

## **Climate Change: Cities, Crops, and Circular Economy**

**Date:** 5/11/24

**Time:** 15:00 – 18:00 (registration from 14:30)

**Location:** Kortenaerkade 12, 2518 AX The Hague (ISS building)

The event will be live streamed as well via [this link](#)

**Organising Partners:** GRULAC NL, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (MBZ), the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS).

**Format:** panel forum

### **BACKGROUND**

The GRULAC countries and the Netherlands (through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken - MBZ), hope to bring visibility to current issues on the environment and climate sustainability agenda, with the aim of encouraging cooperation around concrete and innovative solutions. In that regard, during a meeting held in January 2024, the ambassadors of GRULAC member countries and the former Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hanke Bruins Slot, agreed to collaborate to produce a seminar on environment and climate sustainability.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The seminar on environment and climate sustainability will bring together government representatives, scholars, and experts in the proposed thematic areas of discussion. The discussion will serve two main functions.

**The first function is awareness raising.**

**The second function is to generate discussion that will contribute to the identification of concrete and innovative solutions to global environmental and climate challenges, in consideration of the three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy, and environment.**

The event will provide an opportunity to address environment, climate, sustainability, and other related topics under the umbrella of Climate Change, Crops, Cities, and the Circular Economy.

The importance of multilateralism, increased participation of developing countries in decision-making regarding environmental and climate issues, and the promotion of sustainable development may also be addressed.

The event will moreover act as a means of fostering connections between Latin America and the Caribbean countries which are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## **PROGRAMME**

**14.30 - 15.00** Registration

**15.00 - 15.25** Opening remarks representatives

GRULAC - Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez (Embassy of El Salvador)  
MBZ – Marjan Kamstra (Director Department Western Hemisphere)  
ISS - Professor Ruard Ganzevoort (Rector International Institute of Social Studies)

ISS – Professor Rosalba Icaza – introduction to the panels

**15.25 - 16.10 Crops**

Inge Horstmeier (LVVN) – Agricultural Counsellor for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay (recorded presentation – speaker is in Argentina)  
Professor Murat Arsel (ISS)  
Dr Daniel Teodoro (Morningstar Sustainalytics)  
Dr Dorine van Norren (Leiden University)

**16.10 – 16:55 Cities**

Dr Gerald Corzo (IHE Delft)  
Dr Jonatan Godinez Madrigal (IHE Delft)  
Giacomo Galli (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water NL)

**16.55 - 17.40 Circular Economy**

Professor Lorenzo Pellegrini (ISS)  
Opal Morales Asencio (OBM Legal Consulting)  
Dr Evelyn Aparicio Medrano (FutureWater)

**17.40 - 18.00 Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

Summing up - Moderator Professor Rosalba Icaza Garza (ISS)  
Next Steps – GRULAC Coordinator Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez

## **SPEAKER INFORMATION:**

**Professor Rosalba Icaza Garza** is Professor of Global Politics, Feminisms and Decoloniality and Deputy Dean of Research at ISS. She obtained her PhD in International Studies from the University of Warwick in the UK and has been awarded twice the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant to conduct her post-doctoral studies in Sweden and research at ISS on alternative forms of regional integration in the America's led by feminist, environmental, indigenous, and labor movements.

Rosalba actively contributes to the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) Working Group "Bodies, Territories and Resistance", is Chief co-editor of the Transnational Network Other Knowledge's Autonomous Publishing House "Editorial RETOS", and member of the community assembly of the Maya organization Summil Mukt'aan in Sinanche, Yucatan, Mexico.

She has recently been appointed member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the University of Antwerp Institute of Development Policy Studies for her contributions to development pedagogies and research methodologies.

As a decolonial feminist, her research contributes with a conceptualization of an epistemic dimension of collective action across borders and at ISS she has developed a new area of research-led teaching on epistemic justice, decoloniality, and the politics of knowledge in development studies and practice.

### **Panel 1: Crops**

**Professor Murat Arsel** is Professor of Political Economy of Sustainable Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. His doctoral education was at the University of Cambridge. He was a post-doctoral lecturer at the University of Chicago. He has held the Keyman Family Visiting Professorship at Northwestern University and is an Adjunct Professor at Universidad San Francisco de Quito. Murat is the Chair of the Editorial Board of Development and Change.

Situated firmly within development studies and informed by political ecology, heterodox economics, social theory, and agrarian political economy, Murat's work focuses on the tensions between nature, capitalism, and emancipatory socio-economic change.

