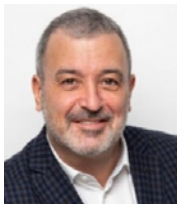
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE FORUM

Jaume Collboni, Mayor of Barcelona

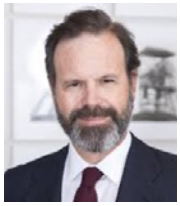


Jaume Collboni, (Barcelona, 1969), has been serving as the Mayor of Barcelona since June 2023. With a strong background in public service, he has held significant positions within the Barcelona City Council. From 2019 to 2023, he served as the First Deputy Mayor for Economy, Labour, Competitiveness, and Finance, and previously, from 2016 to 2017, he held the position of Deputy Mayor for Business, Culture, and Innovation. Additionally, he served as the Vice-President for Social and Economic Development at the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB). From 2010 to 2014, Mr Collboni was a member of the Parliament of Catalonia.

Mr Collboni has also proven his leadership and expertise at the national level. He has held managerial positions within the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT), (the General Union of Workers), and was a member of the Economic and Social Council of Spain.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Law from the University of Barcelona.

Juan Ignacio Entrecanales, has been the Vice-Chairman of ACCIONA since 2004 and a member of the Board of Directors of ACCIONA Energía since 2021.



He has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Tufts University and an Executive MBA from Instituto de Empresa in Madrid. He began his professional career at Arthur Andersen in 1992.

He joined ACCIONA in 1994 and, in 1995, was appointed Deputy General Manager of Construction, a position he held until 1997, when he became Executive Vice-Chairman of ACCIONA Infraestructuras.

In 2004, he was appointed Chairman of ACCIONA Infraestructuras, a position he held until 2010. He was Vice-Chairman of SEOPAN from 2006 to 2012 and Chairman of the Board of Mostostal Warsawa between 2001 and 2007, leading ACCIONA Infraestructuras's expansion in Poland. He is a member of numerous organizations, including the Companies Forum of the Carlos III University Board in Madrid, ESADE's Professional Advisory Board, the Instituto de Empresa University Advisory Board, and Lloyd's Register EMEA Spanish Committee. He is the chairman of the Spanish Geographic Society and a patron of several institutions including the Integra Foundation, the José Entrecanales Ibarra Foundation and Museo Arqueológico Nacional (National Archaeological Museum), and President of the Spain-India Council Foundation.

H.E. Shri Jayant N. Khobragade

Belongs to the 1995 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. He has been the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra since 24th September 2025.

Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Ambassador of India to ASEAN (July 2021-August 2025) and to Kyrgyzstan (August 2013- February 2017). Over the course of his diplomatic career, he has served in Indian Missions in Moscow, Almaty, and Islamabad.

In India, he has held several significant positions in the divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs viz. the Disarmament & International Security Affairs Division (D&ISA), West Africa Division, and Passport Seva Project. Besides that he also served as the Joint Secretary in charge of External Relations in the Department of Atomic Energy.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He is fluent in Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Russian, and Spanish.

Keynote Speaker - **Dr. Nilanjan Gosh** – VP del Observer Research Foundation Kolkata and Development Studies

Dr Nilanjan Ghosh heads Development Studies at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and is the operational head of ORF's Kolkata Centre. His career spans over two decades, including roles as Senior Fellow at ORF, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist at the Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), and faculty member at TERI School of Advanced Studies. He also played a pivotal role in advising WWF India in setting up their Ecological Economics practice.

He has held positions of Member, Global Future Council on the Future of Nature and Security at the World Economic Forum (2023–24); Co-Chair of Task Force 3 on International Financial Architecture for Think20 under Brazil's G20 Presidency (2024); Member of the Board of Country Representatives, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE, 2024–25); and Member, Research Advisory Committee, WWF India (2023–25).

Nilanjan was the President of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE, 2022–24) and served as the Director of the Think20 India Secretariat during India's G20 Presidency in 2023. He was also a Member of the Expert Committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India in 2021 to formulate the Net Present Value criteria for forest land diversion.

He has taught at Linnaeus University (Sweden), Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, and Jadavpur University, and has visited Uppsala University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Stanford University. A Ph.D. in Economics from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Nilanjan has authored/edited 15 books and monographs, published over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and written widely in popular media. He has advised several organizations including IUCN, FORMAS-Swedish Research Council, UNCTAD-India, WWF-UK, and IWMI-WLE.

