

# THE MEDIATION SUMMIT 2026

22 JANUARY 2026 | SOFITEL DOWNTOWN | DUBAI, UAE

## 9am–9.30am REGISTRATION & NETWORKING

9.30am–9.50am	OPENING REMARKS	<b>Robert Stephen</b> Registrar, DIAC  <b>Dr Ahmad Alozn</b> Founder, the Mediation Hub MENA
---------------	-----------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

9.50am–10.10am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	<b>His Excellency Eng. Maysarah Eid</b> Director General, Abu Dhabi Projects & Infrastructure Center  <b>Sir Robin Knowles</b> Judge, the High Court Commercial Division, UK
----------------	-----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

10.10am–11am	<b>PANEL I:</b> <b>INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS</b>  Insights on international and regional developments and practical experiences shared by experts and stakeholders. Explore mediation practice and evolution	<b>Ali Al Aidarous</b> Managing Attorney, Al Aidarous Advocates and Legal Consultants  <b>Gary Birnberg</b> JAMS Arbitrator and Mediator  <b>Shaikha AlQattan</b> Director of Government Support & Legal Services Directorate, the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department  Moderated by: <b>Christine Maksoud</b> Founder & Executive Director, the Mediation Hub MENA
--------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 11am–11.30am COFFEE BREAK

11.30am–12.15pm	<b>PANEL II:</b> <b>THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SPECTRUM: WHEN MEDIATION MAKES SENSE</b>  How mediation is integrated into commercial, financial, and legal structures in different jurisdictions. The role of courts, institutions, and mediators.	<b>Wolf Kümborg</b> Independent Arbitrator and Mediator  <b>Hisham Al Zeir</b> Commercial Affairs Director, Abu Dhabi Projects & Infrastructure Center  <b>Elina Quinio</b> Senior Legal Counsel, ADNOC Group  <b>Mahmoud Mourad</b> Counsel & Chairman of the Mediation Panel, the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department  Moderated by: <b>Dr Ahmad Alozn</b> Founder, the Mediation Hub MENA
-----------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

12.15pm–12.35pm	MEDIATION AND ESG	<b>H.E Sarah Shaw</b> CEO, National CRS Fund (Majra)
-----------------	-------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

<b>ARE WE READY FOR SCALE? A SURVEY OF MARKET PREPAREDNESS AND DELIVERY CAPACITY.</b>	<b>The Mediation Hub MENA</b>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------

## 12.35pm–1.35pm LUNCH BREAK

<b>PANEL III:</b> <b>SECTOR-SPECIFIC DISPUTES RELEVANT TO THE REGION</b>  Examples: Business & Construction Disputes, Financial Institutions, Corporate Governance, Startups, and SME challenges. Discuss case studies and learnings.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1.35pm–2.15pm	<b>PART I:</b> <b>CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; DEVELOPMENT DISPUTES</b>	<b>Bruce Edwards</b> Mediator in Construction Disputes  <b>Robert Sliwinski</b> Independent Counsel & Arbitrator  <b>Adrian Cole</b> Independent Arbitrator and Mediator  <b>Sean Yates</b> Barrister, Arbitrator, & Mediator  Moderated by: <b>Kim Rosenberg</b> Partner, Freshfields LLP
---------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2.15pm–2.45pm	<b>PART II:</b> <b>FAMILY BUSINESSES &amp; SME DISPUTES</b>	<b>Henrietta Jackson</b> Civil Mediation Institute  <b>Walid Chiniara</b> Family Business Strategist, Legacy Architect  <b>Alia Al Mulla</b> Head of Commercial Disputes, Habib Al Mulla and Partners  Moderated by: <b>Dr Aseel Zimmo</b> Independent Arbitrator and Mediator
---------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2.45pm–3pm	<b>PRESENTATION:</b> <b>THE CHAMBER OF CONCILIATION, ARBITRATION AND INTERCULTURAL MEDIATION INITIATIVES</b>	<b>Fabiola Keramidias</b> President, the Chamber of Conciliation, Arbitration, and Intercultural Mediation, Brazil
------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

3pm–3.30pm	<b>PANEL IV:</b> <b>MEDIATION CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK</b>  Digitalisation, confidentiality, culture, security, and Challenges in Mediation (AI tools and digital mechanisms). Experts to address the next steps for regional development	<b>Chittu Nagarajan</b> Founder and MD, Modria, India  <b>Lara Salem</b> Head of Content Strategy at LexisNexis  <b>Abbas Kazarounian</b> Partner, Kazarouni Law Group and ADR Specialist  Moderated by: <b>Zouhdi Yakan</b> Partner, Shaikha Al Mehrzi Advocates & Legal Consultants (Law House)
------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

3.30pm–3.40pm	CLOSING REMARKS	<b>Christine Maksoud</b> Founder and Executive Director, the Mediation Hub MENA
---------------	-----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Diamond Sponsor</b> 	<b>Exclusive Media Partner</b> 	<b>Supporting Organisations</b> 
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------