

## THE MEDIATION SUMMIT 2026

22 JANUARY 2026 | SOFITEL DOWNTOWN | DUBAI, UAE

9am–9.30am REGISTRATION & NETWORKING

9.30am–9.50am OPENING REMARKS

Jehad Kazim  
Executive Director, DIAC

Dr Ahmad Alozn  
Founder, the Mediation  
Hub MENA

9.50am–10.10am KEYNOTE ADDRESS

His Excellency  
Eng. Maysarah Eid  
Director General, Abu Dhabi  
Projects & Infrastructure Center

Sir Robin Knowles  
Judge, the High Court  
Commercial Division, UK

10.10am–11am **PANEL I:**

### INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

Insights on international and regional developments and practical experiences shared by experts and stakeholders. Explore mediation practice and evolution

Essa Ahmad Ali  
Legislation Department Director,  
the Supreme Legislative  
Committee, Government of Dubai

Dr Mahmood Hussain  
Founding Partner, M & Co LLP

Gary Birnberg  
JAMS Arbitrator and Mediator

Shaikha AlQattan  
Director of Government Support & Legal Services Directorate, the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department

Moderated by:  
Christine Maksoud  
Founder & Executive Director, the Mediation Hub MENA

11am–11.30am COFFEE BREAK

11.30am–12.15pm **PANEL II:**

### THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SPECTRUM: WHEN MEDIATION MAKES SENSE

How mediation is integrated into commercial, financial, and legal structures in different jurisdictions. The role of courts, institutions, and mediators.

His Excellency  
Yousef Al Kuwaiti  
CEO of Legal and Governance Affairs Sector, Department of Municipalities and Transport, Government of Abu Dhabi

Wolf Kümborg  
Independent Arbitrator and Mediator

Hisham Al Zeir  
Commercial Affairs Director, Abu Dhabi Projects & Infrastructure Center

Elina Quinio  
Senior Legal Counsel, ADNOC Group

Moderated by:  
Dr Ahmad Alozn  
Founder, the Mediation  
Hub MENA

12.15pm–12.35pm **PRESENTATION:**

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS (IAMS) INITIATIVE BY THE WORLD BANK

Alma Jadallah  
Senior Specialist, Ombudsman Dispute Resolution Office, IFC, World Bank

12.35pm–1.35pm LUNCH BREAK

**PANEL III:**

### SECTOR-SPECIFIC DISPUTES RELEVANT TO THE REGION

Examples: Business & Construction Disputes, Financial Institutions, Corporate Governance, Startups, and SME challenges. Discuss case studies and learnings.

Bruce Edwards  
Mediator in Construction Disputes

Robert Sliwinski  
Independent Counsel & Arbitrator

Adrian Cole  
Independent Arbitrator and Mediator

Sean Yates  
Barrister, Arbitrator, & Mediator

Moderated by:  
Kim Rosenberg  
Partner, Freshfields LLP

2.15pm–2.45pm **PART II:**

### FAMILY BUSINESSES & SME DISPUTES

Henrietta Jackson  
Civil Mediation Institute

Walid Chiniara  
Family Business Strategist, Legacy Architect

Mahmoud Mourad  
Counsel & Chairman of the Mediation Panel, the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department

Moderated by:  
Dr Aseel Zimmo  
Independent Arbitrator and Mediator

2.45pm–3pm **PRESENTATION:**

### THE CHAMBER OF CONCILIATION, ARBITRATION AND INTERCULTURAL MEDIATION INITIATIVES

Fabiola Keramidas  
President, The Chamber of Conciliation, Arbitration, and Intercultural Mediation, Brazil

3pm–3.30pm **PANEL IV:**

### MEDIATION CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Digitalisation, confidentiality, culture, security, and Challenges in Mediation (AI tools and digital mechanisms). Experts to address the next steps for regional development

Chittu Nagarajan  
Founder and MD, Modria, India

Lara Salem  
Head of Content Strategy at LexisNexis

Abbas Kazarounian  
Partner, Kazarounian Law Group and ADR Specialist, Kazarounian Law Group

Moderated by:  
Zouhdi Yakan  
Partner, Shaikha Al Mehrizi (Law House) & Legal Consultants (Law House)

3.30pm–3.40pm CLOSING REMARKS

Christine Maksoud  
Founder and Executive Director, the Mediation Hub MENA