SESSION 1. TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AS A DRIVER OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

Moderator: **Robin Singh**, Director of the ACCIÓ Trade & Investment Office in Mumbai

He holds a B. Tech in Information Technology and an MBA from Lancaster University. With a strong background in technology and business strategy, he has built his career at the intersection of innovation, investment, and international trade.

Robin began his career at Aon Hewitt before joining Catalonia Trade & Investment, where he drives foreign direct investment and business collaborations. With his expertise in technology, market intelligence, and business development, he supports Catalan companies expanding into India's dynamic market.

Rutuja Pol – Government Affairs at Ikigai Law

"Rutuja Pol is a partner at Ikigai Law, where she leads the Government Affairs practice. Rutuja has driven high-impact advocacy campaigns, helped shape regulatory narratives, and facilitated strategic partnerships that have enabled clients to engage meaningfully with policymakers and unlock market opportunities.

At Ikigai, Rutuja blends her deep expertise in technology with wide-ranging work across diverse sectors. She works closely with startups, industry associations, global tech companies, and government institutions. She navigates evolving policy landscapes across areas such as digital health, AI, data governance, fintech, sustainability and beyond. Healthcare being one of her core areas, she closely works on providing business specific GR and policy advisory to healthtech start ups and hospital chains.

Earlier, she advised Fortune 500 companies, supported U.S. Senate trade and labour policy efforts, and worked with UNICEF Nepal and the Hague Conference on international legal frameworks."

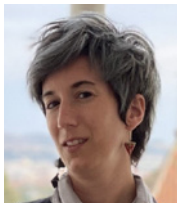
Rahul Singh – Founder, GrowBeyond

More than 15 years of experience in Corporate Strategy, Management consulting, and, New business and diversification advisory Professional experience with a Bain capital venture and EY-Parthenon among other International conglomerates across India, Singapore, Middle-East and Europe

Jorge Juan Fernández García – Chief Innovation Officer, Hospital Clínic Barcelona

Multi-disciplinary senior executive with substantial experience in leading, co-creating and implementing digital, data and technology strategies, activities and programs for the Healthcare and Life Sciences industry.

Alba Jené – Bioinformatics Unit Coordinator, Barcelona Supercomputing Center



Alba Jené is the Scientific Coordinator of the Life Sciences Department at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC). She obtained her PhD in Biomedicine from University Pompeu Fabra in 2013, specialised in bioinformatics (MSc) and human genomics, and moved after towards research management in the private sector, working on FP7, H2020, IMI and IMI2 projects in the medical informatics and bioinformatics fields, and coordinating all aspects from proposal preparation, technical and financial tasks. She joined the BSC in 2018, where she has since promoted strategic synergies with external stakeholders in the biomedical sector, including local hospitals, in the framework of research collaborations in the area of computational solutions for Personalized Medicine. She is also fully committed to the promotion of gender equality in science from the Bioinfo4Women Programme at the BSC.

SESSION 2. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURES AND PUBLIC–PRIVATE COOPERATION

Moderator: **Shreyashee Nag**

Is Senior Director of Business Development at HCLTech, where she leads strategic growth initiatives and strengthens long-term partnerships with major global corporations. With extensive experience in near-shore and off-shore models, business scalability, and digital transformation, she plays a key role in HCLTech's expansion across European markets, driving innovation and operational efficiency through sustainable collaboration models.

In parallel, she is the Founder and Director of Nupura, a cultural center dedicated to promoting India's classical arts and fostering cultural exchange between India and Spain. Her dual background in technology and the arts reflects her strong belief in the power of innovation and tradition to connect people and cultures.

Soumya Bhowmick - Fellow and Lead, World Economies and Sustainability at the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED) at ORF

Soumya Bhowmick is a Fellow and Lead, World Economies and Sustainability at the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy (CNED) at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). He has submitted his PhD and holds a double master's degree in economics from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and the University of Antwerp, Belgium (specialising in Globalisation Economics and European Integration). He was previously awarded the Government of Japan's JASSO Scholarship, the Tokyo Foundation's SYLFF Fellowship, and the European Commission's EMJMD Fellowship.

