



ATLANTIC DIALOGUES

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LEADERS  
COMMUNITY

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# ATLANTIC VISION 2025

Building an Atlantic Community

2024 Edition



THINK • STIMULATE • BRIDGE

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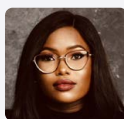
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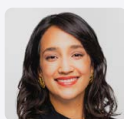
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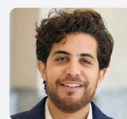
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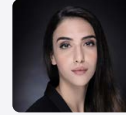
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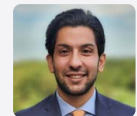
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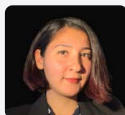
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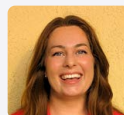
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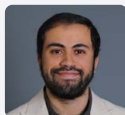
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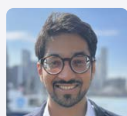
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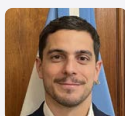
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# Introduction

The countries of the Atlantic region continue to navigate a complex series of challenges that demand urgent and innovative responses. Economic and financial instability, social unrest, and shifting political landscapes are reshaping the region's geopolitical dynamics. Pressing issues including unemployment, poverty, violence, extremism, climate change, and migration are intensifying, underscoring the need for sustainable and inclusive solutions. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires intergenerational and cross-regional dialogue to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change.

In this context, the 2024 Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders (ADEL) program brought together a diverse group of high-impact young leaders from across the Atlantic space. These participants engaged in dynamic discussions to identify the main challenges confronting the region, and to develop innovative, actionable solutions.

This report presents the outcomes of the Build, Connect, Anticipate workshop, during which ADEL participants critically examined the pressing issues shaping the Atlantic's future, and explored strategies to address them. The discussions centered on fostering a more integrated and inclusive Atlantic community—one that amplifies the voices of the Global South.

Divided into three working groups, the Emerging Leaders analyzed the economic, political, and social aspects of the region's challenges.

At the heart of their discussions were two key guiding questions:

- 1. What are the most pressing challenges facing the Atlantic Basin?**
- 2. What concrete solutions can the Atlantic community implement to address these challenges?**

This report synthesizes their findings, offering valuable insights into the region's evolving challenges and presenting strategic recommendations for a more prosperous and interconnected Atlantic future.





# Economic Challenges in the Atlantic Space

The 2024 Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders (ADEL) program brought together a diverse group of young professionals to examine the economic challenges shaping the Atlantic region. This year's discussions focused on reinforcing a sense of belonging within the Atlantic space by addressing structural disparities, enhancing economic cooperation, and promoting inclusive growth.

During the session, participants explored a broad range of economic challenges, emphasizing the differing issues across the region. Stark differences persist between the economies of the North and the South, highlighting the need for policy harmonization to bridge these divides. Participants underscored the importance of technology and business-model transfer, arguing that while lessons and innovation from the North can be adapted to the South, localization is key to ensuring meaningful impact. Additionally, infrastructure gaps, particularly in terms of electricity access and digital connectivity, emerged as critical barriers to economic progress, necessitating greater investments in physical and technological infrastructure.

Another major concern was the shift toward protectionist policies, which threatens regional and global economic integration. Participants noted that economic engagement of North American countries with Africa remains limited, posing challenges to transatlantic trade and investment. Governance and policy shortcomings were also identified as impediments to economic development, with political short-termism, corruption, and power asymmetries exacerbating inefficiencies.

The discussions further highlighted the low value-addition in the Global South, where many economies remain dependent on low-value production, limiting their growth potential. The issue of human capital deficits was also raised, particularly in relation to the persistent brain drain from South to North, which results in the loss of talent and capacity needed for sustainable development.

Working from these challenges, the ADELs examined the broader issues of economic fragmentation, regulatory harmonization, compliance with free-trade agreements, governance weaknesses, and infrastructure deficits. They recognized that improving connectivity—both in terms of physical infrastructure and localized value chains—will be essential for enhancing trade facilitation and economic integration.

To address these issues, participants emphasized the role of multilateral development banks, public-private partnerships, and private sector engagement in financing large-scale infrastructure projects. They also stressed the need for clear regulatory frameworks, mobilization of financial resources, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, to ensure that global best practices are effectively adapted to local contexts.



