

2019 Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean: Official Report

By: Maytee Cariño

Executive Summary

For the second consecutive year, the Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean took place in New York City this past 26th and 27th of September, parallel to the United Nations' annual General Assembly meeting. The stated purpose of the Global Forum was to highlight the current challenges that are endangering the political, social, and economic evolution of Latin America and the Caribbean and the reasons behind it. Over 40 High-level political leaders and academic experts came together to discuss and debate the present and future role of the region in the international arena, as well as to bring forth proposals and recommendations that contribute to the socioeconomic and political development of the region.

Among the international experts were head of states, former ministers, high representatives from regional and international organizations and members of the world's most prestigious think-tanks and universities. The forum was co-organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), and its sister organization, Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode) with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), World Leadership Alliance- Club de Madrid, Columbia University's Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) and the Central American Integration System (SICA). The Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean was organized to serve as a platform to exchange ideas and knowledge and maximize positive strategies that can uplift the political and democratic crisis in the region and further empower democracy in the world.

Among the prestigious panelist were heads of state; Kevin Casas Zamora, former Vice President of Costa Rica and Secretary General of International IDEA; Leonel Fernandez former President of the Dominican Republic and founder of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), Laura Chinchilla Ex-President of Costa Rica; Felipe Calderón former President of Mexico; Vinicio Cerezo former President of Guatemala and Danilo Turk former President of Slovenia. Humberto de la Calle, former Vice President of Colombia; Jorge Taiana, former Minister of foreign relations of Argentina and Jorge Castañeda, former minister of foreign relations of Mexico.

The two day event consisted of detailed discussions, guiding inputs and related discussions unfolded over six focused content presentations and dialogue panels:

Day one:

1. Socioeconomic Global Trends;
2. Socioeconomic Perspectives for Latin America; and
3. Challenges of Public Order and Security in Contemporary Democracies.

Day two:

4. Latin America's 2019 Super Election Cycle;
5. Private-public Partnerships for Development; and
6. Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Challenges.

Consensus was reached on the following:

- The global economy has decreased dramatically, negatively impacting and decreasing the socioeconomic development of Latin America and the Caribbean due to:
 - Weak economic performances and labor productivity;
 - The US-China trade war;
 - Climate change/ Environmental crisis (global warming);
 - High poverty rates; and
 - The increase of inequality.
- Global economic forecast shows despite economic growth, a huge population of the world will still live in extreme poverty, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Latin America is currently facing polarization, high uncertainty and volatility rates and financial fragility, all exacerbated due to the financial situation of the region;
- Latin America requires a democratic policing reform in the public order and security sector which requires:
 - The need for more than one law enforcement organization to provide security;
 - Demilitarize police training style; and to
 - Create a more enticing and amicable police-citizen relationship framework focused on trust-building.
- The health and quality of democracy in the region is endangered and has diminished dramatically causing a high discontent towards democracy and institutions:
 - An “angry vote” on behalf of citizens;
 - Weak institutions;
 - “Democratic Fatigueness” from the voters; and
 - “Fake News” and social media manipulation
- Using private-public partnerships as an innovative instrument that can be modified to address the current challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean:
 - Develop better infrastructure;
 - Target social issues and social development challenges;
- There is high discontent towards democracy and institutional weakness in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- There is a big fear of a global economic recession.
- Latin America and the Caribbean must prepare to confront the fourth industrial revolutionary wave.
- Latin America and the Caribbean need to find leaders capable of leading during times of high volatility and uncertainty rates as well in polarization and who can deliver fast and effective answer to the high expectations of public demand.
- Latin America and the Caribbean should consider seeking assistance from the international community to battle all current challenges.

This report presents the main findings from each of the conference sessions.

Introduction

On the 26th and 27th day of September, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's (International IDEA) alongside the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), and its sister organization, Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode) launched their highly anticipated annual Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean event which took place in New York City's Union League Club. The two-day forum, a space for debate and a plural platform for discussion and the exchange of ideas, was divided into six different panels each addressing the role, challenges, and implications of the region. Many of the experts and intellects on the panels' shared moderate optimistic forecast of the region and of the present and future challenges. During the conference, reoccurring recommendations and ideas emphasized Latin America and the Caribbean's socioeconomic and political weaknesses, and the need to address all crises faced today, especially in the political-democratic front.

Among the prestigious panelist were heads of state; Kevin Casas Zamora, former Vice President of Costa Rica and Secretary General of International IDEA; Leonel Fernandez former President of the Dominican Republic and founder of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), Laura Chinchilla Ex-President of Costa Rica; Felipe Calderón former President of Mexico; Vinicio Cerezo, former President of Guatemala and Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia. Humberto de la Calle, former Vice-president of Colombia; Jorge Taiana, former Minister of Foreign Relations of Argentina and Jorge Castañeda, former Minister of Foreign Relations of Mexico.

The forum had the honor to also have Ingo Pitterle, Senior Economic Affairs Officer for the Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN DESA); Rob Wood, Principal Economist, Manager of the Country Risk Service, Latin America and the Caribbean for the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU); Daniel Titelman, Director of the Economic Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Paolo Giordano, Principal Economist for Integration and Trade Sector at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also in attendance. Participants also included Octavio Canuto, Lead Economist, Center for Macroeconomics and Development; Gonzalo Paz, Researcher and Visiting Professor at the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Francisco Sánchez, Former Undersecretary of Commerce of the United States; Melvin Redondo, General Secretary of the Economic Integration Secretary (SIECA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and Mario Báez, Policy and Oversight Coordination Service officer for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, Department of Management, United Nations

Welcoming and Opening Remarks

The Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean officially initiated by the welcoming remarks of the directors from each of the host organizations; Kevin Casas Zamora, Secretary General of International IDEA and former Vice President of Costa Rica, Leonel Fernandez, former President of the Dominican Republic and Founder of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and Nastasha Despotovic, Executive Director of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD).

International IDEA's Secretary General and Costa Rican national, Kevin Casas Zamora's inauguration speech began by thanking the organizations, institutions, and prominent leaders for hosting this event. Secretary General Kevin Casas Zamora announced a special recognition to International IDEA's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Daniel Zovatto for his extensive 20 year dedication to Latin America, whom his career is allowing the international arena to have "a crucial intellectual platform for the Americas as well as debates as such."

Secretary General Kevin Casas Zamora, reflected how the end of a decade allows intellects and researchers to analyze the growth and development of the region, which in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean has been a negative and recessive one. Previous forecast of the region entailed a prosperous and growing economy, and for Latin America to be "the next big thing" in the international arena. The end of the decade showed researchers and intellects the contrary.

Secretary General Casas Zamora believes the productivity and growth issues of the region cannot be resolved unless nations start to invest in infrastructure, research and innovation, reform the quality of public education systems, Latin America's democracies, and restoring citizen's faith and belief in democracy. Nonetheless, the Secretary General did acknowledge the region's effort to preserve and keep the idea of democracy alive throughout the region. Although the idea and practice is still alive, its value and strength has been undermined due to corruption, impunity, and weak institutions causing its citizens to lose faith in the idea of democracy. "The last generation's great achievement for Latin America, which was developing imperfect but real democratic systems, is fading away," stated the former Vice President of Costa Rica.