He has almost a decade of experience in policy research and has participated in various national and international conferences. Soumya has published multiple papers in peer-reviewed journals and is a regular contributor to digital and print platforms like The Hindu Business Line, Economic and Political Weekly, The Diplomat, Council on Foreign Relations, The Telegraph, Firstpost, Dhaka Tribune, East Asia Forum, Fortune India, The Quint, and India Today, among others.

Jordi Torrent, Strategy Director of the Port of Barcelona

Jordi Torrent is currently the Strategy Director of the Port of Barcelona. In this position he has developed the Port's IV Strategic Plan which has adapted the Port's strategy and objectives to the latest global and regional trade and logistics trends. He is particularly involved in the intermodal sector, and has designed and implemented initiatives in this field, such as the development of PPP projects of inland terminals and rail services in

Spain and France. He has been involved in the Port, logistics and rail sectors for 15 years. Jordi Torrent is also Managing Director of the company B2B Logistics Busan Barcelona Hub, and member of the board of directors of several societies managing intermodal terminals in Spain and France.

He is Secretary General of Medports. He represents the Port of Barcelona in various international organizations, such as WPCAP, and ESPO. He holds a Law Degree from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a Master Degree on International Affairs from the University of Barcelona. He has also an advanced Management program from ESADE Business School.

Alejandro Jiménez, Global Director of Business Development and Strategy at ACCIONA Infraestructure

MBA holder and Master Civil Engineer with over 18 years experience, having been responsible for business development on different sectors across all geographies.

SESSION 3. AI GOVERNANCE, TALENT AND KNOWLEDGE: TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY AND SPAIN–INDIA INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

Moderator: **Pau Solanilla Franco** – Corporate Reputation / Economic diplomacy & City Branding – Partner responsible of Public Sector, Harmon.

Pau Solanilla Franco (Barcelona, 1970) is Partner at the Harmon Consulting firm leaders in non-market strategies. He has extensive experience in institutional and business environments. He has served as Commissioner for International Relations and City Promotion for the Barcelona City Council, Head of Global Relations for the Digital Future Society at the Mobile World Capital Barcelona Foundation; General Manager for Panama and Cuba at Llorente & Cuenca; General Manager for Morocco and the MENA North Africa region of the MAGTEL Group; Executive Advisor at the State Secretariat for the EU at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and Technical Advisor at the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from UNED and an MBA from the School of Business Administration (EAE) and Master in Corporate Communication.

Author of several books, including “Responsible Business, Profitable Business” (ebook) (1997), “Europe in Times of Cholera” (Ed. El Cobre) (2010), “The Energy of Small Things: Democracy, Technology, and Territory” (Algón Editores) (2012), “The Republic of Reputation: Economy, Power, and Emotions” (Punto de Vista Editores) (2019), “Resilient: Leadership, Security, and Sustainability in the Age of Uncertainty” (Sostenibles.Org) (2020), and “The Green Republic” (Ed. Punto Rojo) (2024).

An entrepreneur and trainer with a neo-nomadic spirit, he has lived and worked in Barcelona, Brussels, Paris, Madrid, Casablanca, Seville, and Panama. Is founder and editor of the ThinkNet Sostenibles.Org, and is professor of the Global master’s in public Affairs: Lobbying, Corporate Diplomacy, and Intelligence Analysis at IMF Smart Education.

Meghna Bal – Director, Esya Center

Meghna is a lawyer with deep experience in media and emerging technology. Previously, she worked on legal and policy strategy at the Walt Disney Company. Before Disney, she set up and led the India office for Consensys, the world’s largest blockchain technology company

Pranjal Sharma – Member of the World Economic Forum’s Expert Network - Economics Analyst, Advisor and Author

Pranjal Sharma is an economic analyst, advisor and author who focuses on technology, globalisation and inclusive growth. He serves on boards of enterprises and non-profit entities which are leveraging emerging technologies for sustainable, equitable growth.

His latest book The Next New: Navigating the Fifth Industrial Revolution, published by HarperCollins, is the first in the world to chronicle the impact of the fifth industrial revolution while quantifying the magnitude of revenue shifts globally. He lives in New Delhi, India.

Jordi Arrufí - Chief of Corporate Development at Mobile World Capital Foundation

He leads strategic programs in digital talent, partnerships, and European projects. Their flagship initiative, Talent Arena, is the largest event in Europe for ICT specialists, accelerating digital skills across the ecosystem. Previously at the foundation, he directed the Tech Transfer Program, bridging the gap between science and the market. Earlier, he also led the Social Innovation Program d-LAB.