This session reinforced the urgency of addressing these economic challenges through collective action, long-term planning, and stronger regional cooperation. By fostering greater connectivity, investing in infrastructure, and prioritizing policy alignment, the Atlantic region can advance toward a more inclusive and resilient economic future.



	Challenge 1	Challenge 2	Challenge 3	Challenge 4	Challenge 5	Challenge 6
<b>What?</b>	Economic fragmentation	Regulatory harmonization to facilitate trade, labor mobility, and integration	Poor governance and widespread corruption	Limited infrastructure investment and limited connectivity	Shift toward protectionism	Brain drain from South to North
<b>For Whom?</b>	Businesses, consumers, workers, and entrepreneurs	Companies, cross-border workers, investors, and SMEs	Citizens, businesses, foreign investors, and public institutions	Commuters, businesses, logistics companies, and digital-economy players	Exporters, importers, multinational companies, and workers in trade-dependent industries	Young professionals, local businesses, and innovation ecosystems
<b>Who?</b>	Governments, regional organizations, and businesses	Trade policymakers and regulatory bodies	Governments, anti-corruption agencies, and civil society organizations	Multilateral development banks and investors	Economic ministries and regional trade blocs	Educational institutions, businesses, and talent development programs
<b>How?</b>	Enhance policy coordination and economic frameworks to foster economic convergence	Harmonize regulations across the Atlantic Basin to facilitate trade, improve labor mobility, and enhance regional integration	Strengthen governance frameworks, enforce anti-corruption measures, and increase transparency in public and private sectors	Increase public-private partnerships (PPPs) and financing mechanisms for sustainable-infrastructure projects	Advocate for regional trade agreements, enhance economic diplomacy, and promote fair-trade policies	Develop talent retention policies, create incentives for innovation, and invest in local workforce development



# Political Challenges in the Atlantic Space

The Atlantic space is an expansive region that encompasses the Americas, Europe, and Africa. It is home to a diverse array of cultures and political systems. However, despite this richness, the region faces political challenges that require urgent attention. The challenges outlined below, namely the lack of regional coordination, the need to elevate local voices, and finding common values in the Atlantic space, were identified by the ADELS in the Political Group.

The session explored these political challenges and their impacts on regional cohesion and cooperation. Discussions highlighted the fragmentation of initiatives, with a lack of coordination and disjointed policies weakening the effectiveness of regional collaboration. The absence of a unifying Atlantic narrative further exacerbates this issue, preventing formation of a sense of shared identity and common purpose. The predominance of bilateral agreements over multilateral approaches was identified as another major obstacle, limiting efficiency, and hindering broader regional integration efforts. Governance issues, including short-term political priorities, corruption, and power asymmetries, continue to weaken institutions and prevent the implementation of long-term policies that could foster stability and growth. Additionally, unresolved historical grievances and political distrust further complicate diplomatic relationships, and impede cooperative efforts across the Atlantic.

One of the most pressing challenges identified was the lack of regional coordination. Despite existing organizations and frameworks aimed at fostering cooperation, there remains a gap in cohesive policy implementation across the Atlantic. Governments often prioritize national interests over regional collaboration, making it difficult to create and sustain collective initiatives. This has led to missed opportunities in trade, security, and diplomatic engagements, weakening the Atlantic's potential as a united political space. Strengthening regional mechanisms and fostering institutional cooperation was seen as a critical step toward overcoming these issues.

Another major issue discussed was the limited representation of local voices in decision-making processes. Many policies affecting Atlantic nations are driven by external actors or larger economies, often sidelining smaller nations and underrepresented communities. This imbalance hinders the ability to craft inclusive policies that truly reflect the diverse needs of the region. Elevating local voices, especially through youth and civil society engagement, was proposed as an essential step toward more equitable governance.

Furthermore, difficulty in identifying and promoting common values across the Atlantic was highlighted as an obstacle to integration. The region's historical complexities, including colonial legacies and geopolitical rivalries, continue to shape interactions and create barriers to trust and cooperation. Developing a shared Atlantic identity based on mutual respect, economic collaboration, and sustainable development was emphasized as a means to bridge these divides and foster a sense of belonging.