Recommendations shared by the Secretary General of International IDEA, included turning our attention to preparing the region for the fourth industrial revolution, the right to state, and upholding strong institutions, creating better fiscal policies (taxation), improving public opinion and governance (constantly monitoring indicators of the barometers for corruption to decrease etc.), educational reforms and "reevaluating where the region is now and where we would like for it to be in the future." The Secretary General concluded his welcoming remarks speech by stating, the end of the decade allows for a fresh clean slate to start over to work towards fulfilling the 2030 SDG Agenda, "Now is the time that we start to ask ourselves how we want the following decade to be," said the Secretary General.

President Fernandez was not able to physically attend the Forum, but his presence was acknowledged through a video conference call held at the forum where the President expressed his sincere apologies for not being able to attend due to his political commitments in the Dominican

Republic. President Fernandez shared his excitement and honor to be able to host alongside International IDEA the 2019 Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean, “the ideal conclave for a reflection and exchange of this type, with highly skilled protagonists and committed audience members, at the time of the year and in the place of the world where the future of our international community is being defined,” said President Fernandez. He continued by stating, “Latin America and the Caribbean have been and will continue to be the scene of great social and political struggles; crises and economic opportunities; innovations and unfinished tasks of the past. The pace of the 21st century has accelerated these challenges; global interconnection and interdependence have created more complexity while the rapidity of change has raised expectations,” issues that he believes need to be addressed with urgency.

President Fernandez’s video conference call included special recognitions to his friends and colleagues like International IDEA’s own Secretary General Kevin Casas Zamora, former President Laura Chinchilla of Costa Rica and Vice President of the World Leadership Alliance – Club de Madrid; Vinicio Cerezo, former President of Guatemala and Secretary General of SICA; Felipe Calderón, former President of México and Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia. He also thanked Humberto de la Calle, former Vice President of Colombia; Jorge Taiana, former minister of foreign relations of Argentina and Jorge Castañeda, former minister of foreign Relations of Mexico. The former Dominican leader also gave special thanks to the institutions that have brought “great effort, dedication and enthusiasm to organize this great event together with Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode) and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and International IDEA – Daniel Zovatto, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer to the UN; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose partnership was led by Mrs. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary and Mr. Daniel Titelman, Director of the Economic Development Division; ILAS – Institute for Latin America and Caribbean Studies and its director Mrs. María Victoria Murillo; World Leadership Alliance – Club de Madrid and its Secretary General María Elena Agüero, as well as SICA, Central American Integration System, represented by Mr. Vinicio Cerezo, Secretary General and Mrs. Olinda Salguero, Chief of Staff.

President Fernandez’s concluding remarks emphasized his optimistic view on the future of the region by stating, “I am completely convinced that the Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean 2019 will be a total success and that its purpose of promoting the exchange of ideas, experiences, good practices and proposals for solutions, allowing us to face present and future challenges in a more knowledgeable and coordinated manner, will be thoroughly fulfilled.”

Natasha Despotovic, Executive Director of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development initiated her welcoming remarks highlighting the importance of the event and thanking the organizations and the prominent panelist for gathering together to discuss the socio economic and democratic development of the Western Hemisphere. “The continual integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean and the growing role of the region as a commercial, political and strategic partner in the current world order are topics of particular importance that will be discussed,” explained Natasha Despotovic. In addition, she highlighted panelist would be answering and thoroughly explaining questions such as “Is democracy in crisis? Are we approaching a recession? What have we learned from recent political crises?” How do we solve increasing expectations of the people?” She concluded her segment by expressing how honored

she was to have such a distinctive panel working together for the development and growth of the region.

Panel 1: Socioeconomic Global Trends

The first panel on “Socioeconomic Global Trends” kicked off with a keynote presentation from Ingo Pitterele, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN DESA) highlighting the current state of the global economy which he referred to “gloomy” and with a “pessimistic” outlook for the next two years. He predicted continued slow growth in future economic prospects for 2020 may end up in a global recession. His presentation information gathered from research used for the UN’s official report on socioeconomic global trends, analyzed the world’s current economic situation from a micro-economic lens linked to how it affects sustainable development, poverty, inequality and environmental sustainability (official report will be released in January). His address was followed by a panel discussion between Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia, Felipe Calderón, former President of Mexico, Raul Feliz, Director of R.A. Feliz & Asociados and Professor at Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), and Rob Wood, Principal Economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The panel was moderated by Massimo Tommasoli Ph.D, Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations in New York.

The global economy has been facing receding growth. This is due to setbacks endured from past years of escalating trade wars and uncertainty of investments, impacting the economic performances (negatively) in countries already falling behind, (the same ones that need growth the most). These issues have disrupted global economic growth is a major concern for the United Nations shared Ingo Pitterele. Pitterele elaborated on the different drivers and transmitters of the Latin American and Caribbean economic downfall, placing particular emphasis on the US-China trade war tension, high policy uncertainty weighing down economic and industrial activities, political polarization, climate change and the different terrains in which the global economy can only worsen.

On the specific link between the global economy and trade wars, Pitterele noted that since the US-China trade war, bilateral trade within both states overall has dropped significantly, especially in the US agricultural sector and in the Chinese manufacturing-artifacts sector weighing down economic growth. Pitterele outlined how Central Banks have been trying to find solutions to help better the economy by tightening monetary policies and loosening fiscal policies. Although the attempt is applauded, the monetary and fiscal policy reforms were/are not too effective due to high poverty rates, high debt levels dangerous for government interest. Fighting these issues remain the biggest challenges as it often goes against established state norms.

Pitterele elaborated the poor economic performances challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean are country-specific but also reflect the difficulty the region is having recovering from commodity price shocks and severe macroeconomic imbalances. The report’s future predictions

show global growth may stabilize and slightly picking up in 2020 but it's uncertain and still favors a downside in the economy due to weakness in trade and further escalation of trade tensions between the US and China, which have already affected negatively global economic activity, production, and global import demand. In addition Pitterele's findings show a huge population in the region will still live in extreme poverty despite economic growth.

In fighting the global economic setbacks, Pitterele emphasized the importance of identifying financial risks like areas of vulnerability, institutional weakness in the Euro area and bond sector, and in the corporate sector monitor the US price in dollars. Weak economic performance exacerbates development challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean, a major concern for the UN. Much more needs to be done to create a more stable economy beyond introducing new fiscal and monetary reforms. In conclusion, Pitterele stressed the importance to keep closely monitoring the global economy and learn how to deal with global poverty scenarios to fulfill the deadline of the 2030 SDG goals.

Following Pitterele's keynote presentation, former leader of Mexico, President Felipe Calderón addressed his segment of the panel with a presentation focused on global trends in Latin America. In his findings he reiterated what Iggo Pitterele stated, "Latin America is advancing far less than in other parts of the world due to economic issues, investment turbulence, and tensions of trade war emphasizing the US-China trade war can potentially trigger a global recession." In addition, President Calderon found Latin America and the Caribbean to have been negatively impacted due to the prices of commodities, especially in countries like Brazil. The region is losing capacity growth and labor competitiveness, and is facing high levels of violence and crime something he referred to as "a crime killing region economy." The chaos' Venezuela and Argentina are facing has only weakened and impacted negatively the region's weak economy. Former President Felipe Calderon concluded by sharing that in Mexico, economic growth has started to seal and it will most likely have a negative impact on its future.

Former President of Slovenia Danilo Turk expressed a major concern with the development of the world and believes discussions are needed targeting social development and democracy, that for him, are two ideas closely linked. As a veteran of UN activities, President Turk emphasized that in his 14 years of experience, international development and cooperation is key to enhance social and urban development's therefore improving state's economies to be better prepared and equipped. President Turk believes it is crucial for the region to have better labor productivity especially for when the fourth industrial revolution arrives. Improving human conditions requires social development aspects targeting income inequality and healthcare.

In regards to the US-China trade war, President Turk urged for the international community to not treat this issue as a phenomena and must understand Trump wanted this war because he believed he could win easily. President Turk also highlighted China is being used as financial manipulator and the political realm should have clarity on this matter. President Turk concluded his segmented by stating, "don't think about economics from a self-interest self-profit point of view, think of it as social economic and social income going beyond the need of profit, something like social responsibility, a social justice." President Turk's recommendation were for Presidents to reduce budget but not cut back investment on research and development. On the contrary, they should

invest more in educational reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean and distribute money wisely for social development.

Raul Feliz, a distinguished global economist, and director of R.A. Feliz & Asociados consultancy firm and professor at Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), expressed we are living in a time where income surplus has weakened. Our economic focus has shifted to the fear of facing a global recession of which some countries may already be facing. He questions if this is the fate for all countries in the next two years? Mr. Feliz stated, economist the international community should not fear recessions, as we have seen it to be something normal and most logical. This has been the same recurring trend since WWII. Most importantly, Mr. Feliz emphasized “our environment in the global trade for Latin America is to be a trade channel, a key concept because it can be affected and disrupted by high levels of uncertainty in the economy and by interruptions in US/EU investments.” In addition, Mr. Feliz agreed with many of the opinions shared by his fellow colleagues, the US-China trade war is a loose endgame for everyone, the downfall of investments and trade can be the downfall of global economy which can trigger a recession.

Mr. Feliz recommended that it is not the time to have changes in fiscal policies, and Trump’s administration is a clear depiction as to why, but in the meantime the international community, states, and leaders must learn to navigate in a world with high inflation rates, and in a negative growth rate. His last remark circled around the idea of addressing political problems using economic development, asking how we can have countries with economic surplus finance development projects in countries that need it the most.

Rob Wood, the Principal Economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) argued uncertainty is impacting negatively the global economy and will continue to do so. He shared the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has developed a world uncertainty index, of which the EIU uses to analyze country reports by looking at the frequency number of times analyst search “uncertainty and trade.” In his findings Mr. Wood noticed a rise in the uncertainty index for 2018, especially in countries like the US and China. Since then, uncertainty has doubled due to Brexit, and the US-China trade war. He believes the trade war is becoming a tariff-manufacture war used by states to have leverage in technology, finance, investment and security which can end up in an economic recession. Economist Wood shared the three most negative scenarios of the trade war and its impact on the global economy:

1. US trade war splits and disrupts the supply chain by 40%, a high impact on the economy as well as hurt its growth and GDP.
2. The trade war spreads into the financial spheres, a high impact on the global economy as well as it would hurt its growth,
3. Outside trade will elevate the value of the US dollar and we can end up in a denominated debt, a risk that can hurt the global economy and possibly break it.

On the contrary, Rob Woods provided three positive scenarios to help boost the economy:

1. Having optimism of US economy.
2. Investing in infrastructure.
 1. Allows for lots of global opportunities in the economy
3. Creating a fiscal stimulus plan to jump start the global economy.

1. If Latin America is looking to advance in the world, it should plan to seek US and EU opportunities to lift the region's economy.
2. Latin America must seek a global stimulus.

Furthermore, Rob Woods does not see a meaningful deal to take place between the US and China before the November 2020 US presidential elections.

The following is a summary of the issues that unfolded after the presentations and discussions. It broadly captures the matters raised by participants and the relevant responses by the presenters and discussants:

- When it comes to reforming policies, think how to use fiscal policies in more creative and incentivizing ways such as investing in infrastructure and productivity for economic growth. Our creativity should extend to developing new ways for central banks to assist in stimulus plans.
 - Investing in the creation of new technology that will produce a new industry we are not aware of for more human labor and productivity;
 - Investing in science for new big ideas needed to create a positive outcome for economic growth.
 - Investing in the importance of the quality of education for immense progress.
 - The school years should be longer
 - The curriculum should focus on bettering the quality of education, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.
- Latin America should search for financial partners other than China for financial assistance.
- The United Nations' millennium development goals for 2030 SDG did not include ideas of fiscal work, only for poverty reduction.
- In terms of corruption and transparency, we must increase the level of sensitivity of transparency in the corporate world of the developing countries in order to help their economies and the global economies prosper overall.
- The possible use of public-private partnerships as an alternative to stimulate economic growth in the region by investing in new projects.
- See what country has space for improving the economy and making it more attractive to private sector.

Massimo Tommasoli, the moderator of the session concluded by sharing the main points tackled in this discussion panel. "We should monitor the economic trends closely which extend from politically driven factors in order to prevent a recession, seek alternative and creative measures to counter balance the decline of growth in our global economy, and lastly the common trend of the panel; uncertainty." We must create possibilities of addressing uncertain future in a creative matter in a political space where politicians must use for development and fulfill commitments of the SDG 2030 agenda.

Panel 2: Socioeconomic Perspective for Latin America

Panel two, “Socioeconomic Perspectives for Latin America,” featured Daniel Titelman, Director of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC as the keynote speaker highlighting the economic slowdown and financial situation of the region, emphasizing the issues of growing uncertainty, volatility and financial fragility due to commodity prices dropping, trade conflicts and geopolitical tensions . This was followed by a panel, moderated by Mario Baez, Chief of Policy and Oversight Coordinations Service at the United Nations and including interventions by Octavio Canuto, Lead Economist at the Center for Macroeconomics and Development, Paolo Giordano, Principal Economist in the Trade and Integration Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank, Gonzalo Paz, Researcher and Visiting Professor at the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, and Francisco Sánchez, Former Undersecretary of Commerce of the United States.

Director of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC Daniel Titelman, began by indicating that policy debate should focus on how we are going to revive growth of the Latin American region; a big challenge due to lack of social inclusion, low income distribution, climate change and instability challenges. Data shared in his presentation showed Latin America’s downward trend in GDP growth. At a regional level, 20/33 states showed regression with 17 of them being from the Latin America nations.

