

## **About the IAD Taskforce on Politics and Mediation in Nicaragua**

The creation of this taskforce is part of an initiative that the Dialogue crafted in July 2018 with the purpose to promote positive changes for democratic transition in Nicaragua.

At the Dialogue, we have worked in various capacities to offer analysis of the situation, bringing speakers and activists to discuss solutions to the political crisis, supporting the Working Group at the Organization of American States, and consulting with political leaders in the United States and other countries about Nicaraguan politics.

The Commission is composed of 15 national and international members working to promote political reforms in Nicaragua. I am including copies of the reports from previous meetings.

The specific objective of the Commission is to address four key issues affecting Nicaragua: political reforms and human rights, economic deterioration, international mediation efforts, and emigration.

### **Summary of issues addressed at Nicaraguan Task Force meetings**

#### **Nicaraguan Taskforce meetings – March 27-29, 2019**

##### **Agenda topics addressed:**

- Establishing bases for a political transition
- Pathways to mediation
- Partnerships for a transition toward political and economic recovery of Nicaragua
- Synthesis of efforts and following steps
- Meeting between members of the Taskforce and OAS working group
- Session with Diaspora

#### **Nicaraguan Taskforce meetings – May 13-15, 2019**

##### **Agenda topics addressed:**

- Failed negotiations and alternative routes for a transition: public opinion survey results
- The human rights and economic situation
- Meeting with the OAS working group
- Meeting with Diaspora groups
- Strategic communication workshop

#### **Nicaraguan Taskforce meetings – May 30-31, 2019**

##### **Agenda topics addressed:**

- Opinion survey results in Nicaragua and considerations on negotiation alternatives
- Confidence building and international alliances

- Conversation with the Secretary General of OAS, Luis Almagro
- Meeting with the OAS working group
- Strategic communication workshop
- Public Event

### **Nicaraguan Taskforce meetings – May 30-31, 2019**

- Understanding the political situation after July 19 and the end of the dialogue;
- Ways to guarantee a safe return to exiles,
- Consensus building on key election reform issues,
- Options and strategy on the new OAS commission on Nicaragua

<b>Taskforce Members</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Other Affiliation</b>
<b>Nicaraguan Taskforce Participants</b>		
Violeta Granera, FAD	Political Party - CS	UNAB
Michael Healy, UPANIC (AC)	Private sector	Civic Alliance
Felix Maradiaga, IEEP (CS)	CS	UNAB
Juan Sebastián Chamorro, FUNIDES (?)	CS	Civic Alliance
Mario Arana, AMCHAM, (AC)	Private sector	Civic Alliance
Doña Chica Ramírez, Consejo Nacional en Defensa de Nuestra Tierra Lago y Soberanía (AC), Articulación de Movimientos Sociales	Peasant movement	Civic Alliance
Nemesio Mejia/Medardo Mairena, Movimiento Campesino, Consejo Nacional	Peasant movement	Civic Alliance
Lester Alemán/Douglas Castro, Coalición Universitaria y de Sociedad Civil	Student movement	Civic Alliance
Tanya Amador/Rosalía Miller, Nicaraguan Freedom Coalition (diaspora group representing 50 organizations)	Diaspora	Diaspora
Mónica López, activist, Articulación	CS	UNAB
Carlos Fernando Chamorro, Confidencial	CS	Independent
Jose Adan Aguerri	Private sector	COSEP
Javier Carmona, Movimiento Campesino, Consejo Nacional	Peasant movement	Civic Alliance
<b>International Taskforce Participants</b>		
Laura Chinchilla, former president of Costa Rica	Independent	
Carlos Trujillo, Ambassador of the U.S. to the OAS	OAS	USA government
Paula Maria Bertol, Ambassador of Argentina to the OAS	OAS	Argentinean government
Jennifer Loten, Ambassador of Canada to the OAS	OAS	Canadian government
Eduardo Stein (Former Vice President of Guatemala)	UNHCR Representative on Migration)	Independent
Hernán Salinas Burgos, Ambassador of Chile, OAS	OAS	Chilean government
Montserrat Solano, Ambassador of Costa Rica, OAS	OAS	Costa Rican govt.

