2008 HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to present this summary of the Inter-American Dialogue’s work in 2008.

This year was the 16th time that Dialogue members have met in plenary session for the Sol M. Linowitz Forum. The forum brought together some one hundred leaders from across the Western Hemisphere—led by our co-chairs Ricardo Lagos and Carla Hills—to identify ways the next U.S. president can improve inter-American relations, and to debate policy prescriptions for fast-changing economic scenarios across the region. Drawing on the conclusions and recommendations of the Linowitz Forum, the Dialogue released in March 2009 A Second Chance: U.S. Policy in the Americas, its 10-point agenda for a new U.S. policy in the Americas designed to guide the Obama administration through the most important challenges it is likely to confront in the region.

In 2008, Dialogue staff published a dozen articles and interviews in leading policy journals—Great Decisions, Current History, World Policy Journal, Latin American Politics and Society, Foreign Affairs en Español, and Revista América Economía—that analyzed the policy choices facing the next U.S. president, next steps for Cuba, consequences of Latin America’s increasingly diverse international relations, the impact of globalization on Peru’s economy and social fabric, and the paradoxes presented by Chavez’s Venezuela. Staff also published over 100 articles in newspapers, including The Washington Post, The Miami Herald, El Tiempo, O Estado de Sao Paulo, El Mercurio, El Universal, El Comercio, ideal, La Prensa, and Confidencial—on topics ranging from...
Barack Obama’s cabinet picks to questions about free trade with Colombia, the rising tide of women in political power, student achievement, trends in remittance flows, and the state of democracy in the Caribbean. Dialogue staff are regularly quoted by U.S., Latin American, and European newspapers and interviewed on television and radio.

The Dialogue’s Democratic Governance Program, in partnership with the Organization of American States, Proyectamérica, and the Centro de Estudios Públicos, hosted the third of eight national dialogues on democracy in Reinaca, Chile in July. The program also published several reports this year, including *Ten Years after the Agreements on a Firm and Lasting Peace*, which featured the results of its second dialogue on democracy in Antigua, Guatemala the year before; *Media and Governance: A Reform Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Access to Information in the Americas*, and *Women in the Americas: Paths to Political Power*.

Other highlights of the year’s activities include the 12th annual Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF) conference, which reviewed hemispheric political and economic trends, and evolving U.S. relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. This year’s meeting featured CAF president Enrique García, OAS secretary general José Miguel Insulza, Inter-American Development Bank president Luis Alberto Moreno, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Shannon, and two lead Latin American policy advisors from the Obama and McCain presidential campaigns.
In 2008, the Andean Working Group met twice—once in Washington and again in Lima, Peru. The Dialogue's work on the Andean region analyzes the policy issues and choices confronting the region's leaders. Our Andean program published three working papers, and, with the Johns Hopkins University Press, the Dialogue published the third edition of *Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America*.

In 2008, the Dialogue's Congressional Members Working Group hosted over two dozen members of Congress in private discussions and public forums on Capitol Hill and in other Dialogue events. Colombian defense minister Juan Manuel Santos met over dinner with Congress members to discuss the rescue operation that freed 15 hostages of the FARC. Members also discussed the merits and shortcomings of the Mérida Initiative with Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, Assistant Secretary Tom Shannon, Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics David Johnson and the ambassadors of Mexico and El Salvador. On other occasions they discussed challenges facing Afro-Colombians with Minister of Culture Paula Moreno and Cartagena Mayor Judith Pinedo. Other dinner topics included trade and poverty in the region, U.S.-Cuba policy choices, and the challenges facing Afro-descendants in Latin America.

This year, the Inter-American Dialogue began its Latin American Economies Roundtable (LAER) series, a joint project with the Elliot School for International Affairs at The George Washington University. It brings together in closed sessions a small group of leading economic analysts from government agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, think-tanks, and universities. The group explored the risks of the U.S. slowdown for Latin American economies and alternative policy responses; concerns about rising commodity prices and inflation, and how governments and central banks might respond; Latin America's increasing vulnerability to the global credit crunch; and the region's deepening capital shortage problem and the need for and feasibility of financing through international financial institutions.

Also in 2008, the Dialogue began its Rethinking the Drug War initiative with the help of the Open Society Institute and the Alvar-Alice Foundation. The project is designed to examine alternatives to current U.S. drug policies in the hemisphere and promote debate within the U.S. government and around the region. The Dialogue commissioned several papers outlining alternative policies and held small roundtable discussions debating the merits of those alternatives. These meetings paved the way for the publication of a final report and a major conference on drug policy in 2009.
In partnership with the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), the Dialogue has organized a Hemispheric Think Tank Working Group on the Fifth Summit of the Americas. The working group brings together think tank leaders from around the hemisphere to discuss the agenda of the summit to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, and to re-think the overall summit process. Working group members have written papers on specific topics related to the summit’s three main themes: human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability.

In 2008, the Dialogue initiated the China and Latin America Working Group to examine the changing nature of this relationship and recommend strategies to make the emerging ties among China, Latin America, and the United States as constructive as possible.

The Dialogue’s education reform program, PREAL, working with national partners, initiated a project to encourage national policy change in four Central American countries, expanded its business-education alliance, and launched an initiative to assess specific national education policies (policy audits) as a complement to its report cards. It collaborated on three national and international education conferences (on accountability, quality education for the poor, and educational equity gaps) and hosted three events in Washington (on education in Haiti, Cuba’s education system, and recent reforms in São Paulo, Brazil). In addition, PREAL worked with national partners throughout the region to co-organize more than 30 events on key education topics, and its two working groups held 12 events designed to generate in-depth information and analysis for policy-makers on standards, assessments and the teaching profession.

Over the course of the year, PREAL produced and distributed more than 20 publications, including the second national report card on education in Nicaragua, and senior staff shared their expertise at approximately 50 conferences sponsored by outside organizations. The Dialogue’s Social Policy program also published, Fair Growth: Economic Policies for Latin America’s Poor and Middle-Income Majority.

Our Corporate Program collaborated on a series of polls with Zogby International in 2008, which generated widespread attention. We welcomed companies such as Liberty Mutual, Laureate Education, National Commercial Bank of Jamaica, Apple Computer, Novartis, Avon and others into the Corporate Circle in 2008. The Dialogue’s Miami Group on Western Hemisphere Affairs—a forum that regularly assembles the city’s corporate and financial leadership to exchange ideas on issues affecting business and trade with U.S. and Latin American policymakers—was particularly active this year. Meetings featured Brazilian Central Bank president Henrique Meirelles, CAF president Enrique García, and Colombian defense minister Juan Manuel Santos, among others.

This year, Mack McLarty became the Dialogue’s co-vice chair from North America and we welcomed to the Board of Directors Antonio Navarro Wolff of Colombia, Pierre Pettigrew of Canada, and Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico.

As a way to involve new leaders in its activities, increase the influence of its policy work, and help assure that it incorporates a wider range of political perspectives, the Dialogue convened 25 young leaders from across the Americas in September to discuss the future of Western Hemisphere affairs. Co-sponsored by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the conference brought together an accomplished group of leaders, including top journalists, senators, mayors, and entrepreneurs.
“The Dialogue’s proposals seek to align U.S. policies with the changed conditions of Latin America.”

A Second Chance: U.S. Policy in the Americas

THE SOL M. LINOWITZ FORUM

The Sol M. Linowitz Forum is a biennial meeting of the membership of the Inter-American Dialogue and other high-level officials from across the hemisphere. The 2008 Forum was the 16th time that the Dialogue’s members have met in plenary session, and the seventh meeting of the forum, which was inaugurated in 1996.

The Linowitz Forum brought together one hundred leaders from the Western Hemisphere to identify ways the next U.S. president can improve inter-American relations, and to debate policy prescriptions for fast-changing economic scenarios across the region. The event, which took place on May 16 to 18, in Washington, DC, included a half dozen former heads of state, numerous cabinet-level officials, renowned economists, political analysts, top journalists, and business leaders from four continents.

While much of this year’s Linowitz Forum focused on U.S. policy towards Latin America and the Caribbean with an eye towards the new presidential administration in 2009, three working groups analyzed the effect of the U.S. downturn on Latin American economies; political trends and tensions in the hemisphere; as well as poverty, inequality, and the politics of social policy. A Second Chance: U.S. Policy in the Americas, a report drawing on the insights and recommendations that emerged from the Linowitz Forum was launched in March 2009.

The Linowitz Forum opened with a reception, hosted by Ambassador Felipe Ortiz de Zevallos of Peru at his residence, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Dialogue. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte spoke at the event about the current state of U.S. relations with Latin America.

President emeritus of CARE USA, Peter Bell; former U.S. trade representative, Carla Hills; former president of Chile, Ricardo Lagos

Peter Hakim, Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, former president Ricardo Lagos of Chile
THE FUTURE OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS: A YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

On September 24, the Dialogue convened 25 young leaders from across the Americas to discuss the future of Western Hemisphere affairs. Co-sponsored by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and hosted by The George Washington University School of Business, the conference brought together an exceptionally accomplished group of leaders, including top journalists, senators, mayors, and entrepreneurs. The Dialogue organized the conference specifically to involve new leaders in its activities, increase the quality and influence of its policy work, and help assure that it will incorporate a wider range of political perspectives. The event opened with an evening reception on Capitol Hill featuring remarks by Representatives Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), and Jerry Weller (R-IL). The day-long, roundtable discussion included a keynote address by Enrique Iglesias, secretary general of SEGIB, and commentary by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson; World Bank Vice-president Pamela Cox; and Riordan Roett of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Young Leaders

Juan Marco Álvarez Gallardo
Executive Director
SalvaNATURA
El Salvador

Orazio Bellettini
Executive Director
Grupo Faro
Ecuador

Epsy Campbell
Director
Centro de Mujeres Afrocostarricenses
Costa Rica

Tal Dehtiar
Co-Founder & President
MBAs Without Borders
Canada

Nicolás Ducoté
Executive Director
CIPPEC
Argentina

Edwin Escobar
President
Maslow Corporation
Dean
Universidad Rafael Landivar
Guatemala

Mary Elizabeth Flores
Deputy
National Congress
Honduras

Marisa Glave Remy
Councilor
Metropolitan Lima
Municipality
Perú

Adriana González Carrillo
Senator
National Congress
Mexico

Gustavo Guerra-García Picasso
International Consultant
Consultores para Decisiones Estratégicas
Perú

Ana Paula Hernández
Consultant
Open Society Institute
Mexico

Kaymar Jordan
Journalist
Caribbean Media Corporation
Barbados

José Antonio Kast
Deputy
National Congress
Chile

Andrea Mandel-Campbell
Contributing Editor,
Author
Canadian Television Network
Canada

Carl Meacham
Professional Staff Advisor
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
United States

Judith Morrison
Regional Director for South America and the Caribbean
Inter-American Foundation
United States

Warren Newby
Senator
National Parliament
Jamaica

Adrián Pérez
Deputy
National Congress
Argentina

Dan Restrepo
Senior Policy Advisor,
Western Hemisphere
Obama Campaign
United States

Mónica Fernández Sánchez
Director
Foro Panel
Venezuela

Alejandro Santos
Editor-in-Chief
Semana
Magazine
Colombia

José Nefaly Yanes
Secretary General
Sindicato de la Industria Eléctrica de El Salvador
El Salvador
**U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE HEMISPHERE**

The Congressional Members Working Group (CMWG)

The Inter-American Dialogue’s Congressional Working Group on the Americas is designed to encourage discussion and debate among members on the most important issues in Western Hemisphere affairs. In 2008, this bipartisan group was led by Senators Norm Coleman (R-MN), Chris Dodd (D-CT), Richard Lugar (R-IN), and Bob Menéndez (D-NJ) along with Representatives Xavier Becerra (D-CA), William Delahunt (D-MA), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Phil English (R-PA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Mark Souder (R-IN), and Jerry Weller (R-IL).

