# Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Dialogue

**BELO HORIZONTE, BRASIL**
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) 3-5 November 2026

**Centro de Atividades Didáticas 2 da UFMG (CAD 2), UFMG**

## NOVEMBER 3 / DAY 1
## THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WALKING IN THE DECADE OF ACTION

| TIME | SESSION | LEAD | FOCUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08:00 | Registration | | Participant registration and welcome. |
| 08:30 | Opening Plenary | **Chair: Ana Marcela Ardila, WCL**<br>**Thais Porlan de Oliveira**, Director da Faculdade de Filosofia e Ciencias Humanas, Fafich, UFMG<br>**Marco Antônio Silveira**, Secretario Municipal de Mobilidade Urbana | Welcome from the host university and city; framing the opportunity and ambition for the Regional Dialogue. |
| 08:50 | The UN Decade Opportunity | **Bronwen Thornton**, Walk21 | The opportunity created by the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and its relevance for walking in Latin America and the Caribbean. |
| | Standing Chat (English) | **Julia Rabelo Spinelli** - General Coordinator of URBAN MOBILITY PLANNING, Ministry of Cities, Brazil<br>**Mercedes Paloma Cruz Vazquez**, Director of Mobility and Transportation of Zapopan, Mexico | Political inspiration on why it's important for everyone to have a safe, easy and enjoyable walking experience. |
| | Belo Horizonte | **Marco Antônio Silveira**, , Municipal Secretary for Urban Mobility, Belo Horizonte<br>Li**liana Delgado Hermon**t, Director of Strategic Projects and Sustainable Mobility Belo Horizonte | Political and planning perspectives on making walking safe, easy and enjoyable, including lessons from Belo Horizonte and other cities in the region.<br>**video tribute to Eveline Trevisan introduced by Ana Marcela Ardilo** |
| 10.00 | In Conversation: A Strong Local Story | **Alice Gerhardt David** - Vice-presidente e coordenadora da Comissão de Políticas Sociais Conselho de Pessoas Idosas de (BH)<br>**Marcos Fontoura** , Representante do Conselho de Pessoas com Deficiência de Belo Horizonte | Everyday experiences of walking, ageing and disability in Belo Horizonte, including perspectives from Cadeira Voadora and local councils. |
| 10:20 | Coffee Break | | Refreshments and networking. |
| 10:50 | Walking Cities Lab | **Ana Ardila**<br>**Ana Larrañaga** | Introduction to the global project; launch of the Brazil Living Lab; invitation to join the regional Community of Practice. |
| 11:05 | Regional Walking Status Report | **Angie Palacios, CAF Bank**<br>**Natalia Lleras, Walk21** | Regional baseline evidence, policy landscape and quality gaps; launch of the Walking Reality Dashboard and regional report. |
| 11:40<br>11:50 | Break into workshops<br>What Impact on Walking Do We Want from the Decade? | **Julian Arellana**<br>**Maria José Nieto-Combariza**<br>**Natalia Lleras**<br>**Ana Larrañaga**<br>**Leticia Sabino** | Interactive roundtables on six measurable outcomes: activity, satisfaction, safety, security, comfort and accessibility. **Round tables will be multi-lingual.**<br>Participants identify actions and enabling roles at regional, national and local levels. |
| 13:00 | Lunch | | Informal exchange, posters and networking. |
| 14:30 | Round two of the World Cafe Workshop | | |
| 15:30 | Report Back and Pathway Setting | Facilitator in Spanish and Portoguese | Consolidate actions, links and overlaps; test priorities and ambition; define pathways, roles and reporting over the Decade. |
| 16:00 | Coffee Break | | Refreshments and networking. |
| 16:30 | Closing Plenary | **Jim Walker, Walk21**<br>**Lynn Scholl, IDB**<br>**Angie Palacios, CAF**<br>**Luis Felipe, UNEP**<br>**Additional representatives from finance, health and advocacy** | Funding a more walkable future and panel reflections on the emerging regional pathway for walking during the Decade of Action. |
| 17:20 | Wrap-up and Next Steps | | Key messages, accountability and next steps into the UN Decade. |
| 18:00 | Evening Reception | | Cocktail reception and networking. |

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## NOVEMBER 4 / DAY 2
## ENABLING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMBITION FOR WALKING

| TIME | SESSION | LEAD | FOCUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08:30 | Plenary | **Chair: Ana Marcela Ardila, WCL Regional Lead** | |
| | | Prof. **Daniel Oviedo**, WCL Lead | Inspiring keynote: How safe, accessible and enjoyable walking for transport contributes to create caring cities, mitigate and adapt to climate change. |
| | | Prof. **Paola Jirón**, Universidad de Chile | Relationship between walking and care for LAC |
| | | Dr. **Natalia Villamizar**, WCL | The WCL implementing caring cities through safe, accessible and enjoyable walking |
| | | **Celeste Medina** | Young Researcher Voice |
| | | **Gabriela Ochoa-Covarrubias & Magdalena Paz Telias** | Summer Lab & Transport Academy |
| 10:30 | Coffee Break and Posters | | |
| 11:00 | Knowledge and Practices | **Maria José Nieto-Combariza & Ana Larrañaga**<br>**Louis Frimpong & Julian Arellana**<br>**Daniel Oviedo & Gabriela Ocho** | Parallel roundtables connecting research to action across Unwalkable Cities, Climate Resilience, Caring Cities, and Governance and Implementation. Sessions examine current knowledge, action implications and remaining gaps. |
| 12.30 | Lunch | | |
| 14.00 | Challenges and Opportunities to Implement Transformations for Walking | **Daniel Oviedo & Maria José Nieto-Combariza**<br>**Natalia Villamizar & Magdalena Paz** | Practical evidence on governance and implementation. Parallel discussions examine policy, regulation and delivery examples and use the findings to refine the Living Lab agenda. |
| 15:30 | Coffee Break | | Refreshments and networking. |
| 16:00 | Closing Plenary | Chair: **Daniel Oviedo,** WCL<br>**Leticia Sabino**, Instituto Caminhabilidade<br>**Louis Frimpong**, Co-Lead Living Lab Africa, University of Environment & Sustainable Development<br>**Juan Antonio Carrasco Montagna**, Universidad de Concepción, Chile<br>**Gabriela Ochoa-Covarruvias**, ITESO<br>**Magdalena Paz**, CALTEC<br>**Natalia Lleras**, Walk21<br>**Marina Mergulhão**, A Pezito | Panel reflections on the emerging ambition for a strong regional Community of Practice. |
| 17:30 | Wrap-up and Next Steps | | How the Regional Walking Community of Practice will work and how collaboration will continue beyond the Dialogue. |
| 17:00 | End of Day | | |
| 19:00 | Group Dinner | | Group dinner; details and cost to be confirmed. |

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# Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Dialogue

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## NOVEMBER 5 / DAY 3
## REGIONAL MEETING: SHAPING THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

| TIME | SESSION | LEAD | FOCUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09:00 | **Opening and Framing** | **Daniel Ovede, WCL**<br>**Lynn Scholl, IDB** | Why safe mobility needs redefining in Latin America and the Caribbean, and how the work connects to the Inter-American Development Bank's Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility Strategy. |
| | **Part 1: The Concept** | **Maria José Nieto-Combariza, WCL** | Safe mobility as a relational, systemic property rather than collision reduction alone. The three domains, and the evidence behind them: a structured review of 2,209 studies showing a field heavily skewed towards traffic incidents, with personal insecurity and environmental harm far behind, and very little of is concerning our regions. How regional practitioners validated the three domains. |
| | **Part 2: Methods and Application** | **Maria Alejandra Wilches/ Daniel Ovedo** | A system of 146 indicators across three feasibility tiers, with metadata and SMART alignment. Application to an approved ISB loan in the Dominican Republic tests what transfers into a real results framework and what does not. |
| | **Metrics** | Natalia Lleras Walk21 | Introduction to the Walking Reality Dashboard and its potential role in regional monitoring. |
| 10:10 | **Break** | | |
| 10:30 | **Part 3: Thinking about walking** | | |
| 11:10 | **Part4** | | Thinking about your practice: theory of change to arrive to the goal of a holistic framework to think about safe urban mobility centered around pedestrians |
| 11:50 | **Priorities & Next Steps** | | What would make the framework usable in participants' institutions, and the open questions it leaves for the research agenda |
| 12:00 | **Lunch and walkshop to the market AV. Amazonas** | | |
| 14.30 | **Visioning a IDB - WCL living lab in Caribbean** | | • Co-lead by Daniel Oviedo and Lynn Scholl<br>• WCL living labs agenda<br>• Inputs from IDB research and experience<br>• Walk21 experience in the region<br>• Have the structure and questions that are going to be discussed beforehand |