Daniel Titelman’s forecast shows this pattern will continue and accelerate with time due to the factors mentioned below:

- The fall in productivity and export structure do not help to face external vulnerability and for this to be fixed, we must diversify financial and labor sector.
- Failing to understand investment is *not* a driver for growth.
- Fiscal consolidation continues to reduce deficits as income levels are insufficient to cover expenses.
- Tax evasion and illicit financial flows represent a significant loss of revenues (key issue to tackle for fiscal policy reforms to execute efficiently).
- Public investment (capital) expenditures is reaching historically low levels, while interest payments continue to rise.
- Failed to address rising inflation (a major concern).

Mr. Titelman recommended using fiscal policies to increase fiscal income – geared for investment as a positive alternative to improve the development of the socio economic sector of Latin America. The fight for inequality from a knowledge and capacity perspective to stimulate productivity and inverse correlation between productivity and inequality is also key and can be fixed through an increase of fiscal incomes. Lastly, Mr. Titelman noted on behalf of ECLAC, they are diligently fighting inequality from a social perspective lens but needed assistance with the finance portion.

Mario Baez, moderator of the second panel guided the discussion panel focused on what were 3-5 things we can do to have a successful economic productivity in the future? A general consensus within the panel agreed the trade war, and low productivity rates affect the socioeconomic development of the region.

Octavio Canuto, Lead Economist at the Center for Macroeconomics and Development, responded by suggesting; investing in education, infrastructure (with limitations to prevent a recurring situation like in the case of Brazil, where over-investing in infrastructure led to waste). Lastly, overcome fiscal problems by moving into a monetary role by the private and public sector in infrastructure creating a higher growth demand and supply. The challenge is to convince the private sector to invest in infrastructure, a decision many in the private sector consider a high risk. Octavio Canuto agreed with the rest of his colleagues stating the unique micromanagement of each country and its productivity contribute to the region's economic downfall.

Paolo Giordano, Principal Economist in the Trade and Integration Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank, believes "seizing opportunities" that are there in order for the region to have a successful economic productivity in the future. That entails seeking new partners other than China such as India and/or Korea to diversify trade. He thinks the momentum of China in the Latin American and Caribbean region is over and we need innovative "back-up" drivers of trade that extend beyond merchandise trade. Mr. Giordano recommended providing "services" as a trade of the future in the tourism and transportation sector and in information and technological service as well.

Gonzalo Paz, Researcher and visiting professor at the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, believes in term of socioeconomic development we need to analyze where Latin America went wrong. Was it being commodity-based economy, geopolitical factors, expansion, and weak institutions? Mr. Paz warned if there is no change in institutions and policies, no new ideas for economic growth, and we do not address the high demands of the public, the region's economy will continue to regress at an even faster rate. Furthermore, Mr. Paz did not disregard the US-China trade war, stating it is a very important issue to monitor especially for Latin America.

Lastly, Mr. Francisco Sánchez, Former Undersecretary of Commerce of the United States suggestions were similar to that of his colleague, investing in technology, advancing in telecommunication, finding new markets, rediscovering old markets in the US, Canada and neighboring countries, and consider regional integration and reinforcement from the international community. Former Undersecretary of Commerce Francisco Sanchez specifically highlighted taking advantage of the possible labor opportunities that are to come to Latin America. Based on his research, the former Undersecretary believes Chinese and American companies are going to leave China as a place of production, and look into other places like Mexico to place their textile factories, an opportunity the rest of the region can exploit. His closing remark emphasized for the region to focus on what they can control.

The deliberations, issues raised, questioned posed and relevant responses from the session are outlined below.

- Daniel Zovatto, International IDEA's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean suggested including political decisions in ideas for economic investments and improvements instead of the traditional focus on educational, innovative, and infrastructure reform. He argued it is important to incorporate politics because our society will not be able to be sustainable for the fourth industrial revolution. It is important to reform the

business environment and have politics sustain and reinforce strategies and negotiations used in the political economy sector.

- Paolo Giordano stressed we have to think how to change/ restructure Latin America's "international commodity model" for the next decade. The region needs to work hard on exporting commodities and technology.
- It is key to immediately investment in institutions that reinforce the rule of law and fight corruption which entails having strong consequences when people engage in corruption instead of only a "slap on the wrist."
- The region is to consider regional integration as a safety mechanism. It can create new cross border investments, making the region stronger and resilient in the international arena. This can increase the power of Latin America in the global arena especially if we focus on exporting the best *quality* commodities like meat, cocoa, coffee (items highly favored by the international community). We have to consider using commodities as a positive way to excel and never going against it. Negative attitude towards exporting commodities will incentivize us to stop exporting overall, a mistake the region cannot afford to do.
- In financing high quality commodities, suggestions such as asking for loans from Central Bank and turning to think-tanks were among the few options shared.

Panel 3: Challenges of Public Order and Security in Contemporary Democracies

During the third panel, "Challenges of Public Order and Security in Contemporary Democracies" Political scientist Paola Gonzalez, and Dr. Liliana Mesias Garcia, co-authors of the IDB/Inter-American Dialogue Report (2018): "Police Transformation in Latin America for 2030," gave a keynote presentation titled, "Police Transformation in Latin America for 2030," The presentation discussed reforming public order and security policies in Latin America. Both experts expressed the need for more than one law enforcement organization to provide security instead of one police force and the need for security policies to be more effective and democratic. Their presentation was followed by a panel discussion on policing between Maria Habersfeld, Director of the NYPD Police Studies Program; and Professor of Police Science, Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Karelia Villa Mar, Senior Specialist of Citizen Security and Justice at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The role of moderator was held by Roberto Obando Prestol, Programs Director, Chief of Party, Citizen Security and Justice, Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF).

Roberto Obando Prestol initiated this segment by thanking the host organizations of the event and for inviting him to be a moderator for this very important and crucial panel. After his welcoming and thankful remarks he introduced the two presenters' political scientists Paola Gonzalez, and Dr. Liliana Mesias Garcia, both Colombian nationals who have dedicated their lives to improving the security sector in Colombia.

First to speak was Ms. Paola Gonzalez, who introduced her research presentation *Police Transformation in Latin America for 2030*. Her first point noted how happy and rewarding it was to see a security issue panel full of women. She continued by saying that speaks a lot about all the successful progress the security sector has made especially in a male dominated arena.

Dr. Garcia shared her presentation is an analysis of the police structure in Latin America today, its dilemmas, and the challenges they will face in 2030. Her key points highlighted police force should not be the only organization and source to solve states security issues; Latin America needs a more effective and democratic security policies for the contemporary world that we live in today. Lastly she noted, “Obedience and discipline remain the main focus of police training, not integration and coordination with other entities.”

Latin America’s police force currently are heterogeneously structured (only one police organization to cover all fronts of security), are bureaucratic institutions, very dense, focus more on controlling than prevention, are distant with its citizens, and citizens have very low trust in their police force. In fact, Dr. Mesias Garcia research showed only 35% of the population in Latin America trust the police. Countries like Mexico, El Salvador, and Nicaragua hold the lowest rates of trust in the police, while countries like Costa Rica, Chile and Uruguay hold highest. This issue stems from historical trauma of dictatorships in the region. This is an important reason as to why the public is so disconnected from the police.

