Latin America Virtual Think Tank Summit Report 2020

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Latin America Virtual Think Tank Summit Report 2020

Abstract
The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania and Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) hosted the 2020 Latin America Virtual Think Tank Summit on Friday, September 18, 2020. This Summit provided the opportunity for the regional think tank community to convene and discuss key issues facing the region, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, speakers and panelists discussed recommendations to recover from the pandemic and strengthen multilateral cooperation and collaboration between states and the wider think tank community.

Keywords
Think Tank, Civil Society, Fundação Getulio Vargas, NGO, Latin America, COVID Pandemic, Multilateral Cooperation, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Disciplines
International Relations | Public Policy

Comments
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Introduction

The 2020 Virtual Latin America Think Tank Summit was hosted by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) and Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) on Friday, September 18, 2020. In this troubling time, it is crucial to continue our collaborative efforts to share relevant policy advice and recommendations to save lives and strengthen the think tanks’ role in Latin America. This Summit provided the opportunity for the regional think tank community to convene and discuss key issues facing the region, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers and panelists discussed key recommendations for the region to recover from the pandemic and strengthen multilateral cooperation and collaboration, not merely between states but within the think tank community. Below is a statistical breakdown of the participants who attended the Summit, followed by the Latin America Think Tank Summit Report.

A Special Thanks To Our Partners

TTCSP would like to say a special thanks to FGV for hosting the Latin America Summit on its Zoom platform and for providing simultaneous translation for the meeting. We would also like to thank CARI and FGV for translating the Global Think Tank Town Hall Working Report into Spanish. The TTCSP relies on its partners in every region of the world to help plan and implement the Regional Summits.

TTCSP recognizes the following FGV staff members:

Marlos Lima (Director for International Affairs), Klaus Alexander de Freitas Stier (International Manager), Luciana Albuquerque (Operation Coordinator), Melissa Solórzano (Academic Analyst), and Fernanda Leite (Senior Designer).

Access Link To Recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDpU_oHr5XI
**Statistical Breakdown of Participants**

**Total Number of LATTs Participants**: 248

**Latin American Countries Represented**: 12

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**International, Non-Latin American Countries Represented**: 16

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<td>Australia</td>
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**Gender Balance**: 50% Female Panelists | 50% Male Panelists
### Institutions Registered & Represented:

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<th><strong>Fundación Internacional Bases</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Foro Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras</strong></th>
<th><strong>Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)</strong></th>
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<td>David Hume Institute</td>
<td>Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLEAR LAC)</td>
<td>CEPE</td>
<td>Climate Policy Initiative</td>
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<td>Atlantic Council</td>
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<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Dublin City University</td>
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<td>Fundación Fernando Henríquez Cardoso</td>
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<td>Instituto Líderes del Amanecer (Leaders of Tomorrow Institute)</td>
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<td>Centro de Iniciativas Democráticas</td>
<td>ECI Gestión para el Desarrollo Humano</td>
<td>Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs Latin America</td>
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**TTCSP**
New York City College, City University of New York
University in Pennsylvania
Event Summary & Key Takeaways

Opening Session

James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States

Mirta Roses Periago, World Health Organization Special Envoy on COVID-19 for Latin America and the Caribbean, Argentina

There has been incredible historic progress with a huge jump in sociopolitical integration in the region. However, since 2015, Latin America has slipped back: structural changes required have been forgotten or delayed. Mirta Roses Periago raises the relevant policy questions: Health or the economy? Lockdown or open? Old versus young? National versus immigrant? Hospital or intensive care versus primary care?

She notes that a vaccine is not the silver bullet. Viruses and emerging diseases will become more prevalent. A healthy workforce is more productive, innovative, and good for sustainable economic growth. The region needs to increase investments for health and education. COVID-19 has also revealed collective failure to take pandemic preparedness and responsive measures seriously, and has raised the issue of the fragility of highly interconnected economies and social systems, the fragility of trust from exacerbated tensions between countries., and exploited inequalities: there is no health security without social security.

Session I: The Social, Economic, Policy and Political Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Latin America

Chair: Marlos Lima, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), Brazil

Marlos Lima introduced five experts on the social, economic, and political impacts of COVID-19 in Latin America from different and important countries of the region. He commented that what started out as a bad year ended up catastrophic, with 50 million people predicted to be living under the line of poverty in a couple of years. The situation in Brazil is especially difficult: 230 million dollars have been dedicated towards emergency assistance to citizens, and there are many concerns as to how people will fare after the end of the emergency funds. He raises the question of how to manage a huge tax deficit and a deep recession that will happen in a few years.
**Luis Fernando Mejía, Fedesarrollo, Colombia**

Before the pandemic, Colombian economy was projected to grow about 3.5%. Now, Colombia has been affected by the biggest recession in history with a decrease of 15.7% in the second half of the year. Economists are concerned about future economic development and employment growth.

Luis Fernando Mejía focuses especially on the economic impact of COVID-19, raising the point that Colombia already had a structural problem in the labor market with unemployment at about 10% before the pandemic hit. 25% of jobs in the country have been cut, with the rate of unemployment now over 20% due to COVID-19. Consumer trust has also deteriorated in recent months. Youth unemployment rate was already at 16%; with the crisis, it has reached 30%. The 27% poverty rate of last year could get to 38% with effects of the pandemic, meaning an additional 3 million people who could reach the conditions of poverty. This points to the importance of countercyclical policies that increase growth in the short term, as well as structural reforms that solve long-standing weaknesses in product and labor markets.

**Julia Pomares, CIPPEC, Argentina**

In these moments, Julia Pomares says that we appreciate the strength of the Latin American think tank community. In Argentina, there are currently 600,000 cases, with the situation growing more complex by the day. There is no decrease in the cases, especially in the rural areas of Argentina. Mandatory quarantine declared by the government has affected the entire country, and people with less resources will face the brunt of the economic impacts. Some issues are very similar to those of Colombia, especially the impact on women.

She says that we predicted that 2020 would be a difficult year for Latin America and Argentina specifically in economic terms, but we never imagined that economic impacts would be so big: The GDP has decreased by 10% and may reach 12%.

➢ We are already 2 years in recession with no increase in employment.
➢ Number of people in poverty increased by 40%, children may increase by 60%.

There will not be a new normal: how can we predict things? Especially in the case of Argentina which has been in economic decline for decades. The future will hold many more challenges and must be made for everyone.

**Pia Mundaca, Espacio Público, Chile**
Pia Mundaca explains that it will be difficult to plan the aftermath of the crisis but we must start prepping scenarios. We must think and do differently, putting special emphasis on sustainability.

She identifies three large challenges:

➢ Situation of women: service, domestic services, and education are sectors that are mainly made up of women. It will be difficult to get back to the original pace in these sectors. Women suffering extreme setbacks in the labor force, with a ten-year recession predicted. We must acknowledge that our region needs to improve labor for women.

➢ New models of development: design models that do not compete among themselves.

➢ In Chile, we need to think about challenges facing representative democracy. There is an agreement to start a popular vote for a new constitution, but this popular vote was moved to October 25 and now it is a great challenge. How are we going to ensure democratic security?

Verónica Ortiz, COMEXI, México

COVID-19 affects all social and economic matters in México. The day before the Summit, over 680,000 documented cases of COVID-19; furthermore, México is in seventh place in the rank of countries with the most contamination. There is under-notification of cases because of very few tests; also under-notification of deaths: instead of 72,000, there are probably 145,000 deaths which would put us in second place of the greatest number of deaths. Additionally, the pandemic hit México when it was already facing slow economic growth. However, there are high hopes for the North American free trade agreement.

Key issue areas that Verónica Ortiz highlighted:

➢ Overall decrease in foreign investment, which is hard for Mexico.

➢ Unemployment is a main concern: 1.2 million jobs in Mexico, almost 60%.

➢ Ended 2019 with 35,000 homicides, and this has risen dramatically in 2020.

➢ No fiscal program to support unemployment.

➢ Direct payments but no program of support to unemployment, creating social polarization.

➢ Hazard to democracy and civil society, with a large election coming up soon: 21,000 public positions will be reactivated.

Pablo Hurtado, ASIES, Guatemala

Latin American countries face many of the same issues, and think tanks have spent the last 7-10 years trying to promote research and search for policy answers. Large regional issues include inequality and unemployment.

In small economics like in Central America, we see these issues even more clearly:
➢ Informal economies are now over 70% in Guatemala.
➢ Central American countries are centered on the informal economy and employment.
➢ COVID-19 has caused even more of a decrease in consumption, leaving the service sector even more depleted.
➢ Public goods like transportation and education still are not back yet.

Session II: Relevant Recommendations and Action Plans to Save Lives and Livelihoods in Latin America

Chair: María Clara Escobar, Instituto de Ciencia Política Hernán Echavarría Olózaga (ICP), Colombia

There have been some innovative strategies, both public and private, to give new jobs to workers. As think tanks, our main challenge is to create interactive models with funding and socialization: need to find new ways to build these jobs for the private sector and an alliance with the public sector of society. These two should be brought together to offer new ways to improve communities globally.

We also need to discuss the importance of evidence-based analysis and academic information. The following panelists are invited to comment on the topic of creating quick and resilient responses to the COVID-19 crisis, and how think tanks should adapt to the uncertainty of the future.

Margarita de Sanfeliu, Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES), El Salvador

Margarita de Sanfeliu noted that we should recognize that public policy can unequally impact different groups. Latin America is the most unequal region, and the regional response to the pandemic has shown that cultural gaps have become even greater. Inequality is pervasive for those who have less access to technological means, less education, younger parts of the population, and—above all—women. As such, we need to address these disparities with a specific focus on gender. We cannot move on in a neutral manner regarding gender, and must use data to ensure that no one is left behind. Not all countries are lucky enough to have access to regular data, but those who do have access to it are not using it. It is imperative to generate data for vulnerable groups, especially for those countries that do not have access to it.

Further, de Sanfeliu argued that we must promote the regeneration of the region, and in doing so, identify sociopolitical and economic aspects that will affect the results of these regenerative efforts. Think tanks can also play a role in demanding accountability of state governments, ensuring that funds are spent well; resources are not being deviated; and local realities are being closely monitored. Finally, moving forward requires significant effort and think tanks can catalyze the articulation of strength nationally, regionally and globally.
Klaus Stier, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)

Klaus Stier highlighted the challenges and solutions for vulnerable populations due to COVID-19, which includes 1) children and youth, 2) elders, 3) women in vulnerable situations, 4) immigrants and 5) ethnic and racial minorities. Latin America is moving towards a new wave of inequality, and if it were its own continent, it would have the greatest number of COVID-related deaths with the exception of Uruguay and Paraguay. Not only is Latin America among the most impacted regions, but the effects of the pandemic have lasted longer in the region. COVID-19 has thus had detrimental impacts on family income and domestic violence—as complaints of domestic violence have increased dramatically since April—among other key issue areas.

Family income:

➢ After an increase in growth after 5 years, the region is undergoing its worst crisis.
➢ The impact on formal and informal markets is most concerning.
➢ Brazil’s depreciation of currency is resulting in producers of basic foods such as rice beginning to export these foods.
➢ The negative consequences of COVID-19 on schools has exacerbated this, as about 160 million children in the region have been affected and for many children, schools guarantee physical integrity and the feeding of children.

Regarding domestic violence, Stier notes that think tanks must propose public policy to assist domestic violence victims.

Maria Aceña, Centro de Investigaciones Económicas Nacionales (Guatemala)

The region has been affected in terms of expected economic growth: the region is predicted to lose $\frac{1}{3}$ of its employment and 70% of the informal economy. Technological advancement in state capacity is imperative to respond to issues like COVID-19: many people have to physically go to government facilities to interact with the government, whereas in areas such as the European Union, one can conduct these interactions entirely online. While countries like Guatemala have invested billions of dollars in social systems, they are not being executed; however, governments must invest in digital transformation to better serve citizens. Many countries have been innovative, but the low level of technological innovation in Latin American and the Caribbean is notable. Think tanks can accelerate change and act as a catalyst for transformation.

Pablo Ava, Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI), Argentina

It is important to create networks of social contingency so that local, regional and global cooperation is strengthened. Some countries in the regions thoroughly followed World Health
Organization protocols but there was no coordination among the countries, reflecting a large crisis in multilateralism. As such, Pablo Ava proposed that states create a committee for regional crisis.

Additionally, scientific work operates in too much isolation within public policy: it is important to generate and promote a platform to share the advances of different groups working at local levels to investigate and research COVID-19. As such, greater cooperation in the scientific realm is also needed.

Finally, it is recommended that states generate greater interest in multilateral regional bodies to better financially support vulnerable social sectors. Think tanks play an important role in supporting governments in efforts to increase cooperation.

Session III: Assessment and Call to Action

Chair: Milena Lazarevic, European Policy Centre (CEP), Serbia

The last session is intended to provide concrete ideas and recommendations, moving ideas into action. Think tanks can play a major role in helping governments and promote international cooperation not only within Latin America but around the world.

Milena Lazarevic recommended out-of-the-box thinking by moving across sectors and engaging partnerships; combining human resources, budgets, and research methods between institutions will make think tanks stronger and more relevant. Think tanks must also strive to improve their communications: for example, creating podcasts using down-to-Earth language and short videos that share key recommendations.

Ana Patricia Muñoz, Grupo Faro, Ecuador

Several key factors are important in moving forward during this crisis: trust, partnership and knowledge are imperative in collaborating across sectors; trust will only happen if we continue working and acting with specific independent institutions that can recommend actionable steps for the future. Knowledge that serves communities is important so that we can democratize and create transparency, accountability and awareness. Furthermore, Ana Patricia Muñoz recommends drawing upon how the private sector intervened and coordinated with the public sector to work cooperatively. Public policies are in the heart of the work think tanks do, but the think tank community can also work with the private sector to see how things are done and give feedback on public policies.

Julia Dias Leite, Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI), Brazil

Julia Dias Leite proposed the following key recommendations:
➢ Engage the private sector is not only important as a mechanism to find donors but to find policy solutions by including them in discussions.
➢ Prioritize high-impact projects.
➢ Utilize Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to formulate policy recommendations.
➢ Build international alliances.

Andrés Lalanne, Universidad CLAEH, Uruguay

Andrés Lalanne discussed the importance of providing a prominent position to science within policy. Scientists are, naturally, the most connected to the scientific world and are thus able to come together and address situations of emergency. He also notes that local decisions are crucial in shaping the regional impacts of a crisis; for example, local decisions whether, and when, to reopen healthcare systems. He made a call for scientific best practices to become public assets and shared around the world, not only within specific regions. Governments must protect these common assets to ensure that they can be equitably distributed to all sectors of society.

Gustavo Martínez, Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI), Argentina

Actions taken must be specific to the region, and collaboration between civil society, states and the World Health Organization is imperative to move forward beyond COVID-19. Other key proposals made by Gustavo Martínez include formulating effective health practices in the public and private sector, as improvements to health public policies at a regional level are imperative in supporting the success of a vaccine launch for COVID-19. Additionally, increasing the presence of scientific information in people’s daily lives is key, and digitizing science and disseminating scientific advancements to society are important steps in doing so.

Closing Remarks

Ambassador José Octavio Bordón, Former Ambassador of Argentina, Argentina

José Octavio Bordón discussed the current existence of deep gaps and polarization, as well as tragic pessimism regarding the negative consequences of globalization such as greater inequity and damage done to the environment. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated and deepened existing conflicts, but it has also provided an important opportunity to face the challenges of poverty, inequality and the protection of Earth. We are leaving the moment not of the first period of globalization in history, but of a unique kind of globalization that requires greater multilateralism. With a current deficit of regional multilateralism, we need organizations to face challenges like the financial system, new agencies and organizations that can face the pandemic, and we need global
organizations that do not lose regional features. We have extremely important work here to be done as think tanks to be a model of how to govern with democracy and govern the world during this moment of globalization.

James G. McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States

James G. McGann closed the Summit by noting that convening think tank executives and scholars at conferences such as these not only help the think tank community speak truth to power, but be truthful to the public and help prepare for the difficult times ahead. We have been called to action, and coming together and creating partnerships must continue so that think tanks are not alone during this crisis and can work together to solve the challenges that we face. We must continue to realize and effectively communicate the importance of innovations: if think tanks are not “think and do tanks,” they will not survive during periods of crisis such as this one. Ultimately, think tanks have an obligation to help governments prepare for what lies ahead during such momentous periods of turbulence.

A special thank you to those who participated on our Latin America Planning Committee:

La Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES), Guatemala
Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI), Argentina
Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), Argentina
Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI), Brazil
El Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH), Uruguay
La Fundación para la Educación Superior y el Desarrollo (Fedesarrollo), Colombia
Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), Brazil
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Brasil, Brazil
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung en Colombia (FESCOL), Colombia
Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE), Dominican Republic
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Mexico
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Panamá, Panamá
Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay

A special thank you to our panelists:

Opening Session

James McGann, Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.

Mirta Roses Periago, WHO Special Envoy on COVID-19 for LAC, Argentina

Mirta Roses Periago is an Argentine epidemiologist who served as Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) from 2003 until 2013. Periago received a medical degree in 1969 from Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, and additional qualifications in tropical medicine, public health, and epidemiology at other institutions in Argentina. Her graduate studies also include a diploma in public health (1974) and a specialization in epidemiology (1982) at the Escuela de Salud Pública in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as the specialist degree in clinical medicine and epidemiology of infectious diseases at the Universidad de Buenos Aires in 1976.

Session I
Marlos Lima, FGV, Brazil

Marlos Lima is Director for International Affairs at FGV. He is also a professor on postgraduate courses in Strategic Planning, Public Policies, Prospective Scenarios, Future Studies, and Decision Making under Uncertainty. Marlos has been involved in many projects in private and public initiatives abroad and in Brazil. He is an economist at Brazilian School of Economics, holds a master’s degree in Public Administration and a PhD on Management at FGV. Marlos Lima is also a visiting professor at many universities in Latin America, and founding member of Latin American Group for Public Administration (GLAP/HAS), and American Academy of Management.

Luis Fernando Mejía, Fedesarrollo, Colombia

Luis Fernando Mejía Alzate is a Colombian economist. He is currently the Executive Director of Fedesarrollo. He was previously Deputy Director and then National Director of Planning of Colombia between the period 2014-2018. During his administration, he led the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, the public policies for green growth and air quality were issued, and technical support within the government was coordinated during the successful process of accessing Colombia to the OECD.

Julia Pomares, CIPPEC, Argentina

Julia Pomares is the Executive Director of CIPPEC, the largest think tank in Argentina, and Co-Chair of the Argentine 2018 T20. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science and a Master’s in Comparative Politics and Research Methods from the London School of Economics and Political Science. As a specialist in governance reforms, she collaborated with international organizations and think tanks, among them the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, UNICEF and the Organization of American States (OAS). Pomares has also served as a policy adviser in the United Kingdom and oversaw the monitoring and evaluation of the electoral decentralization in Guatemala. In the City of Buenos Aires, she supervised and evaluated the implementation of the first electronic voting pilot. Her work has been published in journals like Electoral Studies, Political Science Research and Journal of Information Technology & Politics.
**Pia Mundaca, Espacio Público, Chile**

Pia Mundaca is the executive director at Espacio Público in Chile. She is a political scientist from the Universidad Católica de Chile and a Master in Social Policies from the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2012 she became the first woman to take over the Social Directorate of Fundación Techo, which led her to be recognized as one of the 100 young leaders in 2014 and to be among the 100 women leaders in 2015. In addition, during the second government of President Michelle Bachelet, she worked in the Department of Immigration and Migration, assuming as Head of Migration Policy in 2017.

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**Verónica Ortiz, COMEXI, México**

Verónica Ortiz is the General Director of the Mexican Council for International Affairs. She studied law at the Universidad Panamericana and studied Comparative Law and Society at the University of Oxford. She worked for the Baker & McKenzie law firm before entering the public sector, where she held positions in the Legal Counsel of the Presidency, in the Ministry of the Economy and in the National Banking and Securities Commission. From 2008 to 2012 she was a consulting partner of GEA, Grupo de Economistas y Asociados. Since 2013 she has been an independent political analyst and consultant for national and foreign companies and audiences. She is a member of the Mexican Council for International Affairs (COMEXI). She is part of the National Committee for Economic Studies of the Mexican Institute of Finance Executives (IMEF) and of the Technical Advisory Council of the Center for Economic Studies of the Private Sector (CEESP / CCE) belonging to the Business Coordinating Council. She publishes the fortnightly column “Political Window” in El Heraldo de México. On television, together with the journalist Leonardo Curáio, she leads the series “Incursionando” for the Congress Channel.

