



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



Capacity Development Workshop on “The Future of Governance: Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation”

25-27 May 2025 | Bridgetown, Barbados

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.

Dr. Devon Rowe

Devon L. Rowe is currently the Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD). He joined CARICAD in 2016 following his many years of contribution to public service in Jamaica. His career has spanned varying government organisations and he has represented the Jamaican government at several international high-level meetings, including meetings with the International Monetary Fund which resulted in the successful Extended Fund Facility. Through Mr. Rowe's efforts and coordination, several fiscal policy initiatives have been implemented. A career public servant, he has had senior level appointments as: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Community Development and Sport; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Environment; Director General in the Office of the Prime Minister; Commissioner of Customs (Interim Head); Director General in the Ministry of Finance and Public Service; and Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Public Service. He has been appointed to the Boards of several public sector companies in investment, development finance, infrastructure, and health. He is the holder of a Bachelor's degree in Management from the University of the West Indies, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In 2014, Mr. Rowe was acknowledged for his work and outstanding contribution to public service by the Government of Jamaica and received the Order of Distinction, Commander Rank.

Dr. Lois Parkes

Dr. 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.

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.

Mr. Mahammadali Khudaverdiyev

Mr. Khudaverdiyev is currently Director-General for International Affairs at the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan (also known as "ASAN" which stands for "Azerbaijan Service and Assessment Network") whose goal is to make services more easily accessible to citizens using modern technologies. He has worked at the agency since 2021. Previously he worked as a project coordinator at UNPD from 2013- 2016. Before he joined ASAN, he worked at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Azerbaijan. Mr. Khudaverdiyev received his bachelor's degree in International Law and master's degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI).