



## José Manuel Salazar-Xininachs

Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of International Labor Organization (ILO)

### **Why you should listen :**

Appointed Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru, with effect from 1 June 2015.

Born in 1953, Mr Salazar-Xininachs holds a master's degree in development economics and a doctorate in economics from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, as well as a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Costa Rica.

He joined the ILO in 2005 as Executive Director for the Employment Sector, based in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Assistant Director-General level. In that role, he was responsible for the Organization's global work in the areas of employment promotion, employment policy, enterprise development, vocational training, labour market analysis, employment services, the transition from the informal to the formal economy, the linkages between trade and employment, the promotion of youth employment, and other related areas.

From March 2013 to the date of his new appointment, Mr Salazar-Xininachs held the position of Assistant Director-General for Policy.

Prior to joining the ILO, from 1998 to 2005 he held the position of Director of the Trade Unit of the Organization of American States, in Washington, DC; that Unit served, together with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as the technical secretariat for the negotiations on the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). He also provided technical support on trade and competitiveness issues to the governments of countries in the Americas.

From 1997 to 1998, Mr Salazar-Xininachs was Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, during which period Costa Rica held the presidency of the FTAA process. Prior to that, he founded and ran the Business Network for Hemispheric Integration, and was Executive Director and Chief Economist of the Federation of Private Entities of Central America and Panama (FEDEPRICAP) (1991-95) and Executive President of the Costa Rican Development Corporation (1988-90). Mr. Salazar-Xininachs has published widely on economic growth and productive transformation policies, trade and competitiveness policy, employment and skills policies and related issues.

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