To address these challenges, participants emphasized the need to enhance regional coordination through structured political initiatives, including the establishment of a Council of Representatives to align strategies and foster dialogue. The development of a cohesive Atlantic narrative was recommended as a means to strengthen regional identity and promote solidarity through cultural and public diplomacy efforts. Reinforcing multilateralism by creating dedicated forums for intergovernmental cooperation was also proposed as a crucial step toward efficient decision-making and collective accountability. Moreover, empowering young people to participate in the political process was deemed essential to ensure long-term sustainability and foster inclusive governance. By addressing these issues through targeted political and institutional reforms, a stronger foundation for collaboration can be built in the Atlantic region, helping mitigate historical divisions, and working towards a more integrated and resilient political community.

	<b>Challenge 1</b>	<b>Challenge 2</b>	<b>Challenge 3</b>	<b>Challenge 4</b>
	Irrelevance of Topics and Fragmentation of Initiatives	Lack of an 'Atlantic Narrative'	Bilateral Trumps Multilateral Approaches	Historical Grievances
<b>What?</b>	Strengthen and unify fragmented initiatives	Develop economic incentives to build a compelling narrative centered on issues affecting the Atlantic region	Encourage regional governments to recommit to multilateralism	Involve young people in Atlantic decision-making processes
<b>Who?</b>	Regional organizations and Atlantic governments	Governments across the Atlantic community	Atlantic governments	Countries and youth organizations
<b>How?</b>	Establish a Council of Representatives to facilitate dialogue and align strategies	Leverage existing economic frameworks to promote integration and collaboration	Create a Council of Governments to streamline decision-making and foster collective accountability	Establish a Youth Advisory Board to integrate fresh perspectives into policymaking
<b>Results</b>	Greater sharing of best practices and improved coherence in addressing Atlantic challenges	Enhanced awareness and engagement with the Atlantic integration process	More efficient and unified decision-making processes	Engage the next generation to ensure the sustainability of Atlantic cooperation
<b>When?</b>	Implementation within 5-10 years.	Achievable within 3 years	Implementation in 5 years	Initiatives rolled out within 3-5 years



# Social Challenges in the Atlantic Space

Cultural diversity is one of the greatest assets of the Atlantic Basin, yet it also presents challenges in terms of fostering social cohesion. Differences in traditions, ideologies, and social norms can create divisions, making it essential to establish mechanisms for dialogue and mutual understanding. The session explored how to turn this diversity into a unifying force by creating platforms for intercultural exchange, supporting community-driven initiatives, and using media to promote narratives of inclusion and shared values.

Participants emphasized the importance of inclusiveness in governance and decision-making. Many marginalized communities are excluded from critical discussions that shape economic and social policies, limiting their ability to contribute meaningfully. To address this, the working group recommended strengthening participatory governance, increasing education and awareness programs, and ensuring that underrepresented groups have access to platforms via which they can engage and advocate for their interests.

Coexistence of diverse communities requires proactive efforts to foster mutual respect. In many parts of the Atlantic region, ideological and cultural differences have led to tensions and social fragmentation. The discussions underscored the need for structured dialogue spaces that encourage exchange and collaboration. Additionally, participants highlighted the role of media in shaping perceptions, proposing targeted campaigns to promote narratives of respect, inclusion, and shared identity.

The workshop also addressed the structural inequalities that weaken social cohesion. Limited access to economic opportunities, and disparities in resource distribution continue to create barriers to integration and development. Participants stressed that long-term strategies are needed to support social mobility and empower vulnerable populations. Decentralized approaches that adapt to the specific needs of different communities were proposed as a way to make policies more effective and sustainable.

Sustainable policymaking must prioritize long-term impact over short-term fixes. The working group called for policies that align with local realities, ensuring that solutions reflect the lived experiences of diverse communities. To achieve this, continuous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be put in place to assess progress and refine strategies. Evidence-based decision-making would help tailor interventions that effectively address social challenges, while fostering stronger cohesion across the Atlantic space.