These are the main issues that require a reform within the police force as per Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Garcia’s research:

1. *Civility vs. Militarization of the security sector*: reforming a strongly embedded militarized policing culture focused on hierarchy power and control instead of focusing on prevention and community based partnerships.
2. *Professionalism in the police force*: The need to implement new hiring/recruiting standards to hire policemen with special skills fit for the job ensuring they can abide a code of professionalism even when not monitored. This includes reforming the training styles and length in police academy.
3. *Implementing accountability and transparency reforms*: The police force in Latin America is among one of the organizations with the highest levels of corruption, it is urgent to generate both internal and external accountability and control-monitoring mechanisms to protect human rights and enforce democracy in the police force.
4. *Adapting to new technology and information systems*. Technology has been used as a portal for criminal activity to rise, and police force must use technology to counter attack the criminal activities, a resource good for tracking and monitoring criminal activities and securing the well-being of the policeman and civilians. The most complicated aspect for the region is to transition and adapt to technology because those types of conditions do not exist in the region. This creates many expectations that are not met. It’s necessary to evaluate.
5. *Consolidating the community’s relationship with the police*. On this topic they mentioned the prevention of crime through closer relations between the police and the community, improving mutual trust between them, the reorientation of patrolling, the decentralization of authority towards small territorial units, the establishment of mechanisms of periodic interaction between police and the community. “The decentralization of decision-making:

far from the reality of current times,” said Dr. Garcia. Trust and communication must be established in order to improve the security and wellbeing of the region.

Following the keynote presentation, Roberto Obando Prestol, thanked the presenters. He expressed his input on the topic by sharing Latin America is the most violent region in the world. It has the most recorded cases of death tolls, women and children victims of violence, and its economy is heavily impacted by high crime rates and corruption. Illicit economy has a strong pressure and influence in politics all of which the police force is an essential player in controlling.

The panel discussion initiated with Dr. María Haberfeld, director of the NYPD Police Studies Program highlighting police all over the world face the same challenges as the ones in Latin America. She stated, “We have had the same challenges for many years in all the countries. It’s about integrity.” In addition, security threats for police force have transcended borders as globalization has facilitated the rise of transnational crime. Transnational crime as a security threat can no longer be tackled and contained by the police force of one country, it now requires the collaboration of multiple nations.

Dr. Haberfeld recognized effective policing as one of the pillars of democracy because without a good police force democracy can be affected by corruption and organized crime. She emphasized that “democracy is difficult without a legitimate and effective police force, and without corruption.” Dr. Haberfeld shared her personal experience as a woman in the Israeli police force and the challenges she encountered herself. She highlighted the need to change regarding how citizens view the police profession. “How we see the police is a global problem and it requires a global solution.”

Dr. Haberfeld agreed with the arguments the keynote speakers shared, the need for elite police academy training, as did the rest of the panelists. “It’s not about numbers, but about the type of police that we have. Respect comes from professionalism.” Lastly, Dr. Haberfeld ended her remarks by suggesting to educate police officers on other ways other than from a military background by instilling empathy to understand the public. The region should accept training assistance from other elite external parties.

Karelia Villa Mar, Senior Specialist of Citizen Security and Justice at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) expressed the bank is involved in discussions about security challenges because security challenges have now become development issues, and in order to ensure security you need financial investments. In addition, she shared about 3.5% of Latin America and the Caribbean’s income is affected by crime and the police are a key player in criminal mob ties. This all ties back to knowing the quality of the people the police force is hiring.

Ms. Villa Mar shared the Inter-American Development Bank aided Honduras in their policing crisis by loaning them money to successfully reform their police force. The loan from the IDB allowed for Honduras’ police to undergo a new police academy training course, and allowed for the organization to increase their competitiveness standards to enter the police work force. The new requirements included: having a bachelor’s degree, clean background check, and must complete and pass the police training course. Political assistance was needed to ensure transparency and accountability was being implemented in the police force. In a span of 5 years, positive changes were seen in Honduras and in all indicators as well. In Honduras, the belief and

trust in the police increased dramatically, police force labor doubled, and a few technological upgrades were implemented. The police reform case in Honduras is not perfect but overall is a successful project that is still a work in progress and for this reason a similar project will be launched in Peru.

The deliberations that followed the panel made the following points:

- When criminal networks are present, governments' first option is to insert military back up when in reality inserting military power only makes the problem worse. Instead governments' and all security organizations should be involved in the decision making process, weighing all their options other than military intervention. Military intervention should be the last option when all resources have been exhausted.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, the majority of police force is responsible for all the security sectors: prevention, community public relations, investigation, and criminal, serve as police-district attorneys, correctional officers etc. It is necessary to have each entity of the criminal justice as separate organizations and revisit the states' judicial system and its chain of command in the criminal systems.
- In the case of minors and underage criminals (one of the highest number of criminals cases), there needs to be a police unit specialized in dealing with minors and underage criminals and/or victims.
- The police force should focus on *preventative measures* and identifying the capacity of the policing bodies. It should also include governmental and its citizens participation by informing them of preventative measures to diminish crime rate and create a safer society.
- The policing career is one of the most misunderstood professions of all time so recruitment and elite training is key in all police force. The new police trainees should have the organizations mission, vision, objectives and goals of protection and safety of civilians first extensively clear.
- Other questions worthy to mention were, "what are the jurisdictional boundaries between police- military support?" "Can we change the mentality of the police?" If so, can we consider using the concept of empathy to change the mentality of the police force?
- When reforming police recruitment and training, the police force should consider age requirements and psychological and physical evaluations.

The moderator closed the panel by reiterating not all police encounters are negative. He highlighted in numerous countries there have been positive and good experiences with the police who fulfill their job requirements. In fact policemen have lost lives serving in the line of duty. In all, a reform in policing strategies, recruitment, and culture can be used to enhance the quality of democracy and the economy in general.

Panel 4: Latin America's 2019 Super Election Cycle

Ms. Despotovic initiated the second day of the forum by highlighting the successful and wonderful conversations held on the first day of the forum. She wished the same productive and efficient results for thesecond day.

The fourth panel discussed Latin America's 2019 Super Election Cycle regarding the health of democracies in the region and the polarization that is taking place. Indicators show this impacting negatively the quality of democracy and incentivizing citizens to vote out of "democratic fatigueness." Daniel Zovatto, regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean for International IDEA lead this discussion delivering a keynote speech reporting political changes during times of high uncertainty and volatility has affected the super election cycle. Analyzing the actual political-electoral context of the Latin American region, Daniel Zovatto shared he found high levels of uncertainty, volatility, polarization and the increase of populist tendencies. In addition, high levels of crime, corruption, and impunity have exacerbated the weakness of state institutions and have given opportunity for organized crime networks to raise and exploit the fragility of the institutions to their liking. Lastly, the political crisis in Venezuela and Nicaragua, Brazil, Colombia, the turbulent Presidential administrations in Mexico and Peru, and Argentina's crisis have placed Latin America at the eye of a major storm. Daniel Zovatto shared all of these challenges have impacted negatively the electoral processes of the region.