- The Congressional Members Working Group convened on September 17 for a dinner discussion on challenges facing Afro-Colombians. Hosted by Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Bill Delahunt (D-MA), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Sam Farr (D-CA) and Diane Watson (D-CA) they met with a delegation from Colombia, including Colombian minister of culture Paula Moreno and Cartagena city mayor, Judith Pinedo. Other participants included Ambassador Carolina Barco of Colombia and U.S. State Department deputy assistant secretary for Andean affairs, Christopher McMullen.

- Several members of Congress—Chris Cannon (R-UT), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), and Jerry Weller (R-IL)—participated in the Dialogue’s two-day annual conference on Trade and Investment in the Americas on September 10 and 11, co-sponsored with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the Organization of American States.

“...the U.S. can help shape an environment more congenial to its interests—but only if it resists myopic, self-defeating measures and stays engaged even in unfriendly places.”

Michael Shifter, *The Washington Post*
Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Mel Martinez (R-FL) hosted a CMWG dinner on July 22 with Colombian defense minister Juan Manuel Santos. Representatives Sam Farr (D-CA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), and Jerry Weller (R-IL) also participated in the discussion that centered on the July 2 Colombian Army rescue operation that freed 15 hostages of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), among other issues in US-Colombia relations.

On May 14, Representatives Charles Rangel (D-NY) and Wally Herger (R-CA) hosted a CMWG dinner on trade and poverty in Latin America. Rangel is chairman of the Ways & Means Committee and Herger was the ranking member of Ways & Means' Trade Subcommittee. Representatives Charles Boustany, Jr. (R-LA), Richard Neal (D-MA), Jerry Weller (R-IL), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Xavier Becerra (D-CA) also participated. Guest speakers included Nora Lustig of The George Washington University, Richard Newfarmer of the World Bank, and Sandra Polaski of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Challenges facing Afro-descendants in Latin America were the focus of an April 9 CMWG dinner discussion. Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Jerry Weller (R-IL) hosted the dinner, which featured Sir Clare Roberts, special rapporteur on the rights of Afro-descendants and against racial discrimination and racism for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Marcelo Paixão, director of undergraduate studies at the Economic Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; and Ambassador Antonio Patriota of Brazil. Representatives Donna Christensen (D-VI), Sam Farr (D-CA), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Barbara Lee (D-CA) also participated.

A CMWG dinner on January 29 explored the merits and shortcomings of the Mérida Initiative. Hosted by Senators Norm Coleman (R-MN), Richard Lugar (R-IN), and Bob Menéndez (D-NJ), the discussants included Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte, Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere Thomas Shannon, Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement David Johnson, Ambassador Rene Leon of El Salvador, and Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan of Mexico. Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Jerry Weller (R-IL) also participated.

On January 23, Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) hosted a CMWG dinner discussion on U.S.-Cuba policy choices. Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), James Moran (D-VA) and Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) were joined by Dialogue member Jorge Dominguez of Harvard University, Vicki Huddleston of the Brookings Institution and Caleb McCarry, Cuba transition coordinator for the State Department.

Congressional Staff Program

On June 30 the Dialogue cosponsored with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) an event, “Is Haiti Drifting toward Crisis?” with Jason Steinbaum, staff director for the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Relations Committee; Raymond Joseph, ambassador of Haiti.
in Washington; and Johanna Mendelson Forman, CSIS. The session was broadcast on C-SPAN.

- Michael Shifter led a briefing for congressional staff on “Geopolitics in the Andean Region” on April 7, which focused on developments precipitated by Colombia’s March 1 raid of a FARC camp across the Ecuadoran border. The event was sponsored by the Security for a New Century Program of the Henry L. Stimson Center.

- On January 14 Congressional staff members Carl Meacham of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Peter Quilter of the House Committee on Foreign Relations and Jason Steinbaum, of House Western Hemisphere Subcommittee discussed the Mérida Initiative at a Dialogue sponsored session.

**Reshaping Drug Policy in the Americas**

In 2008 the Inter-American Dialogue began its Rethinking the Drug War initiative with the help of the Open Society Institute (OSI) and the Alvar-Alice Foundation. The project is designed to examine alternatives to current U.S. drug policies in the hemisphere and promote debate within the U.S. government and around the region. The Dialogue commissioned several papers outlining alternative policies and held small roundtable discussions debating the merits of those alternatives. These meetings will pave the way for the publication of a final report and a major conference on drug policy in 2009.

- The first roundtable meeting of the initiative took place on September 23 and focused on multilateral cooperation as part of developing and implementing drug policies in the hemisphere. Eduardo Posada-Carbo wrote the background brief and led the discussion.

- On October 20, the second discussion of the series dealt with alternative rural development and drug policy. Francisco Thoumi, previously of the IDB and UNODC, led the discussion on illicit economies and potential alternative development strategies. Several Congressional staffors participated.

- Decriminalization and drug policy was the focus of a third meeting on October 30. Peter Reuter of the University of Maryland, who founded the RAND Drug Policy program, led the discussion on measuring “harm” of various prohibition and legalization policies and offered recommendations for improving U.S. drug policy. Participants included academics working at the local, national and international level on drug policy reform.

**Other U.S. Foreign Policy**

- On October 23, the fifth meeting of the Miami Group—a forum that assembles corporate and financial leaders to exchange ideas with U.S. and Latin American policymakers on issues affecting business and trade in the Americas—hosted a discussion on how U.S. policy will and should change toward Latin America after the U.S. presidential election. (See the Corporate Program, page 44, for more information on the Miami Group.)

- On November 6, the Dialogue held a media roundtable to discuss the U.S. election results and the incoming Obama administration. Dialogue senior staff spoke with the media about the major challenges and potential policies of the next administration.

- “How NAFTA, Migration, and Government Policy Affect Mexico’s Poor” was the topic of a January 30th discussion. (See the Social Policy section, page 29, for more detail.)
China is now Latin America’s third largest trading partner after the U.S. and the European Union. Chinese foreign direct investment in Latin America lags far behind that of both.

Daniel Erikson, *Congressional Testimony*

Daniel Erikson, “The New Challenge: China and the Western Hemisphere.” Testimony presented before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on June 11.


Michael Shifter, “Crisis in the Andes: The Border Dispute between Colombia and Ecuador, and Implications for the Region.” Testimony before House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on April 10.

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, “With Castro Stepping Down, What’s next for Cuba and the Western Hemisphere?” Testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on March 5.

Published


Michael Lisman and Megan Fletcher, “Bush Not Making the Grade in Central America,” *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, March 22.


Latin America’s relationship with the United States is crucial.

Enrique García,
CAF Conference Report 2008


Select Presentations and Engagements

Peter Hakim

• Spoke on “U.S. Presidential Elections: Implications for Latin America” at Canning House in London, England on November 11.

• Was the keynote speaker on, “Policy Analysis and Exchange on Western Hemisphere Affairs” at Vanguardia Iberoamericana 2008, in El Salvador, San Salvador on October 28 to 29.

• Served as a panelist on “Perspectives on the Future for Latin America and the Caribbean” at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Santiago, Chile on May 26.

• Spoke at the JP Morgan Conference on “US Policy Towards Latin America” in Miami Beach, Florida on April 5.

Michael Shifter

• Gave a presentation on December 10 at the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Lima, Peru on the subject of Latin America policy under President Obama.

• Led two session on Andean politics and the Obama administration at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency’s regional conference in Cartagena, Colombia in December entitled “Current Trends in Latin American Development and Sweden’s Development Cooperation: Where do they Meet?”

• Spoke at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs on October 27 where he presented his paper, “U.S.-Latin American Relations: Recommendations for the New Administration.”

• Presented on the panel, “Impacto de las Elecciones de Estados Unidos en América Latina,” at a Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo conference in the Dominican Republic on September 15.


Dan Erikson

• Taught “Contemporary U.S.-Latin American Relations” at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in June and July.

• Presented “U.S.-Cuba Relations: Still on the Brink?” at the Bildner Conference on Cuba at the City University of New York on March 13.

• The Dialogue organized a 3-day visit to Washington in June for a delegation of private sector leaders from Haiti led by Edouard Baussan, current president of the Maritime Association of Haiti. The group met with members of Congress,
State Department officials, and officers of the international financial institutions to express their views on the food crisis in Haiti and accompanying political challenges. Peter Hakim and Dan Erikson gave their views on the current political climate in Washington at a private breakfast with the delegation.

Marifeli Pérez-Stable was a panelist at the annual meeting of Raíces de Esperanza, a group of young Cuban-Americans.

INSTITUTIONS

Summit of the Americas Initiative

The Dialogue in partnership with the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) has organized a Hemispheric Think Tank Working Group on the Fifth Summit of the Americas. The working group brings together think tank leaders from around the hemisphere to discuss the agenda of the summit, held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, and to re-think the overall summit process. Working group members have written papers on specific topics related to the summit’s three main themes: human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability.

- On September 23, the Dialogue and FOCAL sponsored the first working group meeting in Ottawa. Leaders from over a dozen think tanks in the hemisphere were joined by OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin and representatives from the Canadian government.