	Challenge 1	Challenge 2	Challenge 3
<b>What?</b>	Inclusiveness: Limited participation of marginalized groups	Coexistence: Cultural and ideological divides affecting social unity	Inequality: Barriers to economic and social mobility
<b>Why?</b>	Marginalized groups are excluded from decision-making, limiting their policy representation	Tensions arise from differences in traditions, ideologies, and social norms, leading to social fragmentation	Unequal access to resources and opportunities prevents integration and leads to social divisions
<b>Who?</b>	Governments Civil society Grassroots organizations Private sector	Media Local communities Policymakers Educational institutions	Governments Development organizations Private sector Community leaders
<b>How?</b>	Enhance participatory governance Expand education and awareness programs Create engagement pathways for underrepresented communities	Foster dialogue platforms Promote cultural exchanges Develop media initiatives to strengthen mutual understanding	Promote equitable resource distribution Support grassroots empowerment Foster inclusive economic development
<b>Results</b>	Increased participation of marginalized groups in policy and decision-making More inclusive economic and social policies	Greater mutual respect and reduced ideological divides Strengthened cross-cultural collaboration	Improved access to opportunities and resources for vulnerable populations Strengthened social cohesion through economic inclusion







# Conclusion

The Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders 2024 cohort took significant strides in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the Atlantic Basin. Through an intensive and collaborative process, the cohort identified pressing economic, political, and social obstacles, and formulated actionable recommendations that would help foster a more integrated and resilient Atlantic community.

The economic group focused on structural disparities, economic fragmentation, and governance deficiencies that hinder sustainable development and cooperation. The cohort underscored the importance of policy harmonization, enhanced connectivity, and technology transfer to bridge the economic gap between the Global North and South. To address the challenges, they recommended multilateral cooperation, increased infrastructure investment, and fostering local innovation to prevent brain drain.

The political working group highlighted regional coordination deficiencies, the absence of an overarching Atlantic narrative, and the dominance of bilateral over multilateral agreements. Acknowledging governance inefficiencies and historical grievances, they called for structured political initiatives to enhance regional dialogue, elevate local voices, and establish inclusive decision-making mechanisms. The cohort proposed the creation of a Council of Representatives to foster collaboration, and a Youth Advisory Board to ensure long-term sustainability in governance.

The social part of the discussions centered on inclusivity, social mobility, and cultural cohesion. Participants emphasized the need to amplify marginalized voices, create platforms for dialogue, and foster social justice through inclusive policymaking. The working group recommended strengthening of participatory governance, promoting equitable resource distribution, and leveraging the media and education to counter ideological divides and to enhance mutual understanding.

The 2024 ADEL cohort's efforts reflect a strong commitment to fostering economic, political, and social resilience within the Atlantic Basin. By proposing solutions tailored to regional realities, they reinforced the need for cross-sector collaboration, long-term visions, and inclusive policymaking. Their recommendations serve as a blueprint for stronger regional integration and cooperation, ensuring a more sustainable and prosperous future for the Atlantic community.

## About Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank that contributes to the improvement of economic and social public policies that challenge Morocco and the rest of Africa as integral parts of the Global South.

The PCNS makes the case for an open, accountable, and enterprising 'new South' that defines its own narratives and mental maps around the Mediterranean and South Atlantic basins, as part of a forward-looking relationship with the rest of the world. Through its analytical endeavors, the think tank supports the development of public policies in Africa and gives the floor to experts from the South. This stance is focused on dialogue and partnership and cultivates African expertise and excellence needed for the accurate analysis of African and global challenges, and proposals for solutions.

As such, the PCNS brings together researchers, publishes their work, and capitalizes on a network of renowned partners, representative of different regions of the world. The PCNS hosts a series of gatherings in different formats and at different scales throughout the year, the most important being the annual international conferences the Atlantic Dialogues, the African Peace and Security Annual Conference (APSACO), and the Africa Economic Symposium (AES).

Finally, the think tank is developing a community of young leaders through the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders program (ADEL), which is a space for cooperation and networking between a new generation of decision-makers from the government, business, and civil-society sectors. Through this initiative, which already counts more than 450 members, the Policy Center for the New South contributes to intergenerational dialogue and the emergence of tomorrow's leaders.



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