## Inter-American Dialogue Events on Nicaragua Since April 2018

- [Attacks on Freedom of the Press and Civil Society in Nicaragua](#), Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- [Nicaragua Crisis: New Paths Forward?](#), Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- [Violence and the Democratic Transition in Nicaragua](#), Jun 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- [Protests in Nicaragua: What's Next?](#) May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Private Meetings with Members of the OAS Working Group and Other Experts

1. **"Political Reforms in Nicaragua: Recommendations for the OAS Working Group"**, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Experts Participating: Maria Claudia Pulido, Secretaria Ejecutiva Adjunta para el Monitoreo, Promoción y Cooperación Técnica en Derechos Humanos de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. Roberto Cajina, experto en seguridad y derechos ciudadanos, y miembro de la junta directiva de RESDAL; Emb. Jaime Aparicio, abogado y analista político en Aparicio, ARP & Assoc; Cristóbal Fernández, Section Chief, Electoral Technical Cooperation, Organization of American States. Mario Arana, economista senior, FUNIDES. Maria Stephan, director, non-violent action, US Institute of Peace.
2. **"Opportunities for Mediation in Nicaragua"**, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Experts Participating: Violeta Granera, head of Frente Amplio para la Democracia. Jose B. Pallais, prominent and respected analyst, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations of Nicaragua. Dr. Juan Sebastian Chamorro, executive director of FUNIDES, and leader of the Civic Alliance. Luis Rivas, CEO Promerica Bank, Nicaragua. Active member of the private sector. Prabha Sankaranarayan, Mediators Beyond Borders.

## Articles and Analysis on the Nicaraguan Political Crisis:

Manuel Orozco, [Ausencia de obispos evidencia la falta de condiciones en las negociaciones](#), Esta Semana, Marzo 10, 2019

Manuel Orozco, ["Nicaragua 2019: ¿Tiempo de Cambios?"](#) Confidencial, January 14, 2019.

Manuel Orozco, ["Remittances, Migration and Development in Nicaragua,"](#) Inter-American Dialogue, November 9, 2018.

Manuel Orozco, [Statement](#) for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, House Foreign Affairs Committee, on "The Evolving Human Rights Crisis in Nicaragua," October 27, 2018.

Manuel Orozco y Beryl Seiler, ["Democracia y justicia: Pasos para el cambio político,"](#) Confidencial, August 20, 2018.

Manuel Orozco, ["Bring the Rule of Law to Nicaragua,"](#) New York Times, May 3, 2018.

Manuel Orozco, ["El COSEP también es un actor político,"](#) Confidencial, September 12, 2016.

Ben Raderstorf y Bruno Binetti, "Nicaragua's Democracy Is Falling Apart," Los Angeles Times, April 27, 2018.

Michael Shifter, Nicaragua Is Turning Into a Real-Life 'House of Cards,' Foreign Policy, September 5, 2016.

“Is Nicaragua’s Ortega ‘Intent on Re-creating’ a Dictatorship?” Latin America Advisor, Inter-American Dialogue, November 15, 2011.

### **About the Inter-American Dialogue and its Work on Nicaragua**

The Inter-American Dialogue is a think tank headquartered in the United States and Guatemala that promotes the exchange of ideas and dialogue about some of the most important issues facing the hemisphere.

The Dialogue brings together leaders from the public and private sector to address problems and opportunities, building a regional agenda for democratic governance, social equity, and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The Dialogue, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is funded by contributions from individuals, corporations, governments and foundations that help support its programs and provide essential operating revenue. One of the pillars of the Dialogue is its select membership of more than 100 distinguished citizens from the United States, Canada, and 21 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Members actively participate in our work, informing and advancing our vigorous debate. As the face of the organization, they confer credibility on our policy outputs and ensure that they reflect a wide-range of opinions across the ideological spectrum. Seventeen Dialogue members served as presidents of their countries, over three dozen have served at the cabinet level, and seventeen have held seats in national legislatures. Moreover, the Dialogue’s Board of Directors is composed of distinguished public and private sector leaders from the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Dialogue has five programs that address critical areas in the Western Hemisphere: the Latin America and the World Program; the Education Program; the Energy, Climate Change and Extractive Industries Program; the Peter D. Bell Rule of Law Program; and the Migration, Remittances and Development Program.

The Migration, Remittances and Development Program, which also covers the Dialogue’s work on Central America, focuses on research, dialogue and project implementation related to opportunities that migration and remittances generate for development in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The program also focuses on analysis of political developments in the region, including the Nicaraguan political crisis.