- The second meeting of the working group took place on January 13, 2009 in Washington. OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, Summit Coordinator Luis Alberto Rodriguez of Trinidad and Tobago, and ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena spoke. Over a dozen think tank leaders discussed their recommendations related to the summit. The event opened with a reception hosted by Graeme Clark, permanent representative of Canada to the OAS.

- The Working Group will publish its papers and meet again in 2009 to review the summit mandates and declaration and discuss a way forward.

Other Inter-American Institutions

- The Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Inter-American Dialogue and the Organization of American States held their annual conference on Trade and Investment in the Americas on September 10 and 11. (See Trade and Economics, page 15, for more detail.)

- On May 19 the Dialogue and the World Bank organized a one day conference entitled “Not So Distant Neighbors: The Social Impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Economic Downturn.” (See Social Policy, page 26, for more detail.)

- On March 27, Secretary-General of the OAS José Miguel Insulza discussed the conflict between Ecuador and Colombia at a Dialogue event. Insulza commented on the challenges faced by the region with regard to the guerrilla war and the role of the OAS in working to help address them.
"At the summit the new U.S. president will hear first hand about discomfort with U.S. immigration laws and distaste for fence-building on the border."

Peter Hakim, FOCAL Point

Published


Peter Hakim, “Why We Are Together,” FOCAL Point, August 7.

Select Presentations

Peter Hakim presented on the panel, “Re-engagement of Canada in the Americas” at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, Canada on March 13.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD

Second Annual Trilateral Conference in Madrid

On January 14 and 15, 2009 the Dialogue together with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Real Instituto Elcano convened public and private leaders from Latin America, the United States, and Europe to discuss the impact of the financial crisis on Latin America and the Caribbean and the significance of the new Obama administration for the region.

Participants included select members of the Dialogue’s Board of Directors, including former presidents Ricardo Lagos and Fernando Henrique Cardoso and former U.S. trade representative Carla Hills. OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, UN ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena, and Spain’s secretary of state for Ibero-America, Trinidad Jimenez, also participated. Joining the discussion by video-conference from Washington were Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Eliot Engel (D-NY), former Clinton special envoy for Latin America Mack McLarty, and Washington Post managing editor Philip Bennett.

China and Latin America Working Group

In 2008, the Dialogue initiated the China and Latin America Working Group to examine the changing nature of this relationship and recommend strategies to make the emerging ties among China, Latin America, and the United States as constructive as possible.

- The first China and Latin America Working Group meeting was held on February 28 and featured Tom Shannon, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, as well as a wide-
China wants to show it is a responsible stakeholder, interested in Latin America’s longer-term development.

Dan Erikson, BBC Interview

ranging group of 25 leading policy officials and analysts from the United States, Latin America, and China.

- On May 13, the Dialogue hosted the second working group discussion with Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong of the People’s Republic of China, who was previously ambassador to Antigua & Barbuda and long-time policy maker on the Western Hemisphere. Wenzhong highlighted the rapidly growing economic relationship between China and the developing countries of Latin America, and emphasized the constructive role that China and the United States could play in the region. Following the presentations, members of the working group discussed the sources of tension and areas for cooperation in the tri-partite relationship among China, Latin America, and the United States.

- The Dialogue hosted a public meeting on October 30 to discuss China’s evolving political and economic ties with Latin America and the Caribbean in advance of President Hu Jintao’s visit to Latin America for the APEC summit in November. The discussion was led by members of the Dialogue’s China and Latin America Working Group—Gonzalo Paz and David Shambaugh of George Washington University, and Evan Ellis of Booz Allen Hamilton.

Congressional Testimony

Daniel Erikson, “The New Challenge: China and the Western Hemisphere.” Testimony presented before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on June 11.

Published


Select Presentations

Peter Hakim


Daniel Erikson

- Visited Beijing and Shanghai, China from March 18 to April 2 where he met with Latin American diplomatic missions, journalists, and Chinese scholars and government officials to discuss China’s relationship with Latin America. His presentations in China included a discussion of U.S.-Latin America relations at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and a discussion of the implications of the U.S. election for China-Latin America relations at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Studies. In Shanghai, Erikson also met with scholars affiliated with the Shanghai Institute for International Studies and Fudan University.

- Provided commentary in a National Public Radio program, “America Abroad: Money, Missiles, and the Mainland,” that dealt with Latin America’s place in the China-Taiwan struggle, on May 18.
As president, Barack Obama will understand that we need to engage again, but by listening instead of talking... We don’t view ourselves as the savior of the Americas.

Dan Restrepo, CAF Conference Report 2008

TRADE AND ECONOMICS

Annual CAF Conference on Trade and Investment in the Americas

The Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Inter-American Dialogue and the Organization of American States (OAS) held their annual conference on Trade and Investment in the Americas on September 10 and 11. It featured CAF president Enrique García, OAS secretary general José Miguel Insulza, Inter-American Development Bank president Luis Alberto Moreno, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Shannon, and the lead Latin American policy advisors from the Obama and McCain presidential campaigns. The conference brought together senior U.S. and Latin American government officials, three U.S. Congress members, policy analysts, leading journalists, and private sector leaders for intense and expansive discussions about political and economic developments and prospects in the region.

Latin American Economies Roundtable

In 2008, the Inter-American Dialogue began its Latin American Economies Roundtable (LAER) series, a joint project with the Elliot School for International Affairs at The George Washington University. It brings together in closed sessions a small group of leading economic analysts from government agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, think-tanks, and universities. Participants analyze the state of Latin American and Caribbean economies, the effects of the external environment on the countries of the region, and the best policy options for governments. The insights and conclusions from the roundtable are disseminated through private meetings and reports posted on the Dialogue’s website. Nora Lustig of the Elliot School jointly moderates and coordinates the sessions with the Dialogue.

- The Dialogue held its first LAER session on March 30. The group explored the risks of the U.S. slowdown on Latin American economies and the alternative policy responses available to different governments of the region. Discussants included Augusto de la Torre of the World Bank, Santiago Levy of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Brian O’Neill of the U.S. Treasury Department.
The LAER met again on June 30 to discuss the concern of rising commodity prices, the challenge of inflation in Latin America, and how governments and central banks might respond. The Center for Global Development’s Liliana Rojas-Suárez, who chairs the Latin American Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee, spoke to the group and Augusto de la Torre, Santiago Levy, Brian O’Neill and Anoop Singh of the International Monetary Fund provided comments.

On October 21, the LAER convened its third meeting, which focused on Latin America’s increasing vulnerability to the global credit crunch. Ernesto Talvi of the Center for the Study of Economic and Social Affairs (CERES) in Uruguay presented to the group and Augusto de la Torre, Santiago Levy, and Brian O’Neill served as discussants.

The fourth roundtable was held on December 16 for a discussion of the region’s deepening capital shortage problem and the need for and feasibility of financing through international financial institutions. Santiago Levy, Justin Lin of the International Monetary Fund, and Brian O’Neill provided comments.

Trade Policy Group
The Dialogue regularly convenes a select group of trade policy experts in a private setting to examine issues critical to the future of hemispheric trade relations. The group engages in discussion on complex questions in order to help move those issues closer to resolution. It also acts as a sounding-board for key trade policymakers in the Western Hemisphere.

- On May 2, the Trade Policy Group convened to discuss possible paths to a vote on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Amber Cottle of the Senate Finance Committee’s Democratic staff, Angela Ellard of the House Ways and Means Committee’s Republican Staff, and Jeffrey Schott of the Peterson Institute for International Economics led the discussion.

- The Dialogue’s trade group met again on July 15 to discuss a new proposal by Nancy Lee, visiting fellow at the Center for Global Development on leave from the U.S. Treasury Department, to pursue hemispheric integration through a regional investment agreement. Gary Hufbauer of the Peterson Institute for International Economics provided additional comments.
Other Trade and Economics

- Enrique Goñi, founder and CEO of Spanish bank Caja Navarra explained his experiment in community empowerment through banking at a Dialogue discussion on November 12.

- The Dialogue’s Working Group on the Cuban Economy met on January 23 and again on September 19 for a half-day conference. (See Cuba, page 36, for more detail.)

- The longevity of Brazilian and Mexican regional influence amidst a global economic meltdown was the topic of debate at a Dialogue meeting on October 23. The second of two roundtable discussions on Latin America and the global financial crisis, select participants included Chris Garman, director for Latin America at the Eurasia Group, Otaviano Canuto, vice president of countries at the Inter-American Development Bank, and Nora Lustig of George Washington University.

- The first of two discussions on the effects of the financial crisis on the Western Hemisphere was held at the Dialogue on October 15. Santiago Levy of the Inter-American Development Bank joined the Dialogue’s Claudio Loser, a former Western Hemisphere director of the International Monetary Fund, in leading the roundtable discussion and offering projections for the coming year.

- A July 29 Dialogue discussion focused on the World Bank’s “Ease of Doing Business” (EDB) index and trends related to Latin America’s business climate. Speakers included Pamela Cox, vice president for Latin America at the World Bank and Victoria Elliott, the principal author of an independent critique of the EDB index by the World Bank’s evaluation department. Everett Santos, president of DALEC LLC, also provided observations and predictions regarding the region’s business climate.

- The factors causing the increase in food prices, current responses in Latin America, and recommendations for future policy actions were topics of a discussion co-sponsored with the Center for Global Development on July 21.

- On July 18, the Dialogue convened the second meeting of the steering committee for its Institutional Capacity-Building initiative for Trade and Integration in Central America. Committee members gathered to discuss a report by former Salvadoran finance minister Manuel Hinds regarding existing trade capacity-building institutions in Central America and discussed next steps for the creation of a network of such institutions in the region.

- Former prime minister of Peru and executive director of Hochschild Mining Roberto Dañino led a discussion on the future of investment in Peru at a July 9 Dialogue session. Liliana Ruiz, the former head of Peru’s telecommunications regulatory agency provided commentary.
“I will no longer vote for agreements that do not carry stronger protections for workers and the environment.” Representative Xavier Becerra (D-CA), CAF Conference Report 2008

- Potential increases in annual foreign direct investment as a result of new offshore oil finds in Brazil was the subject of a June 24 discussion at the Dialogue featuring Francisco Gros, the former president of national oil company Petrobras.

- On May 19, the Dialogue co-organized with the World Bank a one day conference, entitled “Not So Distant Neighbors: The Social Impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean of the US Economic Downturn.” (See Social Policy, page 28, for more detail.)

