from 2016 to 2022; and Deputy Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the UN in New York.

He holds a Licentiate degree in International Relations and Affairs from the University of the Republic.

(Uruguay is 2026 CELAC Chair)

<https://www.dallaireinstitute.org/martin-vidal;>

https://www.mofa.go.jp/la_c/m_ca_c/pageite_000001_00005.html

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Hendrik Jesus Garcia II, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN

Mr. Garcia is a Career Minister who has served in various duty stations -- as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines; Director for Economic Development, Food and Agriculture and the SDGs; Deputy Permanent Delegate of the Philippines at UNESCO in Paris (where he served among others as Vice-President of the Preparatory Group of the UNESCO Executive Board 2018-2019; and in Philippines' capacity as Chair of Asia-Pacific Group 2014, Group of 77 and China Paris Chapter 2015, ASEAN UNESCO Committee (2016), and Vice-Chair of the UNESCO General Conference 2015 and 2017).

He also served as Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva. He holds degrees in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School and Masters in Advanced International Studies, International Relations and Affairs from Diplomatische Akademie Wien in Vienna. <https://newyorkp.m.dfa.gov.ph/>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Ms. Amina Magouri,
President and Founder,
SALMA Dialogue

The SALMA Dialogue -- Strategic Alliances: Latin America Meeting Africa, SSC & TrC Programme -- is an international program born in Tunisia that aims to strengthen synergies between **Africa, Latin America and Europe** and to promote **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**.

Ms. Magouri is an **expert in strategy, public policy, and international cooperation** and regularly advises leaders, boards of directors, and international organizations on the design and implementation of **high-impact public policies**.

<https://www.salmadialogue.org/>; <https://www.facebook.com/SALMA.Dialogue/>;
<https://unctad.org/osgstatement/salma-dialogue-gender-equality-inclusive-governance-and-innovative-leadership-catalyst>; <https://etune.cancilleria.gob.ar/fr/forum-%C3%A9conomique-am%C3%A9rica-latina-africa-europe-salma-dialogue-business-forum-advancig-cooperation>;

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Ibrahima Diagne,
Managing Director of
GAINDE 2000 and
President of the African
Performance Institute
(API), Senegal

Mr. Ibrahima Nour Eddine DIAGNE is currently the Managing Director of [GAINDE 2000](https://www.gainde2000.com/a-propos/) (an African pioneer in digital solutions for international trade and effective governance). He served as president of the African Performance Institute (API), a pan-African think tank and animation group dedicated to the promotion of digital technology.

He has more than 24 years of experience in the digital field with a particular focus on e-commerce, dematerialization and trade facilitation. He is an expert of the United Nations and, in this capacity, served as Rapporteur for Africa of the United Nations Centre for Electronic Transactions (UN/CEFACT) from 2006 to 2018. He also founded and chaired the African Alliance for Electronic Trade (AAEC) from 2009 to 2017. He holds a B.sc, an MBA and an M. Sc from HEC Montréal and HEC Paris. He has a certificate from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business on Transformation Management and Leadership. <https://appinstitute.org/about-us>; <https://www.gainde2000.com/a-propos/>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Ted Chen, CEO and Co-Founder, Evercomm / Mentor, NTU Entrepreneurship Academy, Singapore

Ted is the co-founder of Evercomm Singapore, one of the fastest-growing cleantech startup in Asia Pacific. He is the youngest to receive the prestigious Singapore Energy Award and recognized as one of the digital pioneers by the Singapore Committee on the Future Economy (CFE).

He has served as expert technical partner for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on smart cities and youth entrepreneurship; lead on technology and innovation at the UN Major Group for Children and Youth; and Member of **the ITU Generation Connect Visionaries Board**.

He has been recognized as a Barclays Unreasonable Impact Fellow, recipient of the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Nanyang Technological University (NTU; where he serves as Mentor for the Entrepreneurship Academy) and made it to **World Cities Summit Young Leader** and Forbes' inaugural **Asia's 30 Under 30**. <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/ntupreneur/support-from-the-entrepreneurship-ecosystem/mentorship-clinic>; <https://evercomm.io/>

REFLECTIONS FROM ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS



Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz, Head of Sector, Economic Development and Employment, Union for the Mediterranean

Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz is a Barcelona-based Egyptian expert. He joined the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2013, first working for Cabinet before moving to the Business Development and Employment Division, where he handles Social, Digital and Creative Economy.

He has worked for the Commercial International Bank (CIB) Egypt for 10 years as Financial Analyst and Head of Investor Relations.

Mr. Elrazzaz is also a Professor of Mediterranean Heritage at the International University of Catalonia (UIC) in Barcelona since 2010. He holds a BA in Economic Studies and an MA in Humanities.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/>; <https://ufmsecretariat.org/regional-integration-2025/>

DIALOGUE: SOME POINTS TO EXPLORE

- How do we build the kind of economies and societies that improve the prospects of whole populations?
- How do we leverage and deepen regional cooperation for regional integration?
- In what way can the stakeholders of the Global South work better within and beyond their borders and do so for concrete impact?
- What are we missing? What are the gaps, challenges and opportunities you see from where you sit?
- What would you recommend as concrete next steps to leverage and operationalize SS&TrC within and between regions?
- Where do you see yourself and the constituencies you represent playing a role – particularly in the frame of South-South and triangular cooperation – channeling support where needed in a way that poses no burden?

NEXT STEPS AND
CLOSING MESSAGE

THANK YOU!



Solidarity in Action: Accelerating Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Cross-regional dialogue on regional
integration and cooperation trends



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