



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



UNITED NATIONS

**ECLAC**



# Capacity Development Workshop on “Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation”

24-26 March 2025 | Nassau, The Bahamas

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## **BIOS OF SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Adriana Alberti**

Dr. Alberti is Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA. She has thirty years of international knowledge and expertise in governance and public administration. She coordinated and contributed to a number of UN publications, including the UN E-Government Survey. She has led capacity development activities in over 25 countries from around the world, including on innovation in governance and digital government. She coordinated the UN Public Service Forum and Awards programme. As Chief Technical Advisor, she managed an innovation programme in the Middle East, North Africa, and Western Balkans. Prior to joining the UN, she worked at the University of Bologna and taught at several universities. She was Visiting Fellow at Princeton University, the Institute of Advanced Social Studies in Spain, and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. She was awarded fellowships from the Italian National Research Council, the European University Institute, the Government of Spain for the Salvador de Madariaga Research Grant, and Harvard University. She holds a Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute; a master's degree in Political Science magna cum laude from the University of Bologna and an Executive Education certificate from Harvard University.

**Dr. Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta**

Dr. Rodriguez-Acosta is a Senior Interregional Adviser for Public Administration at the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in New York specializing on issues of digital government, innovation, and public policy. Prior to joining UNDESA, Cristina was Assistant Director for Institutional Relations at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at Florida International University (FIU). She holds a PhD in Public Affairs from Florida International University in Miami, a MA in Latin American Affairs from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and graduated from the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina with a BA in International Relations and a Certificate in Political Science.

**Dr. Dale Alexander**

Dr. Alexander is the Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC). He has 20 years of extensive experience leading policy-related engagements in ICT for Development in the Caribbean subregion, including policymaking for telecommunications sector planning, particularly for regulatory and legal frameworks. In addition, he has more than 15 years of specialist expertise in knowledge management and library automation capacity building, transforming traditional libraries into centres of knowledge. Since 2013, he has been the Focal Point for the Associate Member Territories of ECLAC, successfully advocating for the fuller integration of Non-Self-Governing and other Associate Member Territories in the Caribbean into United Nations processes, as well as coordinating and conducting research on their development progress. He is also an adjunct lecturer in the areas of Leadership Development and Strategic Management. As Chief of ECLAC's Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, his research focus since 2021 has

been a multi-year study on digital inclusion in the Caribbean. He holds a PhD in Organization and Management from Capella University, and a MA in Telecommunications Regulations and Policy from the University of the West Indies.

**Ms. Trudy Waterman**

Ms. Waterman is a distinguished professional with extensive project management experience. Since joining the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) in 2019 as the Programme Implementation Officer, she has played a pivotal role in executing key initiatives. Prior to this, Ms. Waterman served as the Project Implementation Officer for the Caribbean Project for six years, a regional project funded by the Government of Canada. Her expertise as a certified Project Management Professional with the Project Management Institute was instrumental in leading the scheduling and tracking of the project's performance against the Results Based Management Framework. Prior to these roles, Ms. Waterman worked at the Forensic Sciences Centre in Barbados, where she worked as a Criminalist for eight years. Her academic credentials include a Master of Science in Project Management and Evaluation (Distinction) and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Computer Science (First Class Honours) from the University of the West Indies. She has also earned several certifications, including Project Management Techniques for Development Professionals, Risk Management in Development Projects, Designing Virtual Training, Facilitating Virtual Training, Master Virtual Producer, and EQ – i 2.0. Ms. Waterman, who is a trained executive coach, has provided executive coaching to over one hundred senior and mid-level regional leaders.

**Dr. Lois Parkes**

Ms. Parkes is the Leadership Development and Institutional Strengthening Specialist with Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) since August 2019. She has spearheaded the design, development and delivery of the CARICAD Leadership Development Programme (CLDP), since 2017, with approximately 2000 public sector leaders trained. She has served for over twenty (20) years in the Public Service in Jamaica, in varying capacities, including Chief Personnel Officer in the Office of the Services Commissions, where she contributed to several public sector transformation initiatives including the delegation of human resource functions, and the implementation of the strategic HRM function of the public sector. In 2007, she was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship tenable in New Zealand, where she completed her doctoral studies in Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations at the Victoria University of Wellington. She also holds a MSc. In Human Resource Development from the University of the West Indies. She is also a published researcher, certified Executive Coach and Change Management Specialist.

**Dr. Azeema Adam**

Dr. Adam is an accomplished economist and a central banker with over 22 years of experience in macroeconomic policy, financial sector development, and sustainable finance. In February 2025, she joined UNDESA as an Inter-regional Adviser on Strategic Foresight and Systems Thinking,

focusing on advancing policy coherence and integrated planning for sustainable development. Previously, she served as an Inter-regional Adviser on Macroeconomic Policy at UNDESA, providing policy advice and capacity-building support to Least Developed Countries. From 2018 to 2020, Azeema was Principal Officer for Financing the 2030 Agenda in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, where she developed the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Financing the 2030 Agenda. Azeema was the first female Governor of the Maldives Central Bank (Maldives Monetary Authority) from 2014 to 2017, where she led key financial sector reforms that stabilized the exchange rate, promoted financial inclusion, and expanded digital banking solutions. As Governor, she emerged as a thought leader in macroeconomics and finance relating to Small Island Developing States, engaging on regional and global platforms. Before her governorship, she held several positions at the Central Bank, including Chief Economist, leading research and policy coordination while strengthening data-driven decision-making—principles that still guide her approach to integrated policymaking and financial strategy. Azeema holds a PhD. in Economics and a BA in Economics from the University of Canberra, Australia. She also has an MSc in International Development and Finance from the University of Leicester, UK.

**Mr. Armando Guio**

Armando Guio Español is a lawyer who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) in 2014. He holds a Master of Laws (LL.M. '16) from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Policy (MPP '18) from the University of Oxford. He has served as an affiliated researcher at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University. Additionally, he is part of the OECD's Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence and Risks. He has advised public and private entities worldwide on data protection, AI policies, and innovation. He led the design and implementation of Colombia's AI Strategy. As a consultant for CAF - Development Bank of Latin America, he worked with the governments of Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, and Chile on their own digital transformation and AI strategies. He has also advised the World Bank, the University of Oxford, and UNESCO, among other entities, on issues related to AI ethics and governance. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the Global Network of Internet Centers at Harvard University.