



STS forum - Latin America and the Caribbean High-Level Conference 2025

[Co-hosting Organizations]

Ministry of Economy of Mexico, STS forum, Government of the State of Morelos,
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

[Date] Thursday December 4, 2025

[Venue] World Trade Center Morelos, Cuernavaca, Mexico

[Participants] 2,988 participants from 39 countries

[Program] 8 Plenary Sessions and 8 Concurrent Sessions



Plenary Sessions

- Opening Remarks
- New Ideas for a New Era: Driving Innovation and Overcoming Obstacles in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region
- Water at the Crossroads: For People, Agriculture and Energy
- Powering Progress: Smart Mobility and Latin American Cities
- Revolutionizing Medicine: Biotech and Genomics
- Aerospace Innovation and Advancing Aerospace Frontiers
- Developing Entrepreneurship for the Future
- Closing Session

Concurrent Session Themes

Innovation in Electromobility Infrastructure/ Big Data & AI in Healthcare–Intelligent Health/
Sustainable Water Management & Agriculture/ Igniting Innovation: Fostering Innovation in Tech
and Startups





His Excellency Mr. Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubon first participated in the *STS forum* Annual Meeting in Kyoto in 2009 in his capacity as Mayor of Mexico City. Following his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Administration that assumed office in 2018, Minister Ebrard proposed a significant initiative to establish a regional high-level conference for the CELAC region, coinciding with Mexico’s presidency of this region. The inaugural meeting was planned for March, 2020, in Mexico City; however, due to the WHO’s declaration of the coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic only days beforehand, the conference had to be postponed as an emergency precaution.

In the subsequent year, on December 8–9, 2021, the *STS forum* and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico successfully convened the conference in an unprecedented double-hybrid format, linking in-person venues in both Mexico City and Tokyo and thereby maintaining regional dialogue despite ongoing global constraints.

On March 15, 2023, the *STS forum* – Latin America and the Caribbean High-Level Conference was held in Mexico City for the first time as a full face-to-face gathering. The meeting achieved notable success, with broad participation from CELAC member countries and renewed commitment to regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation.

Building upon this solid foundation, the ***STS forum - Latin America and the Caribbean High-Level Conference 2025*** was convened on **December 4, 2025, in Cuernavaca, Morelos**. This most recent edition brought together national leaders, ministers, distinguished researchers, and representatives from industry and innovation ecosystems across Latin America and the Caribbean. Held in parallel with *InnovaFest LATAM 2025*, the summit significantly broadened regional engagement and further affirmed Mexico’s leadership in fostering high-level dialogue on science, technology, and innovation throughout the CELAC region.



Agenda STS Forum.

STS forum Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 “New Ideas for a New Era”

Opening Remarks:

Room Olinia (9:00 – 9:45hrs)

This inaugural segment will formally begin the STS Forum Latin America & the Caribbean 2025, bringing together the Government of Mexico, the Government of Japan, and the leadership of the STS Forum. Senior authorities will outline the strategic vision for the event, highlight the importance of science, technology, and innovation for regional development, and set the stage for three days of high-level dialogue and collaboration across sectors.

- ✓ **Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon**, Minister of Economy, Mexico
- ✓ **Rosaura Ruiz**, Minister of the SECIHTI, Mexico
- ✓ **Margarita González Saravia**, Governor of Morelos, Mexico
- ✓ **Ryosei Akazawa**, Minister Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan (Video Message)

Opening Plenary Session: “New Ideas for a New Era: Driving Innovation and Overcoming Obstacles in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region”:

Room Olinia (9:50 – 10:40hrs)

This opening session brings together some of the leading experts in the five core themes of the Forum: **1. Electromobility and Urban Centers, 2. Medicine and Genomics, 3. Space and Aeronautics, 4. Startups and Unicorns, 5. Water**. Each speaker will deliver sharp insights on the breakthroughs, roadblocks, and opportunities shaping the region’s innovation landscape.

- ✓ **Motoko Kotani**, Science and Technology Co-Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
- ✓ **Rohan Patel**, Board Member, International Council on Clean Transportation
- ✓ **David Kershobich**, Minister of Health of Mexico
- ✓ **Neri Tollardo**, Founder, Plata, Mexico
- ✓ **Ismail Serageldin**, Founding Director Emeritus, The Library of Alexandria
- ✓ **Heriberto Saldívar**, Head of Strategy department, European Space Agency - ESA

Plenary Session No. 1 “Water at the Crossroads: For People, Agriculture and Energy”

Room Olinia (10:40 – 11:30hrs)

This session will explore critical dimensions of water resource management in the context of mounting global pressures—climate volatility, demographic expansion, and rising energy demand. Through three interlinked sub-themes, speakers will examine how water systems intersect with human wellbeing, power generation, and agricultural resilience.