- The Dialogue and the Center for Strategic and International Studies co-sponsored a breakfast session with President Martín Torrijos of Panama on May 7 to discuss Panama’s social and economic challenges and its relations with the United States.

- Prime Minister Jorge Del Castillo of Peru spoke at an April 30 Dialogue event on trade relations with the United States.

- CAF president Enrique García spoke at the Miami Group’s third meeting, which convened nearly 30 people for dinner on April 24. (See Corporate Program, page 44, for more detail.)

- On February 12th, the Dialogue hosted a discussion on the relationship between taxation and inequality in Latin America. Commentators included Carola Pessino of the Universidad Torcuato di Tella and Luis Servén of the World Bank.

- The efficacy of investment treaties in Latin America was the topic of a discussion held at the Dialogue on February 5. Speakers were Ana Palacio, Spain’s former foreign minister, Boston University economist Kevin Gallagher, and Jonathan Hamilton, a Partner at White & Case.

- “How NAFTA, Migration, and Government Policy Affect Mexico’s Poor” was the topic of a January 30 discussion at the Dialogue. (See Social Policy, page 29, for more detail.)

- On January 28 the Dialogue hosted a discussion with Michael Reid, the Americas editor of The Economist, on his new book, Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America’s Soul. Commentators included Santiago Levy of the IDB and Riordan Roett, director of the Western Hemisphere Program at SAIS.

Published


Marifeli Pérez-Stable, in The Miami Herald: “Cubans anxious about change,” October 24; “Markets, not aid, are the solution,” June 19; “Free trade could benefit all partners,” May 8; and “La batalla por el crudo,” Encuentro en la Red, January 31.


Dan Erickson, “Beyond Tourism: The Future of the Services Industry in the Caribbean,” (with Joyce Lawrence), Centre for International Governance Innovation, April 1.

Select Presentations

Peter Hakim

- Deliberated on the, “Political Landscapes in the Americas” with the World Economic Forum on Latin America in Cancún, Mexico on April 15.

- Spoke at the JP Morgan Conference on “US Policy Towards Latin America” in Miami, Florida on April 5.
• Moderated a panel discussion on “Challenges to Opening Global Markets for Ethanol" in Houston, Texas on October 20.

Dan Erikson

• Presented a paper co-authored with Paul Wander entitled “Raúl Castro and Cuba’s Global Diplomacy,” at the 18th annual conference of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) in Miami, Florida from August 5 to 7.

• Presented his paper, “Beyond Tourism: The Future of the Services Industry in the Caribbean,” at the annual meeting convened by the National Association of Cuban Economists in Havana, Cuba from March 3 to 7.

REMITTANCES & DEVELOPMENT

• On November 10 the Dialogue convened a meeting on “Recent Trends in Remittances to Latin America,” to explore the effects of the economic downturn and increased enforcement of immigration laws on remittances to the region. Panelists included the Dialogue’s Manuel Orozco, Dilip Ratha of the World Bank, and Robert Meins of the Inter-American Development Bank.

• The Dialogue hosted a discussion on June 12 with senior managers of several money transfer companies about the recent trends in remittances to Latin America. Participants included Ben Knoll, the chief executive officer for GroupEx Financial Corp and Kai Schmitz, the executive vice president and chief operating officer for Microfinance International Corporation. The group explored how the economy, immigration and the money transfer industry have affected remittances to the region.

Congressional Testimony


Published


Under Uribe, improved security has brought better governance... Colombia ranked second in Latin America in the overall confidence of citizens in government institutions. 

“Under Uribe, improved security has brought better governance...” 

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, The Miami Herald

Select Presentations and Engagement
Manuel Orozco

- Visual representations of Manuel Orozco’s data on global migration and remittances were featured in the Cartier Foundation Museum in Paris, as part of an exhibit titled Native Lands, by Paul Virilio, on display from November 21 through March 15, 2009.

- Spoke on remittances to the Dominican Republic at an event organized by La Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE) on December 12 in the Dominican Republic.

- Presented “Migración y Remesas en Honduras,” at an event organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit in Honduras on October 17.

- Presented “Tendencias Actuales en las Transferencias hacia Guatemala y su Intersección con las Finanzas,” at a conference organized by the International Organization for Migration in Guatemala on October 15.

- Presented “Análisis y resultados de la última encuesta sobre remesas y migración” at an event organized by Confidencial and the American Chamber of Commerce in Nicaragua on January 31.

- Participated in the International Advisory Committee of the Global Remittances Working Group, which was formed in 2008 by the heads of government of the Group of Eight and coordinated by the World Bank, with the objective of elevating the issue of migrant remittances on the global development agenda.

- Participated in the Advisory Committee on Economic Inclusion of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) where he has been a member since 2007. The committee met twice in 2008, and continues to offer recommendations to the FDIC on initiatives geared towards expanding access to banking services for underserved populations.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Constructing Democratic Governance

Jorge Domínguez of Harvard University was the featured speaker at an October 3rd Dialogue symposium on the health and future of democracy in Latin America. Domínguez is the co-editor with Michael Shifter of Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America, which has tracked democratic progress in the region since the early 1990s—the third edition was available for sale at the session. Domínguez argued that despite trouble spots, democracy is the norm in the region. Panelists Diego Abente, former senator of Paraguay now with the National Endowment for Democracy, Kevin Casas, former vice president of Costa Rica now with Brookings Institution, and Carlos de la Torre of the Woodrow Wilson Center added their analysis.


**Dialogues on Democracy**

The Inter-American Dialogue, in partnership with the Organization of American States, Proyectamérica, and the Centro de Estudios Públicos, hosted the third of eight national dialogues on democracy in Reñaca, Chile from July 26 to 28, 2008. The workshop, titled Chile: Twenty Years after the Plebiscite, convened 20 distinguished Chileans representing previous administrations, the opposition, nongovernmental organizations, universities, a labor union, and the media. Discussions of the central themes of Chilean democracy reflected a broad range of political perspectives.


**Published**


**Marifeli Pérez-Stable** and **Landen Romei**, “Calderon’s Popularity Hinges on Success of Anti-Drug Effort,” *Latin America Advisor*, July 28.

**Select Presentations**

**Peter Hakim**

- Presented as a panelist at an OAS conference on “Democracy, Well-being and Citizenship in Latin America” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on December 4th.

**Michael Shifter**

- Presented his paper, “Promoting Open Society Values in a Divided Region,” at the Open Society Institute Latin America Program’s Annual Meeting in Antigua, Guatemala from November 17 through 19.

- Presented his paper, “U.S.-Latin American Relations: Recommendations for the New Administration,” at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs on October 27.

**Editor-in-chief of Semana magazine, Alejandro Santos**
Press Freedom

Violence against Journalists and Impunity

The Dialogue project on violence against journalists and impunity is designed to raise awareness among relevant decision makers and practitioners about impunity in the case of violence against journalists and its high cost to the rule of law and to a free and democratic society. The initiative aims to develop a greater sense of urgency about crimes against journalists; strengthen communication between the media and government officials charged with defending journalists; and identify a set of recommendations regarding the investigation and prosecution of violence against journalists.

- In cooperation with the Colombian Foundation for the Freedom of the Press (FLIP), the Dialogue organized on April 3 and 4 in Bogotá a high-level, off-the-record discussion on the challenges facing media workers and steps that can be taken to increase safety and access to justice. The forum featured journalists, media owners, advocates, scholars and high-level officials from the three branches of government—including Supreme Court president Francisco Ricaurte, Constitutional Court Justice Manuel José Cepeda, Deputy Interior Minister María Isabel Nieto, Alejandro Santos from Semana, Rafael Nieto from RCN Radio, and Rafael Pardo from the Liberal Party. Dialogue members Senator Marta Lucía Ramírez and Governor Antonio Navarro Wolff, also participated.

- In partnership with Fundación Prensa y Democracia and Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales, the Dialogue convened the second closed-door meeting on June 16 and 17 in Mexico City to discuss violence against journalists and impunity in Mexico. Participants included Lydia Cacho, investigative journalist from Quintana Roo, columnist Denise Dresser of ITAM, Carmen Aristegui of CNN en Español, José Carreño of El Universal, Octavio Orellana Wiarco from the office of the Attorney General for crimes against journalists, Congressman Gerardo Priego Tapia, Senator Carlos Sotelo García, and others.

Media and Governance

On January 14 and 15, the Dialogue convened a politically and nationally diverse group of some 40 leading practitioners, decision makers, and thinkers on freedom of the press from 15 countries of the Americas for an intensive, full-day workshop to review a set of challenges facing the media in Latin America and the Caribbean and to begin to think about ways to enable the press to be a more positive force for democracy in the region. The discussions focused on: 1) laws and regulations regarding the media; 2) concentration of media ownership and government advertising; and 3) the nexus of media responsibility and the quality of democracy.

Other Press Freedom

- Roberto Saba, executive director of the Association of Civil Rights in Argentina, presented the findings of a recent report produced in partnership with the Open Mexican investigative journalist, Lydia Cacho
It’s not enough to be a democracy. It has to be a democracy for women.

Chilean Congresswoman María Antonieta Saa, Women in the Americas: Paths to Political Power

Women’s Leadership

- The role of women in promoting a culture of non-violence and peace-building in Latin America was the topic of a discussion on January 23, co-hosted by the Dialogue with the Initiative for Inclusive Security. Panelists included Juanita Roca, consultant and researcher with the UNIR Bolivia Foundation; Maria Eugenia Rojas, executive director of the Women’s Councilors’ Association of Bolivia; Emiliana Bernard, a human rights activist from Colombia; and Evelyn Garrido Rodríguez of the Universidad Javeriana in Colombia.

- The Dialogue hosted a symposium on March 13 with three women leaders working on justice issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Supreme Court Justice Elena Highton of Argentina, Minister of Human Services Priya Devi Manickchand of Guyana, and Cynthia Bendlin of the International Organization for Migration in Paraguay shared their experiences promoting women’s rights in the areas of domestic violence, trafficking of women and children, civil and penal code reform, and access to justice for women.

- With the Initiative for Inclusive Security and the Woodrow Wilson Center, on January 24 the Dialogue convened a session with four influential leaders from Colombia—Senate president Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, Senator Marta Lucía Ramírez, Deputy Minister of the Interior María Isabel Nieto, and Maria Emma Wills of the Historical Memory Commission—to address the main security challenges facing Colombia, including progress on the conflict with the FARC, the continuing plight of the hostages, and the situation of the demobilized paramilitary groups.