"This decade is coming to a close with the 2019 super election cycle," said Daniel Zovatto. He shared is it a perfect and crucial time for a good discussion on political changes and electoral cycles. The super electoral cycle is the cycle in where the majority of the countries in the region held presidential elections one after another; a cycle experienced every 12 years.

With just a few months left of the super election cycle, in which 15 of the 18 countries in the region will have held presidential elections, Mr. Zovatto signaled that the fundamental challenge is responding to citizen demands and general dissatisfaction, and learning to govern in contexts of great uncertainty and complexity.

Major concerns and/or trends in the region seems to focus around political change. Daniel Zovatto raised the following question: "are we in the midst of new political cycle change?" Based on the results of the recent elections, experts seen a rise of new presidential candidates from minority parties who rose to popularity using corruption and security issues as their political leverage. That itself brings another challenge; the manipulation of social media to benefit a candidate's campaign. This entails spreading lies and misinforming the public, otherwise known as spreading "fake news." The problem extends even farther when states do not have the proper legal framework that that punishes those responsible for spreading fake news.

40 years after the beginning of the democratic transition wave, indicators measuring the political climate of the region have shown citizen's high levels of discontent and "democratic fatigueness" and with the downgrade of the quality of democracy. "Democratic fatigueness" has negatively impacted the levels of trust citizens have in their institutions, prompting citizens to become vulnerable to "fake news," and cast "angry votes." This overall diminishes the quality of democracy and allows for new candidates with new anti-system independent parties, coming like

a “messiah” to change the old systems and win elections. In South America, the Bolivian, Uruguayan, and Argentinean October elections are the last three elections very important to monitor parties elected and determine the future of the continent and know how to act accordingly.

In order to put a stop to the weakening of the quality of democracy, regional director Zovatto recommended the need for the region’s leaders to place a greater emphasis on winning its citizen’s trust back, learning how to govern in a political climate of high levels of uncertainty and volatility, polarization, and delivering rapid results and answers to citizens demands and high expectations. Lastly, regional director Zovatto recommended for the region to brace itself to deal with the brutal political and economic challenges the fourth industrial revolution will bring.

His presentation was followed by a distinguished panel composed of Gerardo De Icaza, Director for the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, for the Organization of American States (OAS), Maria Victoria Murillo, Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), Professor of Political Sciences and International Affairs, Columbia University, and Jorge Taiana, Former Minister of Foreign Relations of Argentina and General Director, Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos (CIEP), Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Alejandra Soto, Director of Integra Metas Estratégicas and moderated by Laura Flores, Director of the Americas Division, Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations.

Ms. Maria Victoria Murillo, director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia University initiated her discussion remarks reaffirming International IDEA’s regional director’s argument; “many people are tired of the inefficient political systems and parties at hand.” Citizens no longer believe in political parties because the administrations have failed to satisfy the public’s demands. Many of the parties willingly use issues like security, corruption, and economic growth to promise citizens things they know they will not be able to fulfill. Professor Murillo shared in Guatemala, a presidential candidate was prohibited to run for president because he had promised to reform and clean out corrupt institutions and leaders in charge. The only success story the region has encountered so far is that of the country of Panama, seen to have a remarkable economic growth.

Former minister of foreign relations of Argentina Jorge Taiana, expressed his input from Argentina’s electoral experiences. Argentina is most famously known for its popular support to Peronism. The Argentinean public is ve the government playing a role in influencing political campaigns and the public. Elections in Argentina are being also influenced by its economic crisis, and angry and desperate citizens. Debt has grown by 49%, and the poor children are facing the consequences. In regards to social media and fake news, contrary to other political campaigns, social media and fake had no strong effect influencing the public. The last point the former minister shared was “how is democracy and the rule of law weakening and how can we used it strengthen and empower the judicial system?”

Alejandra Soto, director of Integra Metas Estratégicas focused on the following fundamental topics: addressing the generational changes of politics (many people are stuck in the political scene of the 90s); polarization of elections and its negative impact in distrusting politics and democracy. On the other, many political campaigns and elections hire people who do not have respect levels of authority of election, nor for social media because they don’t know how to. Mrs.

Soto added there is no regulation of social media. Her concluding remarks emphasized the need of new training in leadership to push forward democracy.

Gerardo De Icaza, director for the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, for the Organization of American States (OAS), initiated his segment by posing the following question, “If this election of the super cycle had better elections than others, why the high levels of dissatisfaction of the region on twitter?” He believes we’ve put way too many expectations and pressure on elections and forgotten about the other elements of democracy that are now having a direct impact in this context.

The Director of Electoral cooperation and observation shared the Organization of American States’ (OAS) global definition of democracy which focuses on human rights as a key element. “Not only has the number of human rights complaints gone up, but the number of complaints to the Inter-American Commission has as well. This suggests that people do not believe their political rights are being protected at the national level.” The second element of democracy he addressed was the division of power. Power-balancing issues have disrupted elections and unjustified judicial interventions in Congressional procedures. The third element of democracy he highlighted was the rule of law, which has been weakened and has generated high levels of uncertainty, distrust, and betrayal. The last element of democracy noted was pluralism: the issue of false pluralism have shown up in many countries with two types of parties De Icaza referred to as “taxi parties” with very little power to govern.

The director for the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation’s closing remark emphasized addressing the feeling of betrayal which puts a lot of pressure on elections. De Icaza believes if all elements of democracy are incorporated in elections, it can restore society’s faith and trust in democracy and leaders, and improve the quality of elections.

The discussion panel was centered to answer the following question: What does the government of the region need to change in order to better their system?

- In the case of Argentina, we must address and tackle economic and social development issues.
- Reforming how social media and “fake news” is used in politics is crucial as well as monitoring which political party is responsible for spreading fake news through specialized technological surveillance. Make sure a legal framework is established that can punish the bad use of social media.
- Consolidate and agree on one definition of democracy; each person has their own definition of democracy.
- Focus on adapting to technological advancement, this is a must.
- Venezuela needs international intervention to help fight the political and humanitarian crisis at hand.
- Daniel Zovatto reiterated his recommendations by stressing one more time the need to:
 - Improve productivity in order for economic and GDP growth to occur.
 - Prepare for the fourth industrial revolution if not the consequences can be bad.
 - Improve poverty levels: 30% of the population is living in poverty.
 - Address middle class demands; (some demands are too high and it’s a major problem and concern).

- Recognize the region is in the middle of a brutal geo-economics, geopolitical and structural change and this can have a destructive consequence to economic growth.
- Reform the educational and political systems.
- Hold clean political elections focused on the quality of democracy.
- Find better leaders who represent and uphold the quality of democracy.

