



**GCC-LATIN AMERICA  
RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
BRIDGING MINDS ACROSS GCC AND LATIN AMERICA



## LOOKING FORWARD: OUTLINES FOR DEVELOPING GCC-LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION



### MODERATOR

Dr. Christian Koch  
Director of Research & Executive  
Manager, Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Brussels

### OPENING REMARKS



Dr. Abdulziz Sager  
Chairman & Founder, Gulf Research  
Center (GRC)



HE Anibal Gómez Toledo  
Ambassador of Mexico to  
Saudi Arabia



Dr. Héctor Cárdenas  
President, Mexican Council on  
Foreign Relations (COMEXI)



Francisco de Santibañes  
President, Argentine Council for  
International Relations (CARI)

### SPEAKERS



HE Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg  
Assistant Secretary General for  
Negotiations & Strategic Dialogue, Gulf  
Cooperation Council



Prof. Alejandra Galindo Marín  
Professor of Social Sciences,  
University of Monterrey, Mexico



Prof. Osmany Porto de Oliveira  
Professor of International  
Relations, Federal University of  
São Paulo, Brazil



Dr. Paulo Botta  
Director of the Middle East  
Committee of the Argentine Council  
for International Relations (CARI),  
Argentina



January 29, 2025

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM KSA

| 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM CST

| 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM ART/BRT



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

# Looking Forward: Outlines for Developing GCC-Latin America Cooperation Webinar Summary

Gulf Research Center  
January 2025



@Gulf\_Research Gulfresearchcenter gulfresearchcenter gulfresearchcenter





## The Gulf Research Center GCC-LATAM Webinar Series

### Looking Forward: Outlines for Developing GCC-Latin America Cooperation Webinar Summary

#### Participants:

#### Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Abdulaziz Sager** – Chairman & Founder, Gulf Research Center
- **HE Aníbal Gómez Toledo** – Ambassador of Mexico to Saudi Arabia.
- **Dr. Héctor Cárdenas** – President, Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI)
- **Francisco de Santibañes** – President, Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI)

#### Panel Discussion

- **HE Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg Assistant** – Secretary General for Negotiations & Strategic Dialogue, Gulf Cooperation Council
- **Prof. Osmany Porto de Oliveira** – Professor of International Relations, Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil
- **Prof. Alejandra Galindo Marines** – Professor of Social Sciences, University of Monterrey, Mexico
- **Dr. Paulo Botta** – Director of the Middle East Committee at CARI & Head of TRENDS Research & Advisory Argentina Office

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Latin America have long sought to enhance their economic, political, and cultural ties. The recent webinar, hosted by the Gulf Research Center (GRC) in collaboration with the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI) and the Argentine Council on International Relations (CARI), provided a platform for discussing key areas of cooperation between the two regions. The session, moderated by Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at GRC, aimed to explore trade and investment opportunities, geopolitical dynamics, and sustainable development initiatives.

A recurring theme throughout the webinar was the potential for expanding economic collaboration between the GCC and Latin America. Trade between the two regions currently stands at \$35 billion, yet there remains significant room for growth. The discussion underscored the importance of strengthening trade agreements, particularly free trade arrangements between the GCC and Latin American blocs such as Mercosur. The potential for investment in key sectors—including mining, food security, renewable energy, and infrastructure—was highlighted as a crucial avenue for further cooperation. Speakers emphasized the need for developing business-to-business partnerships and establishing mechanisms that encourage mutual investment and industrial collaboration.

Energy and infrastructure emerged as critical areas of shared interest. The GCC states have expressed keen interest in Latin America's expertise in nuclear energy, exemplified by Saudi Arabia's operation of a small nuclear reactor supplied by Argentina. Renewable energy cooperation was also discussed as both regions prioritize climate resilience and sustainable urbanization. The



alignment of national visions, particularly in relation to energy security and environmental sustainability, provides fertile ground for joint ventures and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The conversation extended beyond economic cooperation to address the geopolitical landscape shaping GCC-Latin America relations. Participants acknowledged the challenges posed by a shifting global order, including the evolving roles of major powers such as the United States and China. Latin America's growing engagement with BRICS+, which now includes the UAE, presents new opportunities for multilateral cooperation. Strengthening diplomatic and security dialogues between the two regions was deemed essential to advancing mutual interests in global governance and regional stability.

Cultural and educational exchanges were also recognized as pivotal to deepening bilateral relations. The speakers advocated for fostering greater people-to-people connectivity through student exchange programs, academic collaborations, and language-learning initiatives. Additionally, the role of the Arab diaspora in Latin America was acknowledged as a valuable bridge for facilitating cultural understanding and business interactions. Tourism was identified as another potential growth area, with improved visa policies and direct flight connections seen as means to bolster engagement.

Several strategic recommendations emerged from the webinar. One key proposal was the establishment of a biennial GCC-Latin America Summit to institutionalize diplomatic and economic dialogues. The creation of a permanent Latin American trade exhibition in Riyadh was also suggested as a way to showcase regional products and services. Furthermore, the importance of strengthening think tank collaborations and institutional frameworks was emphasized, as these entities play a crucial role in shaping policy recommendations and fostering long-term partnerships.

In conclusion, the webinar reaffirmed the immense potential for enhanced cooperation between the GCC and Latin America. The discussions highlighted the necessity of sustained engagement in trade, investment, education, and political diplomacy. Moving forward, concrete policy actions and institutional commitments will be vital to transforming dialogue into tangible results. The prospect of a formalized GCC-Latin America Summit, along with deeper research and business collaborations, represents a promising step toward a more integrated and mutually beneficial partnership.



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All



**مركز الخليج للأبحاث**  
المعرفة للجميع



**Gulf Research Center  
Jeddah  
(Main office)**

19 Rayat Alitihad Street  
P.O. Box 2134  
Jeddah 21451  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 12 6511999  
Fax: +966 12 6531375  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Riyadh**

Unit FN11A  
King Faisal Foundation  
North Tower  
King Fahd Branch Rd  
Al Olaya Riyadh 12212  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 112112567  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Geneva**

Avenue de France 23  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41227162730  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Centre  
Cambridge**

University of Cambridge  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge CB3 9DA  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44-1223-760758  
Fax: +44-1223-335110



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Brussels**

Avenue de  
Cortenbergh 89  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1000  
Brussels  
Belgium

