

HARNESSING INTER-REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR SDGS
20 MAY 2021, 13:30 – 17:00 (GENEVA TIME)

PROGRAM (*AS OF 13.05.2021*)

Moderators:

- Opening session and Panel 1 – H.E. Amb. Yury Ambrazevich, Permanent Representative of Belarus in Geneva;
- Panel 2 and Closing session – H.E. Amb. Chad Blackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados in Geneva

Introductory remarks by **the Moderators** (5 minutes)

Opening Session - Setting the Scene (25 minutes)

Regional integration is becoming a way to make economic life and trade better contribute to sustainable development. What strategic issues require greater cooperation and coordination among regional integration groupings worldwide?

- H.E. **Mr Vladimir Makei**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Belarus**
- H.E. **Mr Jerome Xavier Walcott**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of **Barbados**

Keynote Speaker:

- H.E. **Mr Sergey Lavrov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the **Russian Federation**

Panel 1 - Regional integration for a stronger multilateral economic system, tackling the COVID-19 challenges, and attaining the SDGs – experience of the integration groupings (75 minutes)

What are the best practices and needs for inter-regional integration, including in countering socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis? Speakers are invited to present one success story to be shared and to identify one most important point of interest towards future cooperation among regional integration groupings.

- H.E. **Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich**, Chairman of the Board of the **Eurasian Economic Commission**
- H.E. **Mr Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary-General of **ASEAN**
- H.E. **Mr Henri Gétaz**, Secretary-General of **EFTA**
- H.E. **Mr Jorge Hernando Pedraza**, Secretary-General, **Andean Community of Nations**
- H.E. **Ms Gail Mathurin**, Director-General, Office of Trade Negotiations, **CARICOM** Secretariat
- *more speakers to be confirmed*

Panel 2 - Regional integration for a stronger multilateral economic system, tackling the COVID-19 challenges, and attaining the SDGs – experience and contribution of the international organizations (90 minutes)

What are the ways that cooperation among integrational projects can complement and create synergies with the efforts of international organizations in attaining the SDGs? Each speaker is invited to present existing tools available for inter-regional cooperation and to identify potential directions for deepening partnership between international organizations and regional integration groupings.

- H.E. **Ms Isabelle Durant**, Acting Secretary-General of **UNCTAD**
- H.E. **Ms Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General of the **UNOG**
- H.E. **Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, **WTO** Director General

- H.E. **Mr Daren Tang**, **WIPO** Director General
- H.E. **Ms Olga Algayerova**, **UNECE** Executive Secretary
- H.E. **Ms Alicia Bárcena**, **ECLAC** Executive Secretary
- H.E. **Ms Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, **ESCAP** Executive Secretary
- H.E. **Ms Rola Dashti**, **UNESCWA** Executive Secretary

Closing Session – A way forward (15 minutes)

Feedback from moderators on the main outcomes of the discussion and the next steps to enable regular dialogue, information exchange and collaboration among regional integration groupings?

- H.E. **Amb. Federico Villegas**, President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, **Permanent Representative of Argentina in Geneva**
 - H.E. **Amb. Yury Ambrazevich**, Permanent Representative of **Belarus** in Geneva
 - H.E. **Amb. Chad Blackman**, Permanent Representative of **Barbados** in Geneva
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