

THE MEDIATION SUMMIT 2026

22 JANUARY 2026 | SOFITEL DOWNTOWN | DUBAI, UAE

9am–9.30am	REGISTRATION & NETWORKING	
9.30am–9.50am	OPENING REMARKS	<p>Jehad Kazim Executive Director, DIAC</p> <p>Dr Ahmad Alozn Founder, the Mediation Hub MENA</p>
9.50am–10.10am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	<p>His Excellency Eng. Maysarah Eid Director General, Abu Dhabi Projects & Infrastructure Center</p> <p>Sir Robin Knowles Judge, the High Court Commercial Division, UK</p>
10.10am–11am	<p>PANEL I: INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS</p> <p>Insights on international and regional developments and practical experiences shared by experts and stakeholders. Explore mediation practice and evolution</p>	<p>Essa Ahmad Ali Legislation Department Director, the Supreme Legislative Committee, Government of Dubai</p> <p>Dr Mahmood Hussain Founding Partner, M & Co LLP</p> <p>Gary Birnberg JAMS Arbitrator and Mediator</p> <p>Shaikha AlQattan Director of Government Support & Legal Services Directorate, the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department</p> <p>Moderated by: Christine Maksoud Founder & Executive Director, the Mediation Hub MENA</p>
11am–11.30am	COFFEE BREAK	
11.30am–12.15pm	<p>PANEL II: THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SPECTRUM: WHEN MEDIATION MAKES SENSE</p> <p>How mediation is integrated into commercial, financial, and legal structures in different jurisdictions. The role of courts, institutions, and mediators.</p>	<p>His Excellency Yousef Al Kuwaiti CEO of Legal and Governance Affairs Sector, Department of Municipalities and Transport, Government of Abu Dhabi</p> <p>Wolf Kümborg Independent Arbitrator and Mediator</p> <p>Hisham Al Zeir Commercial Affair Director, Abu Dhabi Projects & Infrastructure Center</p> <p>Elna Quinio Senior Legal Counsel, ADNOC Group</p> <p>Moderated by: Dr Ahmad Alozn Founder, the Mediation Hub MENA</p>
12.15pm–12.35pm	<p>PRESENTATION: INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS (IAMS) INITIATIVE BY THE WORLD BANK</p>	<p>Alma Jadallah Senior Specialist, Ombudsman Dispute Resolution Office, IFC, World Bank</p>
12.35pm–1.35pm	LUNCH BREAK	
1.35pm–2.15pm	<p>PANEL III: SECTOR-SPECIFIC DISPUTES RELEVANT TO THE REGION</p> <p>Examples: Business & Construction Disputes, Financial Institutions, Corporate Governance, Startups, and SME challenges. Discuss case studies and learnings.</p>	
1.35pm–2.15pm	<p>PART I: CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT DISPUTES</p>	<p>Bruce Edwards Mediator in Construction Disputes</p> <p>Robert Sliwinski Independent Counsel & Arbitrator</p> <p>Adrian Cole Independent Arbitrator and Mediator</p> <p>Sean Yates Barrister, Arbitrator, & Mediator</p> <p>Moderated by: Kim Rosenberg Partner, Freshfields LLP</p>
2.15pm–2.45pm	<p>PART II: FAMILY BUSINESSES & SME DISPUTES</p>	<p>Henrietta Jackson Civil Mediation Institute</p> <p>Walid Chiniara Family Business Strategist, Legacy Architect</p> <p>Mahmoud Mourad Counsel & Chairman of the Mediation Panel, the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department</p> <p>Moderated by: Dr Aseel Zimmo Independent Arbitrator and Mediator</p>
2.45pm–3pm	<p>PRESENTATION: THE CHAMBER OF CONCILIATION, ARBITRATION AND INTERCULTURAL MEDIATION INITIATIVES</p>	<p>Fabiola Keramidas President, the Chamber of Conciliation, Arbitration, and Intercultural Mediation, Brazil</p>
3pm–3.30pm	<p>PANEL IV: MEDIATION CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK</p> <p>Digitalisation, confidentiality, culture, security, and Challenges in Mediation (AI tools and digital mechanisms). Experts to address the next steps for regional development</p>	<p>Chittu Nagarajan Founder and MD, Modria, India</p> <p>Lara Salem Head of Content Strategy at LexisNexis</p> <p>Abbas Kazarounian Partner, Kazarouni Law Group and ADR Specialist</p> <p>Moderated by: Zouhdi Yakan Partner, Shaikha Al Mehrzi Advocates & Legal Consultants (Law House)</p>
3.30pm–3.40pm	CLOSING REMARKS	<p>Christine Maksoud Founder and Executive Director, the Mediation Hub MENA</p>