

Treaty Organization SP - Secretaría Permanente

Amazon Cooperation

De Organisatie van de Overeenkomst voor Amazonische Samenwerking

SIDE EVENT

NEW TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR THE AMAZON REGION FROM THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Belém, Pará, Brazil - August 6, 2023

AGENDA

Timetable: 9:00 a 10:45

Venue: Hangar Convenções e Feiras da Amazônia – Belén

Av. Dr. Fretas S/N Bairro Marco

MAIN SPEAKERS:

Juan Bello - Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean - UNEP

Simonne Cecchini - Director to the Population Division - ECLAC

Gustavo Méndez - Senior Specialist and Coordinator for the Southern Cone

Countries, Water and Sanitation Division at Interamerican

Development Bank - IDB

Ana Carolina Argolo - Director of Water and Basic Sanitation - ANA BRASIL

REPRESENTATIVES OF ACTO:

Alexandra Moreira – Secretary General **Amb. Carlos Lazary** – Executive Director

BACKGROUND

The Brazilian government will hold the Amazon Summit on August 8 and 9, 2023, in Belém do Pará. Leaders and representatives of the eight countries that share the Amazon territory are expected to attend to (i) hold a debate on issues related to conservation, sustainable development, environmental protection, and preservation of biodiversity in the Amazon; (ii) produce a consensual position in relation to the forest. This position will be taken to future global discussions on climate action; and (iii) promote the institutional strengthening of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

In addition, the "Amazon Dialogues" will take place prior to the Summit, on August 4-6. The city of Belém will be hosting a number of initiatives such as seminars, debates, side events, exhibitions, and cultural events, in order to set the agenda for the formulation of new strategies for the region. These initiatives comprise what has been called the "Amazon Dialogues".

At this event, the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO will hold a side event on August 6 to showcase some of the new International Cooperation committed by several of ACTO's strategic partners in the different axes of regional work.

On this occasion, participants will learn about new projects and financing in the water resources area (surface water and groundwater), technology and innovation focused on the Amazon



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Regional Observatory (ARO), the socio-demographic situation of the Amazon Region, among other topics of interest.

Distinguished representatives from organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the National Water and Basic Sanitation Agency (ANA - BRAZIL) will deliver keynote lectures.

OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

Overall objective

Highlight the crucial role of International Cooperation in the promotion and support of the
work carried out by ACTO within a regional vision and management perspective, focused on
the fulfillment of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which seeks to achieve sustainable
development with an environmental, economic, and social balance..

Specific objectives

- Provide a space where data can be presented highlighting the situation of need, vulnerability, and socio-demographic inequality in the eight countries comprising the Amazon Region, all of which have limited access to international cooperation due to being classified as middleincome countries.
- Understand the alternative sources of water resources such as groundwater, which is essential
 for the hydrological cycles, and how these sources may be threatened by uncontrolled
 exploitation and aquifer contamination. Taking into consideration the effects of Climate
 Change.
- 3. Enhance the understanding and planning of water resources to address extreme events that may heighten vulnerability of the Amazon basin, generating risk in socio-ecological systems; safeguard key water, sanitation, and infrastructure services; and anticipate climate-related challenges, promoting solutions that incorporate innovative resilience technologies, including those integrated into large-scale infrastructure adaptations.
- 4. Strengthen technical and management capacities to promote the generation and use of reliable environmental, social, and economic information. This would provide the eight member countries with substantial scientific evidence for making informed decisions aimed at addressing the primary challenges related to the sustainable development of the Amazon

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The PS/ACTO sees this event as a unique opportunity to incorporate the vision and conclusions of the Cooperating Partners into the roadmap that the Organization is building in the framework of its institutional strengthening.

furthermore, it will be important to understand the vision and commitment that Cooperating Partners hold towards the Amazon and their work from a regional and multisectoral, as well as multidimensional, perspective.



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METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

The event will be structured in three parts:

1st PART High-Level Panel (Time: 30min):

The SP/ACTO will deliver a general presentation on the new financing initiatives managed for ACTO in partnership with strategic actors.

ECLAC will present the findings of the study Socio-demographic gaps in the Amazon region.

2nd PART High-Level Round Table (Time: 30min):

High-level delegates from UNEP, ECLAC, IDB, and ANA-BRASIL will participate in a round table with two key questions linked to the High-Level Panel:

- What is your institution's priority regarding the Amazon from a national perspective, but above all, in terms of strengthened regional cooperation?
 In order to avoid duplication of efforts and aiming for the scalability of financing for the prioritized activities, and on the potential solutions to be adopted.
- 2. What proposed actions would help reduce the asymmetries among Member Countries, ensured through new financial resources?

3rd PART Highlights of participations and closing of session (Time: 10min):

Results Session.

 $\textbf{Moderator} : Alexandra \ Moreira \ Secretary \ General \ of \ \underline{ACTO}$

Closing remarks: Ambassador Carlos Lazary Director OTCA.

AGENDA OF THE SIDE EVENT

Timetable:	Intervention	Speakers	Context
09.00-09.15	Welcome remarks	Ambassador Carlos Lazary (ED) of PS/ACTO	
09.15-09.30	The Contextualization of New Projects	Secretary General of ACTO	Brief presentation of context and objective of the meeting and expected outcomes.