- ✓ **Francisco Nuñez Escudero**, Water Expert, Secretariat of Economy of Mexico
- ✓ **Samuel Sandoval Solís**, Lead Faculty Affiliate, California Institute for Water Resources
- ✓ **Judith Domínguez**, Research Professor, El Colegio de México
- ✓ **Patricia Valdespino Castillo**, Project Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Plenary Session No. 2 “Powering Progress: Smart Mobility and Latin American Cities” Room Olinia (11:40 – 12:30hrs)

This session will explore how electric mobility is reshaping the urban landscape across Latin America. The discussion will bring together leading voices in sustainable urbanism, automotive innovation, and public transportation reform. Drawing from experiences in advanced urban planning institutions, global electric vehicle strategies, and large-scale public transit overhauls, the session will examine how adaptive infrastructure, policy leadership, and equitable mobility systems can drive resilient urban transitions.

- ✓ **Raúl Rojas**, Professor Emeritus, Free University of Berlin
- ✓ **Ermilo Barrera**, Secretary of Economic Development, Government of Yucatan, Mexico
- ✓ **Daniel Breton**, CEO and President, Mobilité Électrique Canada
- ✓ **Aditja Ramji**, Director, Institute of Public Transportation at the University of California

Concurrent Sessions No. 1 12:40 – 13:30hrs

Concurrent Sessions No. 1 will bring together experts from diverse fields to explore emerging trends shaping the future of strategic sectors. Across the four rooms, discussions will address the intersection of technology, sustainability, health, and innovation, highlighting practical solutions and cross-sector collaboration.

Room Taruk – Innovations in Electromobility Infrastructure

- ✓ **Jimena David**, Mobility Manager, WRI Mexico
- ✓ **Marcela Verónica Bazán**, Strategy Coordinator, Ministry of Transport and telecommunications
- ✓ **Roberto Capuano**, Responsible for the Olinia Project, Mexico
- ✓ **Josué C. Velázquez Martínez**, Research Scientist MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics

Room Horizontec – Big Data and IA in Health Care, Intelligent Health

- ✓ **Guillermo Ruiz Palacios**, Head of Department of Infectious Diseases, Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, Mexico
- ✓ **Najmedin Meshkati**, Professor, University of Southern California, United States
- ✓ **William B. Weeks**, Microsoft AI for Health, United States
- ✓ **Tonatiuh Barrientos**, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), Mexico

Room Kutsari – Sustainable Water Management and Agriculture

- ✓ **María del Carmen Carmona**, Researcher, UNAM Institute of Legal Research, Mexico
- ✓ **Kenji Nagata**, Water Expert, Japan International Cooperation Agency – JICA, Japan
- ✓ **Josué Medellín-Azuara**, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Merced
- ✓ **Valeria Piñeiro**, Senior Research Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Food Policy Research Institute – IFPRI

Room Mantarraya - Igniting Innovation: Fostering Innovation in Tech and Startups

- ✓ **Adolfo Babatz**, Chief Executive Officer, Clip, Mexico
- ✓ **Alejandro Adem**, President, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- ✓ **Rosibel Ochoa**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology Partnerships, University of California Riverside
- ✓ **Nicolas Cabrera**, Chief Product Officer, Tala

Lunch Break and Networking

13:35 - 14:45hrs

Concurrent Sessions No. 2

14:50 - 15:40hrs

Concurrent Sessions No. 2 will deepen the conversation on the technological, environmental, and industrial transformations underway across Latin America and beyond. Speakers in each room will examine sector-specific opportunities—from space industry development and climate governance to adaptive urban planning and high-growth entrepreneurship—while emphasizing policy frameworks, innovation readiness, and long-term resilience.