Panel 5: “Public-Private Partnerships for Development

Following the discussion on Latin America’s Super Election cycle, Krishnan Sharman Chief of the Strategic Engagement Unit, Financing for Development Office at the United Nations, delivered his keynote presentation for the fifth panel, “Private-public Partnerships for Development.” His presentation included a detailed analysis of the financial model and using private-public partnerships as an innovative instrument that can be modified to address the current challenges facing in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda refers to the public-private alliances including “projects that involve joint financing, including public-private associations, they should share risks and reward fairly, entail clear mechanisms of responsibility and meet social and environmental standards.” The panel was moderated by Ivan Rebolledo, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Terra Nova Strategic Partners, LLC, and featured Martin Chrisney, Senior Director, International Development Assistance Services (IDAS) Institute; José Manuel Vassallo, Professor, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) and Laura Abreu Malla, Specialist on Educational Policies and Multisectoral Initiatives.

Krishnan Sharman commenced his keynote presentation for the fifth panel, “Private-public Partnerships for Development” (PPP) stating the objective of this partnership results in an improvement in the quality and efficiency of a given service to the citizen as stated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda refers to the public-private alliances including “projects that involve joint financing, including public-private associations, they should share risks and reward fairly, entail clear mechanisms of responsibility and meet social and environmental standards.”

The key components of enabling this project would entail a proper well thought out project selection, transparent fiscal accounting and include social welfare issues in its legal framework. This project would require for the technical assistance and capacity building from the international community in all areas. In addition, global guidelines will be established to ensure all countries follow through with the project and reinforce accountability. Overall, Krishnan Sharman expressed these “people- first” Private-public partnerships are implemented in cases where they can provide value for money but may be deemed not fit for social developments in healthcare and education.

Sharma explained that in the developed economies, an average of two thirds of infrastructure is financed by the private sector and a third by the public sector unlike in developing countries. “The recent increase in the participation of the private sector in the financing of infrastructure, especially in electricity and telecommunications, is limited to middle-income countries private finances continue to make up just a small portion of the investment in total investment in the world of

development.” Ultimately, the efficiency of PPPs depends on the institutional capacity of countries to create them, manage them and evaluate them effectively, shared the Chief of Strategic Engagement Unit, for the UN’s Financing for Development Office.

Jose Manuel Vassallo, a professor at Madrid’s Poli-technical University was the first panelist to deliver his intake on PPP projects. Professor Vassallo expressed his support in using PPP models as an instrument with an objective to develop projects that can bring better services for the community. He stated, “In today’s world, we are facing challenges with the environment and in digital economy. We need better service for development, better ways to pay for human labor quickly and with a decent salary.” In professor Vassallo’s opinion, PPP projects can help ease public procurement tackling issues like poor transportation, poor infrastructure, public healthcare, area that need fast and well executed solutions. He also noted, unlike other countries Latin America does not have the capability to develop infrastructure themselves, and must seek PPP projects as the proper instrument to assist but also taking into account risks and cost of opportunities.

Professor Vassallo recommends using PPP model projects because in his opinion “they do work,” PPP projects work because of the accountability aspect in the contracts required between the public and private sector, reassuring both parties are doing their job. It is important to develop methodologies that talk about value, money, and that of providing an excellent quality of service in order to ensure the project turns out to be successful. On the flipside, the only problem Professor Vassallo has with the PPP model is that it lacks flexibility to adapt to change to current times. In long term contracts the private and public sector are obliged to a series of commitment that after 20 or more years will not encounter the same issues stated at the start of the project. Regardless, he stated projects must be chosen correctly and not done too fast or inefficiently, or project can fail. Professor Vassallo shared PPP model projects success stories of Chile and Peru as well as the failed PPP model project in Spain.

Professor Vassallo ended his remarks by stressing the importance of using PPP models to assist with the regions need. Although the model is useful it requires some improvement. Lastly, above all before entering into a contract, the two sectors private and public must analyze the possible risks, and learn to incentivize the public sector to follow through with their long term commitments.

Unlike the Chief of Strategic Engagement Unit, experts like Laura Abreu Malla a specialist on educational policies and multisector initiatives supported using PPP project that target and invest in social and educational issues. “They would require more evaluations, yes; but it would generate culture and long term change,” said Ms. Abreu Malla.

In proving PPP projects can benefit and assist educational policies, Ms. Abreu Malla shared the Dominican Republic’s success story. “The achievement of the educational revolution in the Dominican Republic is the result of a multisector effort. It’s based on multi-sectoral goals and work, for example; the path for more alliances exists,” shared Ms. Abreu Malla. Since 1990, public-private partnerships in DR resulted in having over 15,000 classrooms renovated, and the creation of two new educational initiatives: private corporations investing in teaching technology to incentivize students to work, and a transparency initiative known as the Dominican Initiative in

the educational sector, *Intiativa Dominicana con una educational sectoral*, which promotes education and financial transparency.

The last expert of this panel was Martin Chrisney, Senior Director of the International Development Assistance Services (IDAS) Institute who expressed his concern of us falling behind to fulfill our SDG goals but sees PPP projects as our best solution to catch up. Senior director Chrisney believes we must broaden our perspective and engage in PPP projects in order to reach our ambitious goals in a timely manner. This includes investing in health, education, transportation, environment and other sectors as well.

Senior director Martin Chrisney shared, PPP projects are also a great way to gain citizen's trust back. By creating social and environmental contracts citizens can understand and be more involved in, they can see the projects are multi-partner based and not just a "one-man's" project from institutions they do not trust.

Senior director Chrisney emphasized, private sector PPP projects require regulation and accountability from many players in order to overcome the lack of trust among all parties in the contract. In many cases, the public and private sector do not engage in partnerships nor interact in discussions, and that must change in order for the project to work. In addition to trust, it is crucial for governments to use public policy to create new markets with private investments to generate money and bring financial investment to the most disadvantaged. Senior Director Chrisney reiterated having the right institutions, the right instruments, and creative innovations will help the region reach the 2030 sustainable development goals.

The following is a broad summary of the questions, remarks and ideas shared by the audience and panelist:

- Considering the idea of the developing world to adapt to technology and use PPP projects to assist in investing in the fourth industrial revolution (Advanced technology, Artificial Intelligence, robots etc.).
 - Robots can assist in areas with shortage of labor
 - Healthcare: robots can assist doctors and nurses with human labor in displaced areas
- Latin America suffers from a "corruption hangover" we need to rebuild from that in order to gain trust and invite the private sector to invest in the region.
- The private sector requires incentives to invest, a task for the public sector to figure out how to do.
- It is key to define the responsibility of the public and private sector in PPP projects.
- Use private-public projects to invest in prison systems: a "social bonus."
 - In prison, PPP's can be used as incentives to regulate and follow the human rights requirements from public and private sector.

Panel 6: Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Challenges

The two day event was concluded with a sixth panel, “Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Challenges,” moderated by International IDEA’s Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Daniel Zovatto, alongside Executive Director for the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), Natasha Despotovic. The Panel aimed to identify the major challenges for democracy and development in the region’s radar for the next decade. Some of the challenges mentioned were the trade-war between the US and China, the discontent towards democracy, institutional weakness, the increase of inequality, the uncertainty and the volatility in the world and fear of a global economic recession.