Published

Media and Governance: A Reform Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. Inter-American Dialogue, January 2009.


Joan Caivano and Thayer Hardwick, “Latin American Women in Movement: Changing Politics, Changing Minds,” in
The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers.

PREAL Working Paper #41


Other Democratic Governance

On January 28 the Dialogue hosted a discussion on Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America’s Soul by Michael Reid, the Americas editor for The Economist. Reid led the discussion with commentary by Santiago Levy of the Inter-American Development Bank and Riordan Roett of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies.

EDUCATION POLICY

Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas (PREAL)

Working Group on Standards and Assessments (GTEE)

• On October 20 to 24, the GTEE and the Ministry of Education of Colombia co-organized a roundtable discussion on use of external assessments and in-classroom student assessment practices during Colombia’s National Forum on Assessment. The GTEE presentation focused on the results of a PREAL-Universidad Católica del Uruguay study on the topic. GTEE members also commented on the institutional use of assessments and assisted with teacher training workshops. Approximately 3,000 people attended the event and officials from 25 cities connected via video conference. Education Minister Cecilia María Vélez participated.

• On August 26 to 29, the GTEE and the National Union of Private Education Centers—a PREAL partner in Panama—collaborated with the Ministry of Education of Panama and the Business Circle for Improving Quality of Education to organize a series of four presentations on the results of UNESCO’s Second Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study and their implications for education policy in Panama. Education Minister Salvador Rodríguez participated.

• On July 31, the GTEE hosted a presentation on the U.S. experience with developing and implementing standards in Lima, Peru.

• The GTEE and the World Bank organized two training workshops on national assessments of student
achievement. The workshops, which took place in Panama from January 23 to 31 and in the Dominican Republic from June 9 to 13, targeted members of technical teams from ministries of education and agencies responsible for the assessment of student achievement throughout the region, focusing on different aspects of assessments during each session.

**Working Group on Teacher Professionalization (GTD)**

- The GTD and the Center for National Economics Research—a PREAL partner in Guatemala—organized an event on November 12 in Guatemala City on teacher pay.

- On October 20, the GTD and Action for Basic Education (EDUCA)—a PREAL partner in the Dominican Republic—held a discussion on teacher effectiveness.

- The GTD collaborated with Colombia’s Share Foundation to hold the “First Annual Great Teachers of Latin America Conference” on October 1. The event featured organizations that recognize outstanding teachers throughout the region. Education Minister Cecilia María Vélez White and Leoncio Fernández, the director general of the Santa María Foundation were among the nearly 400 participants from all sectors.

- On September 26, the GTD collaborated on the conference, “Closing the Circle: Beyond Assessment,” which was organized with Support Education Quality, Mexicans First, the graduate studies department of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, and the planning and evaluation unit of the Ministry of Education of Mexico. The conference brought together some 300 teachers, administrators, academics and education professionals from Mexico and Latin America to discuss ways to improve education quality.

- The GTD and the Ricardo Ernesto Maduro Andreu Education Foundation—a PREAL partner in Honduras—collaborated with the Ministry of Education to host a conference on August 27 on the relationship between teacher performance standards and education quality. The event attracted over 200 people including technical staff from the Education Ministry, teachers, parents’ associations, teachers' unions, NGOs, and international organizations. Distinguished guests included María Antonieta de Bográn, National Party of Honduras candidate for vice president and Elia del Cid Andrade and Marco Tulio Mejía, former vice ministers of education.

- In El Salvador, the GTD brought together experts on teacher remuneration in Latin America to discuss case studies in Venezuela and Guatemala and exchange experiences on April 3 and 4. Participants included the minister and vice-minister of education of El Salvador, Darlyn Meza and José Luis Guzmán. The two-day meeting produced a number of important conclusions, including a proposal to tie teacher pay to better policies for evaluating teacher effectiveness.

- On January 23 to 24, the GTD and UNCEP organized a series of workshops on continuous teacher training. Events included a national symposium of high school directors at the Universidad Latina de Panama; a special session of the National Education Commission; and a workshop for members of the press, various business and civil society groups, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Education.

**Other Education Policy**

- On October 29, PREAL and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute organized a conference, “Improving
Even though the literacy rate increased for all racial groups between 1950 and 2000, the gap between African-descendants and whites actually widened. 

Marcelo Paixão, PREAL Special Report

...
“Only 6 percent of U.S. foreign aid to Central America is slated for education assistance, and of this, much is spent on scholarships for university study in the U.S.”

Michael Lisman and Megan Fletcher, The South Florida Sun-Sentinel


Policy Series:

Best Practices Series:

Education Synopsis Series:
- ¿Cómo lograr escuelas efectivas en contextos de pobreza? November 2008

Staff Articles

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, “La educación es la clave,” Encuentro en la Red, April 4; “Education is the key,” The Miami Herald, March 27.


Select Presentations
PREAL staff provided advice and technical assistance to a number of individuals and institutions and participated in approximately 50 conferences sponsored by outside organizations. Particularly noteworthy were a meeting of the...
“Crime is as devastating to the poor as unemployment and discrimination. Latin America leads the world in kidnappings. Its homicide rate is twice the global average.”

Nancy Birdsall, Augusto de la Torre, and Rachel Menezes, Fair Growth

crime is as devastating to the poor as unemployment and discrimination. Latin America leads the world in kidnappings. Its homicide rate is twice the global average.

SOCIAL POLICY

- On May 19, the Dialogue co-hosted with the World Bank a day-long conference, “Not So Distant Neighbors: The Social Impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Economic Downturn.” Panels covered four major topics: (1) the impacts on health and education of past economic slowdowns, and the influence of rising food prices in this slowdown; (2) ways in which institutional and political processes affect social spending; (3) countercyclical social policy options available to limit negative impacts; and (4) how the World Bank could help the region. Panelists included: Augusto de la Torre, Shanta Devarajan, Francisco Ferreira, and Ariel Fiszbein of the World Bank; Rogerio Gomez Hermosillo, former director of Mexico’s Oportunidades; Sanjeev Gupta of the International Monetary Fund; former finance minister of Ecuador Fidel Jaramillo of the Inter-American Development Bank; Nora Lustig, Shapiro Visiting Professor at Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University; and José Antonio Ocampo, former executive secretary of UNECLAC.

- “Rising Food Prices and the Impacts on the Poor” was the focus of a Dialogue event co-sponsored with the Center for Global Development on July 21. Joachim Von Braun, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute and Nora Lustig, Shapiro Visiting Professor at George Washington University led the discussion.

- Representatives Charles Rangel (D-NY) and Wally Herger (R-CA) hosted a Congressional Members Working Group (CMWG) dinner discussion on trade and poverty in Latin America on May 14.

- Sir Clare Roberts, special rapporteur on the rights of Afro-descendants for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Marcelo Paixão of the University of Rio de Janeiro led a congressional dinner discussion on the challenges facing Afro-descendants in Latin America on April 9.

- Former president of Peru Alejandro Toledo led a roundtable discussion at the Dialogue on March 26 on the pressing issues of inequality and poverty in the region. Toledo announced his new initiative to bring a group of former presidents together as bridge-builders between researchers and politicians to forward Latin America’s social agenda.

- On February 12, the Dialogue hosted a discussion on the relationship between taxation and inequality in Latin America. Commentators included Carola Pessino of the Universidad Torcuato di Tella and Luis Servén of the World Bank.
“How NAFTA, Migration, and Government Policy Affect Mexico’s Poor” was the topic of a January 30 discussion, jointly sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute, the George Washington University, and the Dialogue. It featured Gerardo Esquivel of Colegio de Mexico; Luis Felipe Lopez Calva of the United Nations Development Program; John Scott of Mexico's Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas (CIDE); and Nora Lustig, Shapiro Visiting Professor at Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

Published

*Fair Growth: Economic Policies for Latin America’s Poor and Middle-Income Majority*  


Select Presentations

On April 25, Dialogue vice president for social policy Jeffrey Puryear participated in deliberations on education reform alternatives at the second meeting of the Global Center for Development and Democracy, in Lima, Peru. Participants included seven former presidents—Fernando de la Rúa (Argentina), Carlos Mesa (Bolivia), Rodrigo Carazo (Costa Rica), Rodrigo Borja (Ecuador), Vicente Fox (Mexico), Nicolás Ardito (Panama), and Alejandro Toledo (Peru), along with former vice president of Guatemala, Eduardo Stein.

**COUNTRIES AND SUBREGIONS**

**Andean Region**

**Andean Working Group**

The Andean Working Group, which began in 2001 as the Colombia Working Group and expanded to encompass the other Andean countries in 2004, is comprised of 25 to 35 diverse, high-level experts on the Andean region, including influential lawmakers, former officials, diplomats, and opinion leaders. The Dialogue hosts two meetings per year, each lasting two full days. The discussions are wide-ranging, with a focus on national political situations and outlooks, as well as regional and international relations.

- The Dialogue held the fifteenth meeting of the Andean Working Group in Lima, Peru on December 11 and 12. Participants discussed each of the countries in the region—Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela—and the region's cooperation with outside actors like multilateral institutions and the United States. Much of the meeting was focused on gauging the impact of the new Obama administration and the economic crisis on the Andean countries. As part of the meeting, Peru’s Prime Minister Yehude Simon gave a brief presentation and answered questions from participants about the priorities of the Garcia administration and the future of Peruvian politics. Walter Mendoza, head of the Economics Department at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, commented on the financial situation of Peru and other governments in the region.

- The fourteenth meeting of the Andean Working Group took place in Washington on June 2 and 3. There was a session on each of the countries in the region as well as the U.S. presidential campaign and the economic situation. Participants addressed these topics and...
While a new constitution is a powerful political tool, it is unclear to what extent it can resolve underlying problems that often bedevil Andean nations—social exclusion, poverty, corruption, and polarization.

Michael Shifter, Política Exterior (Spain)

relevant recent events, including the March crisis in the Andean region, the death of FARC leader Manuel Marulanda, and the autonomy votes in Bolivia. A few broad regional trends stood out, in particular, the weak party systems, pushes for presidential reelection, ongoing constitutional assemblies, and the rising use of referendums. The coordinator of Barack Obama’s Latin America team, Dan Restrepo, spoke at the welcome dinner and Augusto de la Torre, chief economist for Latin America at the World Bank, led a lunch session on the economic outlook for the region.

