Speaker Profiles

Manuel Alcántara is professor of political science at the University of Salamanca.

José María Aznar served as prime minister of Spain from 1996 to 2004. He is currently chair of the Atlantic Basin Initiative at John Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies as well as president of the Foundation for Analysis and Social Studies (FAES).

Alicia Bárcena is executive secretary for the United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). She previously served as under secretary general for management for Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and acting chef de cabinet for Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Luis Bareiro is a journalist and political commentator for Última Hora in Paraguay.

Andrea Bernal is director of news programs for NTN24 in Colombia.

Nancy Birdsall is founder and president of the Center for Global Development. She previously served as executive vice-president of the Inter-American Development Bank and as director of policy research at the World Bank.

Adrián Bonilla is secretary general of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). He previously directed FLACSO—Ecuador.

Carlos Basombrio is consulting director of the Citizen Security Project at the Wilson Center’s Latin American Program and a political analyst for Perú 21. He previously was director of the Institute of Legal Defense in Peru and served as vice minister of the interior under the administration of President Alejandro Toledo.

Frances Burwell is vice president of the Atlantic Council and director of its Trans-Atlantic Relations Program.
Diego Cánepa is deputy secretary of the presidency of Uruguay. He was elected to the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies in 2004 and served as member of the Mercosur Parliament at its founding in 2006.

Alberto Cardenas is chair of the American Conservative Union and a senior partner in the government affairs practice of Cardenas Partners. He served as special ambassador to St. Kitts under the administration of President Reagan and directed the president’s Commission on Small and Minority Businesses.

Lázaro Cárdenas is the former governor of Michoacán state in Mexico. He is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Fernando Carrera was appointed Guatemala’s minister of foreign affairs by President Otto Pérez Molina in January 2013. He previously served as Guatemala’s secretary of planning and programming.

Jorge Castañeda is distinguished professor of Latin American studies at New York University and Mexico’s former secretary of foreign affairs. He writes regularly for Reforma and Newsweek International and is the author of some dozen books on Mexico.

João Augusto de Castro Neves is a senior analyst in the Eurasia Group’s Latin America practice.

Silvia Elena Chaves is the founder and vice-president of Florex a Costa Rican-based company dedicated to the production of environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Jean-Louis Ekra is chairman and president of the African Export-Import Bank. Previously, he was vice-president of international financial institutions at Citibank.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner is president of the EU-LAC Foundation and former foreign affairs minister of Austria. She previously served as commissioner of trade for the European Union.


Enrique García has served as president and CEO of CAF – Development Bank of Latin America since 1991. Previously, he was Bolivia’s minister of planning and coordination and head of the economic and social cabinet. He has also served as treasurer of the Inter-American Development Bank. García is co-vice chair of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Wu Guoping is professor of Latin American studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing.

Dan Hamilton is professor and executive director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at John Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies. Hamilton has held a variety of high-level positions in the US Department of State, including deputy assistant secretary for European affairs.

Ricardo Hausmann is director of the Center for International Development at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Before that, Hausmann served as the chief economist of the Inter-American Development Bank and as Venezuela’s minister of planning from 1992 to 1993.

Carla A. Hills served as US trade representative in the George H.W. Bush administration and as secretary of housing and urban development in the Gerald Ford administration. She is currently chair and CEO of Hills & Company. Hills is also co-chair of the Inter-American Dialogue.

José Miguel Insulza is secretary general of the Organization of American States. Prior to his election in 2005, he held a number of high-level cabinet positions in the government of Chile, serving as minister of foreign affairs, minister secretary general of the presidency, and minister of the interior.

Nelson Jobim served as Brazil’s minister of defense from 2007 to 2011. Prior to joining the ministry, he presided over the country’s Supreme Court, first as a federal justice and then as president. From 1987 to 1995, Jobim represented his home state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil’s Chamber of Deputies, retiring only after his appointment as minister of justice by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.
Gil Kerlikowske was appointed director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2009, after having served nine years as chief of police for Seattle, Washington.