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**Pablo Hurtado, ASIES, Guatemala**

Pablo Hurtado is the Executive Secretary at ASIES in Guatemala. His Lawyer, national and international consultant, and author of various publications on human rights and constitutional law. He has experience in training and research on human rights in Central America.
Session II

María Clara Escobar, ICP, Colombia
María Clara Escobar is the Executive Director at ICP in Colombia. She has degrees in Government and International Relations from the Externado de Colombia University, with a Master’s Degree in International Relations and Development Economics, from Johns Hopkins University. She worked at the Inter-American Dialogue, the main Thought Center on Western Hemisphere policy issues in the United States, and at the Inter-American Development Bank. She served as Advisor to the Vice Minister of Higher Education and Representative of the Ministry in the negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement between the Andean countries and the United States. In the Ministry of Social Protection, she served as Director of the International Cooperation Office and represented the Government before the International Labor Organization-ILO and before international organizations in the Health sector. She also served as Sustainability Manager in the National Association of Entrepreneurs - ANDI and worked in two oil companies. In one of them, implementing the Sustainability strategy and in the second, as part of the team of its Corporate University. She has experience as a Consultant in Universities and for the Ministry of Labor. She was also an ILO Consultant for Latin America, starting in Colombia the operation of the Global Apprenticeship Network - GAN, a Network that promotes the development of skills, to mitigate the mismatch between supply and demand for youth employment.

Margarita de Sanfeliu, FUSADES, El Salvador
Margarita de Sanfeliu is the Director for the Center for Research and Statistics. She graduated Industrial Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, where she also obtained a Master’s degree in the same discipline. She has extensive experience in the preparation of economic and social studies, including studies carried out under contract with national and international organizations. She has extensive experience in the design and implementation of business and household surveys, as well as in the analysis of their results. She has also participated in multidisciplinary research groups.

Maria Aceña, Centro de Investigaciones Económicas Nacionales, Guatemala
Maria Aceña graduated with degrees in Systems Engineering, Informatics and Computer Science from the Francisco Marroquín University and has a Master in Business Administration from the Central American Institute of Business Administration. She was executive director of Fundación para el Desarrollo de Guatemala, designed and directed the National Program for Educational Self-Management, and was president of CIEN (1996-2003) and Minister of Education of Guatemala (2004-2008). Since 2010, she coordinates the CIEN Citizen Security Area and is President of the Fundación Proyecto de Vida. She has worked as a consultant for various international organizations in the fields of health, education, public management, citizen security, and development. She has also belonged to and collaborates with different national and international organizations on issues of public policy, civil society, and research centers. Being a university professor has always been passionate about writing for the media. She is a columnist for the Publinews newspaper and Contra Poder magazine. Her greatest desire is to see a prosperous, safe, and peaceful Guatemala.
Klaus Stier, FGV, Brazil

Klaus Stier is an International Manager responsible for formulating and implementing FGV’s global strategy. Throughout his career at FGV’s International Affairs Division, he has acquired vast experience prospecting potential business and academic opportunities for FGV abroad, as well as monitoring and analyzing the state of the global affairs, risks, and opportunities for international cooperation. In Latin America and the Caribbean, he manages the negotiation and implementation of FGV’s government-oriented training programs, coordinating a network of professors and specialists responsible for on-site and on-line capacity building. He also conducts analysis on global affairs and monitors FGV’s international agenda, especially contributing to strengthening the international engagement of the global think tank.