Other Andean Region

- “Politics and International Relations in the Andes” was the topic of discussion at a June 3 event that brought together Teodoro Petkoff, editor of Venezuela’s daily Tal Cual, Rodrigo Pardo, director of Colombia’s Cambio newsmagazine, and Adrián Bonilla, director of FLACSO Ecuador, in a discussion on the region’s political challenges.

- On March 27, Secretary-General of the OAS José Miguel Insulza discussed the conflict between Ecuador and Colombia at a Dialogue event. Insulza commented on the challenges faced by the region with regard to the guerrilla war and the role of the OAS in working to help address them.

- At a March 20 event on U.S. drug policy in Latin America, Mark Schneider and Markus Schultz-Krafte of the International Crisis Group presented findings from two recent reports that concluded that U.S. counter-drug policy in Latin America has been counterproductive.

- Enrique Garcia, President of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), spoke at the Miami Group’s third meeting, which convened nearly 30 people for dinner on April 24. (See Corporate Program, page 44, for more on the Miami Group.)

Published


Marifeli Pérez-Stable, in Encuentro en la Red: “Adicción fatal,” September 2; “Un terreno común,” May 1; “Crisis a tres bandas,” April 17; and in The Miami Herald: “Two presidential terms is enough,” August 28; “FARC’s a ‘hot potato,’” May 22; “The surest road to peace,” April 10.

Published

Colombian senator Marta Lucía Ramírez, Joyce Chang of JP Morgan Chase, and former mayor of Medellin Sergio Fajardo
**Congressional Testimony**

**Michael Shifter**, “Crisis in the Andes: The Border Dispute between Colombia and Ecuador, and Implications for the Region.” Testimony before House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on April 10.

**Select Presentations**

**Michael Shifter**

- Led sessions on Andean politics and the Obama administration at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency’s regional conference in Cartagena, Colombia from December 1 through 3, entitled “Current Trends in Latin American Development and Sweden’s Development Cooperation: Where do they Meet?”

- Presented a paper, “Promoting Open Society Values in a Divided Region,” at the Open Society Institute Latin America Program’s annual meeting in Antigua, Guatemala from November 17 through 19.

- Spoke about recent political developments in Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador at Boston University on November 13.

- Led a briefing for congressional staff on “Geopolitics in the Andean Region” on April 7, which focused on developments precipitated by Colombia’s March 1 raid of a FARC camp across the Ecuadoran border. The event was sponsored by the Security for a New Century Program of the Henry L. Stimson Center.

**Colombia**

- At a Dialogue event on December 9, investigative journalist Claudia López of Colombia’s El Tiempo shared findings that indicate a significant penetration by paramilitary groups into Colombia’s democratic institutions over the past decade. Scott Wilson of The Washington Post also provided comments.

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“Are we to believe that no other Colombians and Dominicans from within the ranks of Uribismo and the PLD are capable of stepping up to the plate?”

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, The Miami Herald
**Trade and human rights are likely to put the greatest strain in the relationship between Obama and Uribe.**

Michael Shifter, *El Tiempo*

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- Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Mel Martinez (R-FL) hosted a CMWG dinner on July 22 with Colombian defense minister Juan Manuel Santos.

- Colombian Senator Marta Lucia Ramirez, Governor Antonio Navarro Wolff, and former defense minister Rafael Pardo provided commentary during a June 2 session on recent leadership changes in the FARC secretariat and a possible humanitarian exchange agreement.

- On May 2, the Trade Policy Group convened to discuss possible paths to a vote on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Amber Cottle of the Senate Finance Committee’s Democratic staff, Angela Ellard of the House Ways and Means Committee’s Republican Staff, and Jeffrey Schott of the Peterson Institute for International Economics led the discussion.

- Iván Cepeda Castro of the National Movement for Victims of State Crimes and Jorge Rojas of the Consultancy on Human Rights and Displacement explained how recent events have generated a “healthy social debate” on human rights in Colombia at an April 15 Dialogue roundtable.

- On April 3 and 4, the Dialogue, in cooperation with the Foundation for the Freedom of the Press (FLIP) of Colombia, the Dialogue organized a forum on violence against journalists and impunity in Colombia.

- Colombian Foreign Minister Fernando Araujo led a Dialogue roundtable discussion on February 8. He assured the group that his government is committed to facilitating any handover of hostages held by FARC rebels to Venezuela President Hugo Chavez.

- With the Initiative for Inclusive Security and the Woodrow Wilson Center, on January 24 the Dialogue convened a session with four influential leaders from Colombia—Senate president Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, Senator Marta Lucia Ramírez, Deputy Minister of the Interior María Isabel Nieto, and María Emma Wills of the Historical Memory Commission—to address the main security challenges facing Colombia, including progress on the conflict with the FARC, the continuing plight of the hostages, and the situation of the demobilized paramilitary groups.

- Colombian Senator Piedad Cordoba spoke about the Colombian government’s role in negotiating the release of rebel-held hostages at a January 30 Dialogue session, where she also defended her decision to invite Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez to participate as a mediator in the negotiations.

*Published*

Peter Hakim, “Colombia perdió un poco: no esperaba tantas críticas”, *El Comercio* (Ecuador), March 19; “Gaining Congressional Consideration and Approval of the Colombia-U.S. FTA”, Inter-American Dialogue, January 28.

What is significant about the bilateral talks with Chile is the pragmatic turn in Bolivia’s most sensitive diplomatic relations.


Venezuela

In the run-up to the November local and regional elections in Venezuela, Chacao mayor and Chávez critic Leopoldo López described the country’s electoral disqualification situation and gave a preview of the opposition’s plan for the upcoming elections at a Dialogue session on June 23.

Published


Special Presentations


Bolivia

- On November 7, the Dialogue and the Woodrow Wilson Center co-sponsored a discussion of Unresolved Tensions:

George Gray Molina, Oxford University and Eduardo Gamarra, Florida International University
Perhaps nowhere in Latin America is the combination of robust economic growth and keen political frustration more salient than in Peru.

Michael Shifter, Current History

**Bolivia**

- Bolivia’s Vice Minister of Social Defense Felipe Cáceres and Economy Minister Luis Arce decried the suspension of trade preferences by the United States as a political move, unreflective of Bolivia’s progress in the war on drugs, at a conference held October 24 at the Dialogue.

- Following his declaration as persona non grata by the Bolivian government, U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg spoke of the events leading up to his expulsion and the current state of U.S.-Bolivian relations at a media roundtable held at the Dialogue on September 18.

- In a June 4 event at the Dialogue, the director of the UN Development Programme in Bolivia, George Gray Molina, discussed the upcoming autonomy referendums. Eduardo Gamarra, a professor of political science at Florida International University, provided additional commentary.

- Bolivia’s foreign minister, David Choquehuanca, ambassador for integration and commerce, Pablo Solón, and vice minister for government coordination, Héctor Arce made the case for approving the draft constitution and rejecting the opposition’s autonomy referendums during a discussion at the Dialogue on March 4.

**Published**

*Bolivia Past and Present*, edited by John Crabtree and Laurence Whitehead. The editors were joined by Dialogue member George Gray Molina as they discussed the historical context of social divisions in Bolivia.

**Ecuador**

- Ecuador’s minister of internal and external security, Gustavo Larrea responded to international criticism of the Correa administration at a conference co-sponsored by the Dialogue and the Center for Strategic and International Studies on July 24, where he highlighted the country’s success in deterring coca cultivation.

- During a discussion hosted by the Dialogue and the Center for Strategic and International Studies on March 18, Ecuadoran foreign minister, María Isabel Salvador dismissed accusations by Colombia and others that President Rafael Correa has ties to the FARC rebel group and that the country is harboring rebels behind its border.

**Published**


**Peru**

- On July 31, the Dialogue’s educational reform program hosted a presentation on the U.S. experience with developing and implementing standards. Thirty-five people attended the event, which took place in Lima, Peru.

- Former Peruvian prime minister and World Bank general counsel Roberto Dañino led a discussion on the future of investment in Peru at a July 9 event on “Peru’s Investment Outlook.” Liliana Ruiz, the former head of Peru’s telecommunications regulatory agency also participated.

- At a June 5 event co-sponsored by the Dialogue and the Due Process of Law Foundation, leading Peruvian human
rights advocate Ernesto de la Jara argued that the government is failing to take advantage of the social policy opportunity presented by the current economic boom.

- Peruvian prime minister Jorge Del Castillo spoke at an April 30 Dialogue event on trade relations with the United States, affirming that Peru was on track to implement a free trade agreement with the United States.

- Former president Alejandro Toledo of Peru headlined a Dialogue roundtable on March 26 on the pressing issues of inequality and poverty in the region. Toledo announced his new initiative to convene a group of former presidents as bridge-builders between researchers and politicians to forward Latin America’s social agenda.

**Published**


**Select Presentations**

Michael Shifter

- Spoke on December 10 at the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Lima, Peru on the subject of Latin American policy under President Obama.

- Debated the role of Peru in a globalized world at a meeting entitled, “Perú en el Siglo XXI,” held in Salamanca, Spain and organized by the Instituto Interuniversitario de Iberoamérica at the Universidad de Salamanca on May 8 and 9.

**Brazil**

- The longevity of Brazilian and Mexican regional influence amidst a global economic meltdown was the topic of debate at a Dialogue meeting on October 23. The second of two roundtable discussions on Latin America and the global financial crisis, select participants included Chris Garman, the director for Latin America at the Eurasia Group, Otaviano Canuto, the vice president of countries at the Inter-American Development Bank and Nora Lustig, an economist with George Washington University.

- Potential increases in annual foreign direct investment as a result of new offshore oil finds in Brazil was the subject of a June 24 discussion at the Dialogue featuring Francisco Gros, the former president of national oil company Petrobras.

- On April 4, the Dialogue held its second meeting of the Miami Group on Western Hemisphere Affairs by featuring Brazilian Central Bank president, Henrique Meirelles at a dinner for 35 Miami business leaders and policymakers. (See Corporate Program, page 44, for more on the Miami Group.)

- On March 21, the Dialogue’s educational reform program organized a discussion with Maria Helena Guimaraes, the secretary of education of São Paulo, who reflected on the political obstacles that she has faced in promoting education reform.

**Published**

Michael Shifter, “‘Lula’ debería asumir un liderazgo para encontrarle salidas a la crisis,” *Cambio* (Colombia), March 6.