Before joining Mobile World Capital, he spent nine years as a Project Manager at PwC Spain, within the management consulting team.

Alongside his professional career, he lectures in master's programs such as the Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Tecnocampus University and the Master in Digital Transformation and AI Leadership at Barcelona Technology School / Barcelona University, sharing insights with new generations of talent.

OPEN SESSION AT THE SMART CITY WORLD CONGRESS (MAIN CONGRESS VENUE): "INDIA AS A GLOBAL URBAN POWER: GEOPOLITICS, DIGITALIZATION, AND SMART CITIES"

Dhaval Desai – Senior Fellow + VP ORF

Dhaval is Senior Fellow and Vice President at Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai. His spectrum of work covers diverse topics ranging from urban renewal to international relations. He currently heads research and administrative functions at ORF Mumbai.

Dhaval started his career in Mumbai as a journalist, spending 13 years in both print and electronic media. He has worked with The Daily and The Indian Express before switching over to television news, working in senior editorial positions in Zee News and Sahara Samay. He quit active journalism in 2006 as the Chief of Bureau of Sahara Samay. He later did a two–year stint with Hanmer & Partners (now Hanmer MSL), a public relations and communications consultancy, where he was part of a World Bank consortium handling communications for a consultant appointed by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to study and recommend ways to improve the city's water distribution.

Nandan Dawda – Fellow ORF

Dr Nandan H Dawda is a Fellow with the Urban Studies programme at the Observer Research Foundation. He has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and pursued his Master's degree in Highway and Transportation Engineering. He successfully completed his doctoral thesis from Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat.

Nandan's primary research interests encompass urban transport system planning, public transport planning, evaluation and design of multimodal transport systems, and discrete choice modeling.

Maria Galindo Garcia-Delgado - Secretary of Digital Policies Government of Catalonia

Maria Galindo (Barcelona, 1982) has over 20 years experience in public policy and consulting, specifically in Digital Policy and International Affairs. She has served in different positions in the public administration: in the Government of Catalonia, currently as Secretary for Digital Policy (since 2024), as Director-general for Digitalisation and Urban Agenda (2020-2022), and as project manager in ACCIÓ (2006-2011).

She also worked at the Barcelona City Council, implementing the city's Smart City vision and managing the Barcelona Institute of Technology for the Habitat (BIT Habitat) (2011-2015).

She has also developed her professional career in consulting, leading the International and Smart City practices and directing projects in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

She has represented the different organisations in front of the European Commission, the Inter-American Development Bank and United Nations, and was a recognized member of the high level group of the European Commission on Smart Cities and Communities.

In September 2022 the European Commission appointed Maria as Board Member of the European Mission to deliver 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030.

She has published and co-authored a number of papers and articles, including the European Commission's Rolling Agenda for Smart Cities, or the World Economic Forum's Guidelines for Sustainable IoT Adoption.

She lectures at a number of universities (La Salle in Barcelona, University Externado Colombia, ISDE in Madrid, Bocconi in Milan) and participates in conferences worldwide. She's also member of the Women in Tech global movement and is a Jury member of the Women in ICT Awards and the Smart City Expo Global Awards.

She studied Economics at the University of Barcelona and the London School of Economics (LSE) and holds an Executive Master in Public Administration (ESADE Business School), and a specialisation course on ESG and Climate Change at Wharton – University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. **Elena Gómez Castro**

Ambassador at Large for the Indo Pacific at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain since 17 September, 2024. Ambassador Representative of Spain to the Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the European Union (July 2021- August 2024). Director General of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence (March 2017 to July 2021). Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the North Atlantic Council. (August 2016 to

March 2017). Director for Security Affairs. General Directorate of Foreign Policy and Multilateral, Global and Security Affairs. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. (September 2011 to August 2016). Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister of Defence (September 2008 to September 2011)

Seconded National Expert in the DGE VIII "Defence Issues". General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (September 2006 to September 2008). Deputy Head of Mission. Embassy of Spain in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) (2002 to 2004). Deputy Head of Mission. Embassy of Spain in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivore). (1998 to 2002). Head of Unit in the General Directorate UN, Security and Disarmament. (1997 to 1998). Ministry of Foreign Affairs.