Pablo Ava, Argentina Council on Foreign Relations, Argentina

Pablo Ava is a specialist in public affairs. He obtained his Master’s Degree in Law and Economics at the University of Buenos Aires where he is currently employed as a professor. A member of various public institutions, international bodies, companies, and civil society organizations. One of them is the Argentine Council of Foreign Relations which is a nonprofit academic institution assessing the political, economic, cultural, and social dimensions of international relations and ways in which they might influence Argentina. Pablo Ava was the co-chair of Policy & Research for T20 Argentina. He also co-authored the “Economic Effects of Infrastructure Investment from the Land-based Financing” policy brief being a recommendation for the G20 policy makers.

Session III

Milena Lazarevic, European Policy Centre, (CEP), Serbia

Milena Lazarević is one of the founders and Programme Director at the European Policy Centre (CEP). She is in charge of CEP’s strategy as well as the development and management of the quality assurance system and processes in CEP. She also leads numerous good governance related projects implemented by CEP. Milena is an expert in public administration reform in Serbia and in the Western Balkan region. Between May 2014 and March 2015 she acted as the Special Adviser to the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of public administration reform. As a consultant, she has worked for SIGMA/OECD, Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA), the World Bank and several other major international consultancy firms. She worked for almost six years as a civil servant in the Serbian administration, dealing with public administration reform and administrative capacities for EU accession, first in the EU Integration Office of the Serbian Government (SEIO) and later in the Ministry of Public Administration. As a Soros scholar, Milena obtained her BA degree in European Studies and International Relations magna cum laude at the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG), after which she completed with honors an advanced MA programme in European studies at the College of Europe, on a King Baudouin Foundation scholarship. She later graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia with an MA in European Administrative Law at Belgrade University. She speaks English, French, Italian and Bulgarian.
Ana Patricia Muñoz, Grupo Faro, Ecuador

Ana Patricia has a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Brown University (best academic average, Master’s Degree in Economics from the University of Montreal (best program average and candidate for the academic Gold Medal of Canada), Economist from the Catholic University of Ecuador (best 2004 graduate and medal of the Association of Economists of Ecuador). Before joining Grupo FARO Ana Patricia served as Junior Vice President at the Boston Federal Reserve, leading the research and communication group in the Community Development department. In addition to providing strategic direction to her team, Ana Patricia conducted applied research on issues affecting low-income families. Her main research is related to the analysis of economic inequality. Ana Patricia is the lead author of The Color of Wealth in Boston report, a detailed study of inequality in the Boston area. She has made more than 25 presentations on this topic and on the importance of establishing public policies that could reduce economic and social inequalities. Ana Patricia has conducted analysis on credit conditions in low-income areas, the role of Latino microenterprises in economic development, and the barriers and opportunities for development in US manufacturing cities. She has written more than 12 investigative reports and is frequently invited to give lectures and seminars. Her research has been included in various Federal Reserve publications, academic journals and books, and her reports have been cited in various written and televised media.

Julia Dias Leite, CEBRI, Brazil

Julia Dias Leite has 15 years of experience in International Relations. Over the last ten years, she has specialized in political and business relations between Brazil and China. She was Executive Secretary at the China-Brazil Business Council (CBBC) for 5 years and she has been a member of the Technical Council of Brazilian Foreign Trade Association (AEB) since 2015. At CBBC, she was responsible for organizing a vast range of meetings between the government and private sectors in Brazil and China, with the aim of debating themes concerning the structure of bilateral relations. In addition to that, she collaborated with the Brazilian government in organizing missions to China and official visits to both countries. Previously, she worked for 4 years at the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI) as Institutional Coordinator, and, as such, she followed international trade negotiations at WTO and organized several seminars and projects along with partner institutions. In 2004, she was a research contributor to the Council of Americas, in New York, where she supported the Vice- Presidency with the development of research about Brazilian foreign policy. Julia holds a BA in Law (Candido Mendes University) and an MBA in International Business Management (Getulio Vargas Foundation).