**Chile**

The Inter-American Dialogue, in partnership with the Organization of American States, Proyectamérica, and the Centro de Estudios Públicos, hosted the third of eight national dialogues on democracy in Reñaca, Chile from July 26 to 28.
While the U.S. is dithering, virtually every other major actor in world affairs is becoming more engaged with Cuba.

Dan Erikson, The New York Times

**Published**


**Argentina**


**Published**


**Caribbean Region**

- On December 5, the Dialogue hosted the U.S. ambassadorial corps from the English-speaking Caribbean for a roundtable on U.S.-Caribbean relations. Ambassadors Roy Austin of Trinidad & Tobago, Brenda LaGrange Johnson of Jamaica, Mary Ourisman of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, and Ned Siegel of the Bahamas discussed their tenure abroad and suggested that security cooperation and disaster preparedness be considered critical areas for cooperation under the next administration.

- Manuel Orozco spoke on remittances to the Dominican Republic at an event organized by La Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo on December 12 in the Dominican Republic.

- The Dialogue hosted a discussion on the Puerto Rican economy on December 17 featuring Miguel Soto-Class, from the Center for the New Economy in Puerto Rico, Juan Lara from the University of Puerto Rico, and Barry Bosworth from the Brookings Institution.

- The Dialogue’s educational reform program (PREAL) and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute co-organized a conference on October 29 on “Improving the Quality of Education in Jamaica: Performance and Accountability.”

- On October 20, PREAL and Action for Basic Education—a partner in the Dominican Republic—held a discussion on teacher effectiveness.

- PREAL and the World Bank co-organized two training workshops on national assessments of student achievement. The second workshop took place in the Dominican Republic from June 9 to 13.

**Published**


**Select Presentations**

Dan Erikson presented his paper, “Beyond Tourism: The Future of the Services Industry in the Caribbean” at a conference on small-state diplomacy sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation from February 19 to 21. He also spoke at the University of the West Indies on the Summit of the Americas process.

**Cuba**

**Working Group on the Cuban Economy**

The Dialogue remained actively engaged in issues related to the Cuban economy
and U.S.–Cuban relations, with the goal of moving Cuba towards a more open political and economic system and facilitating Cuba’s reintegration into the international financial system and hemispheric institutions.

- The Dialogue’s Working Group on the Cuban Economy held a half-day conference on September 19 to discuss the impact of Raúl Castro’s reforms on the Cuban economy. Ted Henken of Baruch College; Daniel Lederman of the World Bank; Raj Desai of the Brookings Institution and Georgetown University; Andy Wolfe of the International Monetary Fund; Yvonne Tsikata of the World Bank; and Julia Sweig of the Council on Foreign Relations spoke on panels throughout the day. The working group convened at a particularly relevant time, with Raúl Castro implementing a series of reforms in Cuba over the summer. The group evaluated the reforms and considered the possibility for further action by both the Cuban government and other international actors.

- Harvard University professor Jorge Domínguez gave a special briefing for the Working Group on the Cuban Economy on January 23. He presented his views on recent developments in Cuba and the potential impact on U.S. policy. Domínguez noted some key decisions that would more clearly posit Raúl as a reformer: professionalization of national accounting procedures, organization of a new party congress, or deregulation in minor market areas.

Other Meetings on Cuba


- With the presidential and congressional elections approaching, the Dialogue co-sponsored with Florida International University a forum on the implications for Cuba policy. Dan Restrepo presented Senator Obama’s views and Adolfo Franco represented Senator McCain. David Reiff of the New York Times Magazine and David Wasserman of the Cook Political Report discussed key congressional races in South Florida at the September 11 event.

- On June 20 the Dialogue hosted a discussion on Cuba’s international relations with Paul Hare, former British ambassador to Cuba; Mario Loyola of the Senate Republican Policy Committee; and Jorge Piñon of the University of Miami.

- The Dialogue co-sponsored with the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy a discussion on U.S.-Cuba property issues on May 20. Erika Moreno and Pat Borchers of the national War college professor Frank Mora

“Never before has Cuba been so pauperized or Cubans there so dispirited.”

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, The Miami Herald
Creighton University presented their USAID-funded report on the subject and Lorenzo Perez of the International Monetary Fund, Mark Falcoff of the American Enterprise Institute, and Armando Linde of ASCE commented.

- On April 18, the Dialogue co-sponsored with Florida International University a discussion on “Making Sense of Post-Fidel Cuba” with William Leogrande of American University, Frank Mora of the National War College, and Phil Peters of Lexington Institute.

- The Dialogue hosted a discussion on March 14 on the human rights situation in Cuba with Caleb McCarry of the U.S. Department of State, José Miguel Vivanco of Human Rights Watch, Eusebio Mujal-Leon of Georgetown University, and Thomas Quigley, formerly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

- On January 23, Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and James Moran (D-VA) and Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) were joined by Jorge Domínguez of Harvard University, Vicki Huddleston of the Brookings Institution, and Caleb McCarry of the U.S. Department of State for a Congressional Members Working Group dinner discussion on U.S.-Cuba policy choices. The dinner was hosted by Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY).

**Published**


**Congressional Testimony**

Marifeli Pérez-Stable, “With Castro Stepping Down, What’s Next for Cuba and the Western Hemisphere.” Testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on March 5.

Select Presentations

Marifeli Pérez-Stable

- Participated in the ongoing Brookings Cuba Project, including in a simulation on February 7 and 8, a policy recommendation meeting in Miami on September 19, the fourth Cuba simulation on October 9, and the fifth Cuban simulation and policy recommendation meeting on December 2 and 3.

- Spoke on a panel at a conference in the Dominican Republic sponsored by Solidaridad de Trabajadores Cubanos to discuss current affairs in Cuba on August 22 and 23.

- Spoke on a panel at the Conference on Cuba: Potential for Liberalization Over the Next Two Years sponsored by the National Intelligence Council and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the U.S. Department of State, on August 15.

- Was a panelist at a State Department discussion on Cuba under Raúl on January 24.

Dan Erikson

- Published in November a book on U.S.-Cuba relations under the Bush administration, The Cuba Wars: Fidel Castro, the United States, and the Next Revolution (Bloomsbury), drawing on frequent visits to Cuba and conversations with government officials and opposition leaders—plus key players in Washington and Florida. Select book launches and presentations include: BBC World News (December 31); Public Radio International’s The World (December 23); NBC News (December 22); Voice of America’s Foro Interamericano (December 12); U.S. Chamber of Commerce (December 3); Brookings Institution (November 25); Miami International Book Fair (November 16); Harvard University (November 14); Inter-American Development Bank (November 13); St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas (November 6).

- Presented a paper he co-authored with Paul Wander, “Raúl Castro and Cuba’s Global Diplomacy,” at the 18th annual conference of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy in Miami, Florida from August 5 to 7.

- Presented his paper, “Beyond Tourism: The Future of the Services Industry in the Caribbean,” at the annual meeting convened by the National Association of Cuban Economists in Havana, Cuba from March 3 to 7.

- Presented “U.S.-Cuba Relations: Still on the Brink?” at the Bildner Conference on Cuba at the City University of New York on March 13.

- Participated in the ninth annual meeting of International Economists on Globalization and the Problems of Growth in Havana, Cuba, from March 3 to 7.

- Participated in a group discussion on U.S.-Cuba policy organized by the Brookings Institution with staffers from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, on February 8.

- Spoke on the constraints of corruption on the reform process in Cuba on February 6 at a day-long conference on Cuba sponsored by Foreign Policy and BCEE at the Brookings Institution. The forum was called “Cuba 2008: Opportunities and Challenges.”

- Spoke on Cuba’s economic and political transition and lessons from other transition experiences on January 15, at an American Enterprise Institute conference, “Economic Engagement with a Free Cuba.”

“Now the island is caught up in the midst of its next revolution: a revolution of expectations in Havana, Miami, and Washington.”

Dan Erikson, The Cuba Wars
Haiti

- On September 26, PREAL organized a launch of *Education in Haiti—The Way Forward*, a PREAL special report.

- With the Center for Strategic and International Studies the Dialogue co-sponsored an event on June 30, “Is Haiti Drifting towards Crisis?” with Jason Steinbaum, staff director for the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Relations Committee; Raymond Joseph, ambassador of Haiti in Washington; Johanna Mendelson Forman, CSIS; and Dan Erikson. The event appeared on C-SPAN.

- The Dialogue organized a visit to Washington from June 24 to 27 for a delegation of private sector leaders from Haiti led by Edouard Baussan, current president of the Maritime Association of Haiti. The delegation met with members of Congress, State Department officials, and officers of the international financial institutions to express their views on the food crisis in Haiti and accompanying political challenges. Peter Hakim and Dan Erikson held a private breakfast discussion with the delegation to give their views on the current political climate in Washington.

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Published


Mexico

- The longevity of Brazilian and Mexican regional influence amidst a global economic meltdown was the topic of debate at a Dialogue meeting on October 23. The second of two roundtable discussions on Latin America and the global financial crisis, select participants included Chris Garman, of the Eurasia Group, Otaviano Canuto, of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Nora Lustig with George Washington University.

- On September 26, the Dialogue’s education reform program (PREAL) collaborated on the conference, “Closing
the Circle: Beyond Assessment,” with Support Education Quality, Mexicans First, the graduate studies department of UNAM, and the Ministry of Education of Mexico.

- The Dialogue, in partnership with Fundación Prensa y Democracia and Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales, convened a closed-door meeting on June 16 and 17 in Mexico City to discuss violence against journalists and impunity in Mexico. (See Press Freedom, page 22, for more detail.)

- “How NAFTA, Migration, and Government Policy Affect Mexico’s Poor” was the topic of a January 30 discussion. (See Social Policy, page 29, for more detail.)

- A Congressional Members Working Group (CMWG) dinner on January 29 explored the merits and pitfalls of the Mérida Initiative. (See Congressional Program, page 8, for more detail.)

- On January 14 Congressional staff members Carl Meacham of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Peter Quilter of the House Committee on Foreign Relations and Jason Steinbaum, of House Western Hemisphere Subcommittee discussed the Mérida Initiative at a Dialogue sponsored session.

Central America

- The Dialogue and the Center for Strategic and International Studies co-sponsored a breakfast session with President Martín Torrijos of Panama on May 7 to discuss Panama’s social and economic challenges and its relations with the United States.

- On July 18, the Dialogue convened the second meeting of the steering committee for its Institutional Capacity-Building initiative for Trade and Integration in Central America. Committee members gathered to discuss a report by former Salvadoran finance minister Manuel Hinds regarding existing trade capacity-building (TCB) institutions in Central America and discussed next steps for the creation of a network of TCB institutions in the region.