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09.30-9.45	High-Level Panel ECLAC Presentation on Sociodemographic Gaps	Simonne Cecchini - Director to the Population Division - ECLAC.	Most relevant outcomes
09.45-10.15	High-Level Round Table	Juan Bello - Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean - UNEP. Gustavo Méndez -	Two questions will be asked to the Panelists
		Senior Specialist and Coordinator for the Southern Cone Countries, Water and Sanitation Division at Interamerican Development Bank - IDB	
		Ana Carolina Argolo - Director of Water and Basic Sanitation - ANA BRASIL	
10.15 -10.30	Summary of the key ideas of the Side Event	Amb. Carlos Lazary Executive Director of ACTO	
10.30	Closing Remarks	ACTO Board of Directors	Closing ceremony and next steps



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BIOGRAPHIES OF ACTO EXECUTIVE BOARD



Alexandra Moreira: Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization from January 1st, 2019. Alexandra Moreira has been driving and expanding ACTO's projects portfolio and financing, as well as forging strategic partnerships with multilateral institutions and cooperating partners to achieve effective cooperation in the Amazon Region.

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She is the third female Secretary General and the youngest person to assume the position at the Organization.

She served as the Minister of Environment and Water of Bolivia from 2015 to 2017, during which she championed public policies in water and sanitation, as well as sustainable forest and biodiversity management. Simultaneously, she managed significant financial and strategic projects for the sector.

She fulfilled diplomatic roles in international negotiations, mainly, as a representative in the National Delegation for Climate Change matters to the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), sustainable development, and other multilateral forums. She was also a member of the negotiating team from 2008 to 2014.

In the United Mexican States, she served as Minister Counselor at the Embassy of Bolivia



Amb. Carlos Alfredo Lazary: Executive Director of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization since January 2019; he is a career diplomat. Throughout his diplomatic career, he has held various positions in different countries, including Ambassador of Brazil to Ecuador (2015-2018) and Lima (2011-2015); Minister Counselor at the Embassy in Washington; Deputy Consul General in Miami (United States); Head of the Political Section at the Embassy of Brazil in Buenos Aires (Argentina); In-charge of the Consulate General in Ciudad del Este (Paraguay) and in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). He represented Brazil in the Intergovernmental

Coordinating Committee of the Plata Basin and was a member of the Brazilian delegation in negotiations for the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway.

He was decorated in Brazil with:

Orders of Military Merit, Naval Merit, Aeronautical Merit, Rio Branco e Estrela do Acre. He received foreign decorations:

Orden del Águila Azteca, Gran Cruz de la Orden del Sol del Perú y Gran Cruz de la Orden del Mérito Nacional del Ecuador.



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BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS



Juan Bello: Regional Director and Representative, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with over 25 years of experience in environmental issues, focusing on biodiversity, collaborative networks, and science and policy platforms. He started his career at the Instituto Humboldt in Colombia. He worked with more than 60 developed and developing countries to establish their national biodiversity data infrastructures, along with leading capacity building projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He joined the UNEP in 2015 as Coordinator of the Division of Science for Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2017 he was appointed head of the UNEP office in Colombia and

regional focal point for Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. He is a biologist from Colombia and holds an Executive Master's degree in International Negotiation and Policy from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.



Simone Cecchini: Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based in Santiago, Chile. He leads a team of professionals at CELADE that seeks to strengthen the capacity of countries in the region to study demographic dynamics and their interrelationships with sustainable development, in order to incorporate population factors into public policies.

He has extensive experience in the study of social protection policies and programs, poverty reduction and inequality. In this regard, he has published and advised various governments in the region.

He is a graduate in political science from the University of Florence, with a thesis on the 1991 Italian population census. Mr. Cecchini holds an MA in international economics from George Washington University, Washington DC, and an MBA from the Catholic University of Chile.



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Gustavo Méndez: Senior Specialist and Coordinator for the Southern Cone Countries, Water and Sanitation Division at Interamerican Development Bank - IDB Gustavo Méndez, Principal Specialist and Coordinator for the Southern Cone Countries in the Water and Sanitation Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In Brasilia, he coordinates and leads the team responsible for preparing and implementing all water and sanitation operations of the Bank in the country. He worked as a Senior Sector Specialist for Latin America at the German Development Bank (KfW). For 6 years, he was appointed Sector Coordinator for the

German Government in the water and sanitation sector in Peru. He also worked in the PROAGUA Program of German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) as responsible for the Institutional Strengthening Component. He worked at the Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer Services Company in Bolivia, where he became General Manager. He has extensive experience in designing and implementing sectoral plans, public policy reform programs, institutional strengthening of water and sanitation companies and governing bodies and regulators; structuring and supervising projects with private participation and preparing and implementing a wide range of investment programs, mostly across Latin American countries such as Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and others. Gustavo is a Civil Engineer with a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering.



Ana Carolina Argolo: Director of the National Water and Basic Sanitation Agency (ANA) of Brazil. She coordinates and leads the Superintendency of Water and Socioeconomic Studies, the Superintendency of Hydrometeorological Network Management, and the Superintendency of Information Technology.

She served as director of the Department of Sustainable Development in Mining of the Secretariat of Geology and Mining and Mineral Transformation of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Brazil. Also, she worked in the private sector, as an environmental analyst in the coordination of studies and later as

technical director in the management of environmental licensing projects. She is a geologist, with a postgraduate degree in Environmental Management and Technologies from the Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo (USP) and in Environmental Geoprocessing from the University of Brasilia (UnB), focusing on geological risk management and studies of water availability in underground aquifers.