Patricia Janiot is a senior anchor for CNN en Español and serves as advisor to the executive vice president and general manager of the network.

John Kerry was appointed US Secretary of State in January 2013. From 1985 until his nomination, Kerry represented the state of Massachusetts in the US Senate, where he served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and as a member of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

Kemal Kirişci is TUSIAD senior fellow and director of the Turkey Project at Brookings Institution’s Center for the United States and Europe.

Luis Alberto Lacalle served as president of Uruguay from 1990 to 1995. He previously served as Senate vice president.

Ricardo Lagos served as president of Chile from 2000 to 2006. After leaving office, he founded Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo and was appointed special envoy on climate change for the United Nations in 2007. He is chair emeritus of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Jorge Leal Rodriguez is founder of Fundación HETAH, the Foundation for the Development of Technological Tools for Humanitarian Aid.

Luis Vicente León is president of Datanálisis. He is also professor at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello and the Institute of Advanced Studies in Administration (IESA), both in Caracas.

Doris Meissner is senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute. She previously served as commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the US Department of Justice during the administration of President Bill Clinton.

Maria Emma Mejía served as minister of foreign affairs and minister of education under the administration of Colombian President Ernesto Samper. In 2010, Mejía was appointed secretary general of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). She is now executive director of Fundación Pies Descalzos.

Luis Alberto Moreno is president of the Inter-American Development Bank. Before joining the Bank in 2005, Moreno was ambassador of Colombia to the United States. He also served as president of Colombia’s Industrial Development Agency and minister of economic development.

Moisés Naim is a senior associate in the International Economics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Before that, he served as Venezuela’s minister of trade and industry, director of Venezuela’s Central Bank, and executive director of the World Bank. Naim is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Óscar Naranjo directed Colombia’s national police from 2007 to 2012. He currently serves as an independent consultant on security issues and as director of the Latin American Citizen Institute at Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM).

José Antonio Ocampo is professor of professional practice at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. Previously, he served in a number of positions in the United Nations and the government of Colombia, most notably as executive secretary for the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and in Colombia as minister of finance and minister of agriculture.

Rodrigo Pardo is news director of RCN Televisión and former foreign affairs minister of Colombia.

Robert Pastor is director of the Center for North American Studies at American University. Pastor previously served as US national security advisor on Latin America during the administration of President Jimmy Carter and ambassador to Panama under President Bill Clinton. After leaving government, he joined American University as vice president of international affairs in 2002.

Michael Penfold is director for public policy and competitiveness at CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and associate professor at the Institute for Administrative Studies (IESA) in Caracas, which he headed from 1999 to 2003.

Ramón Pérez-Maura is an international political analyst and deputy director of Diario ABC in Spain.
Alejo Ramírez is secretary general of the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ).

Bill Richardson served as governor of New Mexico from 2003 to 2011. He was also US ambassador to the United Nations and energy secretary during the administration of President Bill Clinton. Currently, he is special envoy to the Organization of American States and senior fellow at Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. He is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Michael Shifter is president of the Inter-American Dialogue and adjunct professor of Latin American politics at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service.

Ernesto Talvi is nonresident senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution and director of the Center for the Study of Economic and Social Affairs (CERES) in Montevideo, Uruguay. He previously served as the chief economist of the Central Bank of Uruguay.

Luis Aponte-Tinayo is a physician at the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires in Argentina. He has made significant breakthroughs in the field of bone cancer treatment and is the recipient of the American Innovators award in the field of Science and Technology.

Hasan Tuluy is vice president of the World Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has also served as chief operating officer for the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and as director of strategy and operations in the Middle East and North Africa Region.

Alejandro Werner is director of the Western Hemisphere department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Werner previously served as Mexico’s undersecretary of finance and public credit from 2006 to 2011 and as head of corporate and investment banking at BBVA-Bancomer from 2011 to 2012. He was also director of economic studies at the Bank of Mexico.

Juan Gabriel Valdés served as foreign affairs minister of Chile under the administration of President Eduardo Frei and as permanent representative to the United Nations under President Ricardo Lagos.