- The Dialogue’s Working Group on Teacher Professionalization and the Center for National Economics Research—a PREAL partner in Guatemala—organized an event on November 12 in Guatemala City on teacher pay.

- PREAL partnered with the National Union of Private Education Centers in Panama, the Ministry of Education of Panama, and the Business Circle for Improving Quality of Education to organize four presentations of the results of UNESCO’s Second Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study and their implications for education policy in Panama from August 26 to 29.

- PREAL and the Ricardo Ernesto Maduro Andreu Education Foundation collaborated with the Ministry of Education of Honduras to host a conference on the relationship between teacher performance standards and education quality on August 27.

- In El Salvador, PREAL brought together experts on teacher remuneration in Latin America to discuss case studies in Venezuela and Guatemala and exchange experiences from April 3 to 4.

- On March 12, PREAL and its national partner EDUQUEMOS launched the second education report card on Nicaragua, Betting on Education (Apostar por la educación), in Managua. Over 100 people attended the event, including officials from the Nicaraguan ministry of education, legislative representatives, business leaders, teachers, civil society groups, and members of the Nicaraguan press.

“...The scourge of common crime and the impotence of law enforcement and judicial authorities have led to vigilante justice...”

Guatemala: Ten Years after the Agreements on a Firm and Lasting Peace
• PREAL and the World Bank jointly organized two training workshops on national assessments of student achievement. The first workshop took place in Panama from January 23 to 31.

• On January 23 to 24, PREAL and the National Union of Private Education Centers co-organized a series of workshops on continuous teacher training in Panama.

Published


Michael Lisman with Megan Fletcher, “Bush Not Making the Grade on Education Pledge to Central America,” The South Florida Sun-Sentinel, March 22.

Select Presentations
Manuel Orozco
• Presented “Tendencias Actuales en las Transferencias hacia Guatemala y su Intersección con las Finanzas,” at a conference organized by the International Organization for Migration, in Guatemala on October 15.

• Presented a paper, “Migración y Remesas en Honduras: Sinopsis de los resultados de la última encuesta sobre remesas y migración realizada en Junio 2008 por Borges & Asociados,” at a survey release event in Honduras on October 17.

Ana Palacio, former foreign minister of Spain

• Presented a report, “Centroamérica: remesas, economía y las finanzas con aproximación al caso Nicaragüense,” at Democracia, Cohesión Social E Integración Regional, part of the Serie de Encuentros Centroamericanos in Managua, Nicaragua on January 20.

CORPORATE PROGRAM
The Dialogue welcomed companies such as Liberty Mutual, Laureate Education, National Commercial Bank Jamaica, Apple Computer, Novartis, Avon and others into its Corporate Circle in 2008.

In May, more than two dozen Corporate Circle members contributed significantly to the Dialogue’s 25th anniversary reception, hosted by Ambassador Felipe Ortíz de Zevallos of Peru at his residence. (For a list of corporate sponsors see page 52.)

The Corporate Circle’s Latin America Advisor newsletters, which published throughout the year nearly 1,000 commentaries on questions posed by subscribing business leaders, added new executives to their Advisory Boards. Shelly Shetty, senior director for Latin America ratings at Fitch Inc, and Jason Hafemeister, former USTR official and vice president
of Allen F. Johnson & Associates, joined the Board of the daily *Latin America Advisor*. Garrett Soden, CFO of PetroFalcon Corporation and attorneys Jorge Kamine of Skadden Arps and Mark Thumber of Andrews Kurth joined the weekly *Energy Advisor* Board. Richard Child, former president of MasterCard Latin America and now executive chairman of MPOWER Labs & Rêv Worldwide, and Franco Moccia, a member of the Stanford Financial Group Global Advisory Board, joined the biweekly *Financial Services Advisor* Board.


Corporate Circle members met with senior Dialogue staff in private briefings throughout the year, and numerous Circle members spoke at Dialogue events. This year the Dialogue hosted sessions featuring chief executives such as Francisco Gros, former president of Brazilian national oil company Petrobras, Enrique Goñi, founder and CEO of Spanish bank Caja Navarra, Ana Palacio, former foreign minister of Spain and secretary general of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, and Roberto Dañino, former prime minister of Peru and now executive director of Hochschild Mining, among others (see the Trade and Economics section for a full listing).

*“Petrobras no longer sees itself as an oil company but as an energy conglomerate.”*

-Alfred Szwarc, CAF Conference Report 2008
Latin America is the least successful among emerging markets in sustaining long-term growth.

Anoop Singh, CAF Conference Report 2008

The Miami Group

The Dialogue continued its Miami Group on Western Hemisphere Affairs, a forum that assembles the city’s corporate and financial leadership to exchange ideas with U.S. and Latin American policymakers on the most important issues affecting business and trade in the Americas.

- On April 4, the Dialogue held its second meeting of the Miami Group on Western Hemisphere Affairs, which featured Brazilian Central Bank president, Henrique Meirelles at a dinner for 35 Miami businessmen and policymakers. The event was sponsored by the law firm Diaz Reus & Targ.

- Enrique García, president of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), spoke at the Miami Group’s third meeting, which convened nearly 30 people for dinner on April 24.

- The Miami Group’s fourth dinner was hosted by Beatrice Rangel, CEO of AMLA Consulting, and featured Juan Manuel Santos, defense minister of Colombia. It took place on July 29, less than a week after the rescue of former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt and fourteen other victims, including three U.S. defense department contract workers and eleven members of the Colombian security forces.

- On October 23, the fifth meeting of the Miami Group on Western Hemisphere Affairs featured a discussion led by the Dialogue’s executive team on how U.S. policy will and should change toward Latin America after the U.S. presidential election.
PUBLICATIONS

Inter-American Dialogue Reports and Books

**Media and Governance: A Reform Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.** Inter-American Dialogue, January 2009.


**Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America: Third Edition**

**Two Perspectives on Ecuador: Rafael Correa’s Political Project.**

**A Watershed Moment in Venezuela.**

**Bolivia’s Long and Winding Road.**


PREAL publications

Published

**Reports, Working Papers and Briefs**

**Education in Haiti—The Way Forward, a PREAL special report by Laurence Wolff.** September 2008.

**Desarrollo de la Capacidad Institucional y de Gestión de los Ministerios de Educación en Centroamérica y República Dominicana.** November 2008.

**Como hicieron los mejores sistemas educativos con mejor desempeño del mundo para alcanzar sus objetivos, by Michael Barber and Mona Mourshead.** July 2008.


**A Dialética do Bom Aluno: relações raciais e o sistema educacional brasileiro, a PREAL special report by Marcelo Paxhão.** February 2008.

**Apostar por la educación: Un informe de progreso educativo en Nicaragua by PREAL and EDUQUEMOS.** January 2008.

**Calidad de la educación y crecimiento económico, by Eric Hanushek and Ludger Woßmann.** January 2008.

Staff Publications

perdieron un poco: no esperaba tantas críticas,” in El Comercio (Ecuador), March 19; “Gaining Congressional Consideration and Approval of the Colombia-U.S. FTA,” January 28; “Latin America: The Next U.S. President's Agenda,” in Great Decisions, January 7.


Megan Fletcher and Michael Lisman, “Making the grade on education pledge to Central America,” South Florida Sun-Sentinel, March 22.


## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>1,422,142</td>
<td>1,225,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>445,215</td>
<td>53,300</td>
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<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>646,335</td>
<td>1,764,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>4,351,367</td>
<td>6,704,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>33,965</td>
<td>31,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>35,647</td>
<td>45,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>19,605</td>
<td>19,605</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL ASSETS** | **6,954,277** | **9,844,192**

### Liabilities:

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<th>Item</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>52,475</td>
<td>20,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>82,148</td>
<td>85,408</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refundable advances</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3,610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>363,151</td>
<td>843,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred rent</td>
<td>97,550</td>
<td>77,152</td>
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**Total Liabilities** | **595,324** | **1,029,948**

### Net Assets:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>157,363</td>
<td>295,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>1,655,470</td>
<td>2,214,224</td>
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**Endowment funds:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board-designated funds</td>
<td>201,736</td>
<td>1,959,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>4,344,384</td>
<td>4,344,384</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets** | **6,358,952** | **8,814,244**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | **6,954,277** | **9,844,192**

## Statement of Activities 2008

### Revenue

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>445,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>2,257,845</td>
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<tr>
<td>International organizations</td>
<td>723,332</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborating institutions</td>
<td>197,766</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual contributions</td>
<td>149,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous program revenue</td>
<td>7,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest/dividends</td>
<td>286,361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>(1,922,446)</td>
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**TOTAL REVENUE** | **2,644,392**

### Expenses

**Program Services:**

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>U.S. policy</td>
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<td>Social policy</td>
<td>2,612,620</td>
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<td>Democratic governance</td>
<td>374,624</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sol M. Linowitz Forum</td>
<td>127,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other outreach and communications</td>
<td>79,038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate programs</td>
<td>233,870</td>
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**Support Services:**

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>86,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>18,062</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** | **5,099,684**
FUNDING SOURCES 2008

Foundations

Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Dade Community Foundation
Ford Foundation
GE Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Henry Luce Foundation
Open Society Institute
Vollmer Foundation
Tinker Foundation

Governments

Canadian International Development Agency
Embassy of Chile
Embassy of Colombia
Embassy of Mexico
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Swedish International Development Agency
U.S. Agency for International Development

Other Organizations and Corporations

Andean Development Corporation
Multisector Investment Bank (BMI)
Development Alternatives Inc
Global Development Network
Inter-American Foundation
International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement
International Centre for Migration Policy Development
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Organization for Migration
Liberty Mutual
Louis Berger Group
Secretaria General Iberoamericana
United Nations Democracy Fund
Funding Sources (continued)

Corporate Circle Members

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Dialogue activities are directed to generating new policy ideas and practical proposals for action, and getting these ideas and proposals to government and private decision makers. The Dialogue also offers diverse Latin American and Caribbean voices access to U.S. policy debates and discussions. Based in Washington, the Dialogue conducts its work throughout the hemisphere. A majority of our Board of Directors are from Latin American and Caribbean nations, as are more than half of the Dialogue’s members and participants in our other leadership networks and task forces.

Since 1982—through successive Republican and Democratic administrations and many changes of leadership elsewhere in the hemisphere—the Dialogue has helped shape the agenda of issues and choices in inter-American relations.