Andrés Lalanne, Universidad CLAEH, Uruguay

Andrés Lalanne is a Rector of CLAEH University in Uruguay. As Coordinator of the International Network for Human Economy in Latin America, in recent years he has held two international seminars, workshops and conferences on the influence of Louis-Joseph Lebret in South America and the current nature of these ideas. In 2016 the CLAEH published the book Human Economy Paths, of which Lalanne is a co-author. Between 1999 and 2008 Lalanne collaborated in a Technological Pole project to serve companies in chemical and biotechnology areas. For two decades he collaborated in promoting technology-based entrepreneurship alongside institutions that support entrepreneurs and integrated a Network of Angels Investors specialized in dynamic entrepreneurship.
Gustavo Martinez, CARI, Argentina

Gustavo Martinez is Managing Director and Public Aaires at CARI – Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales; and Key Expert EU Policy and Outreach Partnership and Cultural Diplomacy Platform in Argentina. Before he has been Secretary-General of the Università di Bologna, Buenos Aires Headquarters and Academic Coordinator for its Master in International Relations Europe – Latin America; General Manager of Universidad del Museo Social Argentino, Senior Conference Manager at the IIR – Institute for International Research and Latin American Division Manager at the ICM - International Communications for Management, Publishing & Training. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of Belgrano and a Masters in Educational Management from the University Torcuato Di Tella. He is a former Fellow of the OAS in International Trade, and holds other postgraduate studies in Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (UBA), Strategic Marketing at the School of Business (UB), and Strategic Human Resources Management (IDEA). He has taught as an adjunct professor in Political Decision Theory, History of Political Ideas, and History of Social Policy in Argentina.

Closing Remarks

José Octavio Bordón, Former Ambassador of Argentina

José Octavio Bordón is ambassador of Argentina to Chile. He was previously the director of the Center for Global Affairs at the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo and is a former deputy, senator, and governor for Mendoza Province. He also served as ambassador of Argentina to the United States from 2003 to 2007. Bordón has been a professor of political sociology at Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, visiting professor at Georgetown University, a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He has also been a professor and lecturer at numerous other universities in Argentina, Latin America, the United States, Europe, and Asia. Bordón graduated in sociology from the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires in 1970. He became President of the Fundación Andina in 1982 and in 1983 he was elected to the Argentine Chamber of Deputies as deputy for Mendoza Province. During that time, he was deputy chairman of the foreign affairs committee. In 1987 Bordón was elected governor of Mendoza Province, stepping down in 1991. The following year he was elected to the Argentine Senate. In 1994, he helped form a new alliance, the Front for a Country in Solidarity (FrePaSo) and was the party’s presidential candidate for the 1995 general elections, obtaining second place with 30% of the votes. He has also been minister of culture, education, and sciences for the province of Buenos Aires and was president of the Ibero-American Parliamentarian Group for the 75th Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Ottowa. He was also part of the Bicameral Delegation of the Argentine Congress that, in 1985, visited the United Kingdom for the first time after the Falklands/Malvinas war. Currently he is also a member of the Board of Directors of CAR1 (the Argentine International Relations Council) and President of the Advisory Council of CIPPEC (the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equality and Growth).

James McGann, Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)
About the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program:

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations.

Since its formation, TTCSP has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making as well as strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. TTCSP at the Lauder Institute works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs.

About the Lauder Institute:

Founded by brothers Leonard and Ronald Lauder in 1983 in honor of their father, Joseph, the Joseph H. Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies provides a fully integrated business education to a new generation of leaders coming of age in a rapidly globalizing world.

About the University of Pennsylvania:

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. As a world-class research institution, The University of Pennsylvania peer institutions are Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Cambridge and Oxford. Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world. Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York.
About the Director:

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.

His main research priorities include: analyzing global developments in research on safety and international affairs; influencing United States’ foreign and domestic policies through think tanks; strategic advice to BRICS and G20 countries from think tanks and transnational and regional public policy challenges. He is the creator and author of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index which ranks think tanks in every region of the world.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank; the United Nations; the United States Agency for International Development; the Soros, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett and Gates foundations; the Carnegie Corporation; and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in the US and developing and transitional countries. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Public Policy Program Officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has also served as a Senior Advisor to the Citizens’ Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

The mission of TTCSP is to increase the profile, capacity and performance of think tanks at the national, regional and global levels so they can better serve policymakers and the public.
TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics and public policy, produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index, develops capacity-building resources and programs, manages and supports a global network of over 8,000 think tanks and trains future think tank scholars and executives. TTCSP is often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank.”

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