**Dr Dorine van Norren** is an associate researcher at the Van Vollenhoven Institute of Law, Governance and Society (Leiden University) and at the Pretoria University. She is also a civil servant.

**Inge Horstmeier** is the Dutch Counselor for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature in the Cono Sur (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay).

'We are part of a worldwide LAN network and operate out of the Dutch embassies worldwide. We connect governments, NGOs, companies and knowledge institutes to challenges we encounter in our working areas, such as climate, nature and biodiversity, deforestation and sustainable production. In South America we have Counselors in Mexico (for Mexico and Cuba), Colombia (for Colombia, Peru and Ecuador) Brazil and Argentina (for Argentina, Chili, Paraguay and Uruguay). Before being sent out to Argentina, I was the Deputy Chief Phytosanitary Officer, negotiating with third countries the guarantees the Dutch Government can give about the absence of diseases and plagues in plant products.'

**Dr Daniel Teodoro** is an expert in climate change mitigation & adaptation science. He has experience in the design, implementation, and monitoring of climate adaptation strategies. From stakeholder network analysis to social learning and collective action, he is motivated by the desire to help vulnerable regions/communities to adapt and thrive in the face of climate change. At Morningstar Sustainalytics, he contributes to the oversight of low carbon transition rating (LCTR) and other products that reflect the financial risk of climate change.

## **Panel 2: Cities**

**Dr Gerald Corzo** is an Associate Professor of Hydroinformatics at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, specializing in the use of AI for climate resilience in urban systems. With over 20 years of experience, he has led major projects addressing climate-related challenges, particularly in urban and rural flood and drought forecasting and analysis. Recently, Dr Corzo has contributed to studies on advanced AI-based flood prediction systems in cities like Cúcuta, Colombia and Hanoi and Can Tho in Vietnam, while also investigating atmospheric water vapor transport between the Amazon and urban centres like Bogotá. His pioneering work supports cities globally in adapting to hydrometeorological extremes, contributing to sustainable and resilient urban development.

**Dr Jonatan Godinez Madrigal** is an interdisciplinary researcher with a focus on socio-environmental conflicts in the Global South. His academic work aims to create spaces for stakeholders to collaboratively address environmental conflicts and problems through action-research projects. Jonatan's early work in Mexico involved studying water-pollution conflicts and then leading river restoration projects. In his recent research, he focused on intractable water conflicts where he developed water distribution models and participatory engineering tools which contributed to transform an intractable water conflict in Mexico by retrofitting a dam. For his work, he earned the "Best interdisciplinary PhD thesis" in the Netherlands, awarded by the Royal Dutch Society of Science. He has published in numerous high-impact journals and taught courses worldwide on water management and conflict transformation.

Currently, Jonatan is a researcher at IHE Delft working on Global Water Allocation Regimes and is leading the "Just Transitions" Research Group while participating in an European Constructive Advanced Thinking project on computational modeling as tool for just transformations.

**Giacomo Galli** is a senior policy advisor on climate change adaptation for the Dutch Caribbean at the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. He holds an MSc degree in International Water Management from Wageningen University. He has experience in development cooperation and water management

### **Panel 3: Circular Economy**

**Professor Lorenzo Pellegrini** is a Professor of Economics of Environment and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and an Adjunct Professor at the University San Francisco of Quito, Ecuador. He received his PhD from the VU University of Amsterdam.

**Opal Morales Asencio** has expertise in providing comprehensive legal advice and representation to companies and individuals concerning international commercial and corporate law, and foreign trade issues. She also has experience with small and medium enterprises (SMEs), providing legal advice and support with regard to the process of internationalization and international contracts. PhD candidate most recent paper: "The role of (inter)national legal framework and energy contracts in energy transition" written in collaboration with Prof. Dr. [Joyeeta Gupta](#) and Prof. Dr. [Christina Eckes](#)

**Dr Evelyn Aparicio Medrano** is an experienced project manager and technical lead internationally and in the Netherlands. Passionate to combine her experience and knowledge in support of the conception, delineation and realization of innovative projects related to Satellite Data, Geo Spatial Information, Big Data and the integration of complex systems of information. Furthermore, highly skilled professional working towards the reduction and mitigation of climate-change hazards, such as droughts and inundations in urban and rural areas by applying the concepts and principles of building with nature and sustainability. An important goal in her work is to create a positive working environment in her projects in order to create strong collaborative partnerships with different stakeholders such as governments, non-profit organizations and the private sector.