Room Taruk - Space Exploration Opportunities in the Industry Sector

- ✓ **Olivia Holzhaus**, Chief Executive Officer, Rhodium Scientific, Space and Life Sciences
- ✓ **Pilar Zamora Acevedo**, Executive Director, Colombian Space Agency, Colombia
- ✓ **Katya Echazarreta**, Astronaut and Founder, Fundación Espacial Katya Echazarreta
- ✓ **Gustavo Cabrera**, Aeronautics Expert, Secretariat of Economy of Mexico

Room Horizontec - Climate Resilience and Water Governance

- ✓ **Hugo Roberto Rojas**, Executive Director, National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities
- ✓ **Jose Ramón Ardavín Ituarte**, Executive Director, CESPEDES - Business Council for Sustainable Development
- ✓ **José Antonio Rodríguez Tirado**, International Consultant on Water Issues
- ✓ **Frank J. Loge**, Director, Center for Water-Energy Efficiency - CWEE

Room Kutsari - Adaptive Urban Planning & Electromobility in Latin America

- ✓ **Manola Zabalza Aldama**, Secretary of Economic Development, Government of Mexico City, Mexico
- ✓ **Patricia Baires**, LATAM Business Development Manager, SynergEV
- ✓ **Gabriela de la Torre Ríos**, Regional Head of C40 Cities, Zero Emissions Vehicles LATAM
- ✓ **Edgar Antonio Valdés Porras**, Founder of Polisplicity and Hadox Research Labs, and Director, Centro de Supercómputo del Bajío

Room Mantarraya - From Startups to Unicorns: Lessons in Rapid Scaling and Innovation

- ✓ **Marco Mascorro**, Partner, Fellow AI
- ✓ **Daniel Vogel**, Founder, DeepTech & Industrial Innovation
- ✓ **Diego Santamaría Razo**, Founder, ACTIVAE – DeepTech and Industrial Innovation
- ✓ **Marlene Garayzar**, Co-Founder and Chief Governance Officer, Stori, Mexico

Plenary Session No. 3: “Revolutionizing Medicine: Biotech and Genomics”

Room Olinia 15:50 – 16:40 hrs

This session will explore how advances in biotechnology and genomics are redefining the boundaries of modern medicine. With insights from leading scientists, entrepreneurs, and global health experts, the discussion will trace the impact of genomic research on disease prevention, personalized therapies, and drug development.

- ✓ **Juan Enriquez Cabot**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Biotechnology LLC, Mexico–United States
- ✓ **Juan Andrey Zarur Jury**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Greenlight Biosciences, Mexico–United States
- ✓ **Luis Herrera Montalvo**, Dean of the School of Medicine, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
- ✓ **Laura A. Palomares**, Director, UNAM Biotechnology Institute, Mexico

Plenary Session No. 4: “Aerospace Innovation and Advancing Aerospace Frontiers”

Room Olinia 16:50 – 17:40 hrs

This session will examine the forefront of industrial innovation in the global aerospace and aeronautics sectors, with a particular emphasis on how technological advances are reshaping the industry in Latin America and beyond. Bringing together leaders from national space agencies, major manufacturers, and pioneering organizations, the discussion will highlight developments in propulsion systems, satellite technologies, and next-generation aircraft.

- ✓ **Gustavo Medina-Tanco**, Researcher and Head, Space Instrumentation Laboratory LINX, Institute of Nuclear Sciences UNAM
- ✓ **Alejandro Cardona Seemann**, President, Safrán México
- ✓ **Shelli Brunswick**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, SB Global LLC
- ✓ **Heriberto Saldívar**, Head of Strategy department, European Space Agency - ESA

Plenary Session No.5: “Developing Entrepreneurship for the Future”

Room Olinia 17:50 – 18:40 hrs

This session will convene global entrepreneurial leaders and investors to explore how innovation, leadership, and risk-taking are being redefined in the face of shifting economic, technological, and societal landscapes. From venture-backed tech startups to biotechnology research and corporate leadership, panelists will share diverse perspectives on what it takes to build transformative companies across regions and sectors.

- ✓ **Adam Smith**, Chief Scientific Officer, Nobel Outreach
- ✓ **Angel Cisneros**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Saptiva AI
- ✓ **Enrique Galindo Fentanes**, President, Agro&Biotecnia
- ✓ **Chapin Flynn**, Senior Vice President, Mastercard

Closing Remarks

Room Olinia 18:50 – 19:20 hrs

The Closing Remarks will bring together national and international authorities to reflect on the outcomes of the forum. Leaders will highlight key messages from the sessions, reaffirm commitments to scientific and technological cooperation, and outline the next steps for regional collaboration ahead of the 2026 edition.

- ✓ **Margarita González Saravia**, Governor of Morelos, Mexico
- ✓ **Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon**, Minister of Economy, Mexico
- ✓ **Rosaura Ruiz**, Minister of SECIHTI, Mexico
- ✓ **Sadayuki Tsuchiya**, Executive Director, STS forum