Secretary General Kevin Casas Zamora, one of the distinguished guests for this segment, urged despite all the negative factors, we cannot forget “how much [the region] has advanced” because he believes that “democracy in Latin American and the Caribbean have some results to show.” “Levels of human development in the region have not stopped advancing and I suspect that two things, the capacity to develop democratic elections that function well and the increased level of human development, go hand-in-hand” added Casas Zamora.

Alongside our Secretary General, was Laura Chinchilla, former President of Costa Rica and Vice President of World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid; Humberto de la Calle, former Vice President of Colombia and former lead negotiator for the Colombian government for the peace talks with the FARC made up part of the panel. It also featured Jorge Castañeda, former minister of foreign relations of Mexico and distinguished professor of Politics and Latin American and Caribbean studies at NYU; Jorge Taiana, former minister of foreign relations of Argentina and general director of Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos(CIEP), Universidad Nacional de San Martín and María Eugenia Mosquera, Historian, Latin America and Geopolitics Specialist; President and Founder of cultural TV channel VALETV. The event concluded with a “moderate-optimistic view” for the future of Latin America and the Caribbean with recommendations stressing the assistance of the international community and considerations of regional integration to be better prepared to overcome the socioeconomic and political changes that lay ahead.

The Latin American and Caribbean regional director for International IDEA, Daniel Zovatto initiated the last panel highlighting democracy is being threatened in the region. This is due to several factors, the US-China trade war, corruption, security issues, high levels of poverty and inequality, democratic fatigueness, and low productivity are among some of the issues affecting Latin America. His guiding question for the panel were the following:

- What can the region do to prevent the same challenges from presenting themselves again in the next decade?
- How can we improve the productivity rate in the region?
- What can we do to help improve and sustain democracy in the region?

Laura Chinchilla former President of Costa Rica initiated the panel discussion highlighting six reasons why the region is facing these challenges:

1. High levels of dissatisfaction in democracy, “democratic fatigueness”;
2. Poor leaders and weak institutions;

3. Poor economic growth;
4. High demands and expectations of weak institutions;
5. Lack of Judicial and political independence; and
6. Indefinite re-election of leaders.

These factors referred to as a dangerous cocktail by President Chinchilla have severe repercussions which limits her optimistic view of the immediate future of the region. Three fundamental pillars she suggested the region should focus on are strengthening leadership, institutions, and citizenship.

Secretary General Casas Zamora, emphasized even though the region faces all these challenges we must not forget all that it has accomplished and improved as well. Even though Latin America has a turbulent political history, it has developed and accepted democratic elections as the only way to elect a president, even though the case of Venezuela highlights the worst of leaders and human development. The Secretary General shared for him the issues of democracy facing the region is due to the failure to uphold the rule of law and that can bring numerous negative consequences.

His recommendations circled around the notion of creating a new narrative for democracy focused on strong leaders who are dedicated to finding the most fitting solutions for the people. The quality of democracy is one of the main foundations needed to solve the region's problems. That combined with reforming weak institutions, addressing the economic deficit, and providing good governance can save and strengthen democracy.

Humberto De La Calle, former Vice President of Colombia and former lead negotiator for the Colombian government for the peace talks with the FARC believes the current challenges in democracy and representative democracy stems far beyond the region. Vice President De La Calle highlighted democracy is being challenged by populism and separation of powers. "Representative democracy is an instrument of that narrative and what we see in the world is an increase in populism, autocracy, fake news, social media, bigotry, loss of the separation of powers," emphasized the Vice President of Colombia.

In the case of Colombia, the Vice President blamed a referendum limiting the judicial power and the economic deficit for diminishing democratic representation in the country. In addition, the new liberal era we live in has brought new political issues that have stirred away from "traditional" political themes and ideologies. This is why Vice President De La Calle suggested focusing on generating financial utopias through reformed institutions and new leaders that enforce integrating technology into the region's everyday culture and creating innovative forms of democratic dialogues, to improve human development and democracy.

Maria Eugenia Mosquera, Historian, Latin America and Geopolitics Specialist; President and Founder of cultural TV channel VALETV centered her discussion on the Venezuelan crisis and the need for a peaceful and democratic solution to the problem. In Venezuela, democracy has weakened, due to misinformed citizens who could not identify weak and unfit democratic leaders and therefore supported poor leaders like Maduro. Under Maduro's Administration 4 million Venezuelans have fled the country in search of food, healthcare, employment, and a better life elsewhere. Ms. Mosquera believes the only hope to end the Venezuelan crisis is to pressure

the international community to intervene and support free and transparent elections. Lastly, she believes we must educate the new generation of citizens on the importance of democracy, liberty, and citizenship.

Jorge Taiana, former minister of foreign relations of Argentina and general director of the International Center for Political Science (CIEP) expressed the high levels of inequality is the biggest threat to democracy but still has an optimistic view the region will overcome the current democratic crisis. He referred to former Argentine president Raúl Alfonsín's remarks on the power of democracy, "with democracy one eats, one heals, and one learns," to reiterate the region's ability to save the quality of democracy.

The former minister highlighted the region's history of resiliency overcoming dictatorships and hyperinflations and believes the democratic crisis will not be the exception. By working on improving the quality of democracy, defending and protecting human rights, investing in social and infrastructural development projects that are efficient and capable of maintaining order, he sees the region recuperating from the crisis. In regards to his home country Argentina, former minister Taiana believes the opposition will win elections because they are seen to have the best solutions to solve Argentina's economic crisis.

Jorge Castañeda, former minister of Foreign Relations of Mexico and distinguished professor of Politics and Latin American and Caribbean studies at NYU, expressed corruption is one of the biggest challenges threatening democracy. He found the issue of combating corruption, to be a key element in political campaigns in the 2018-2019 super electoral cycle. A case he expressed to be utterly true during Mexico's elections. In addition to corruption, the former minister of foreign relations highlighted solutions to violence, crime, and security issues to be major deciding factors in citizen's votes as well. For Mexico, these issues have highly affected and impacted Mexican citizens' everyday life. In order to tackle these issues, the former minister of foreign relations stressed the need to reform the current institutions in place but also add new "supranational institutions," in the hemisphere. "If we are honest, we have to recognize that we cannot do it alone," said the former minister.

Following the recommendations suggested by the distinguished panelist, an interactive panel discussion was opened and shared with the audience. The following points are a summary of ideas, questions, and recommendations discussed and recognized.

- Social media has contributed and affected political campaigns and electoral institutions both positively and negatively.
 - In most cases like Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina social media was used to manipulate political campaigns, misinform the public and spread fake news.
 - The current President of Mexico Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) is using social media as his main portal of communication, taking away the opportunities of traditional media portals (newspaper, TV, radio).
 - In the case of Venezuela, social media has helped Venezuelan citizens stay informed and updated on the country's situation even after Maduro censored and limited news coverage.
 - Social media has helped in communicating to citizens about mass protests.

- It has been used as evidence to inform the international community about the severe humanitarian, and political crisis at hand.
 - Social media has served as a portal of communication between Venezuelan citizens abroad and those in the country.
 - Aided in pushing forward resistance initiatives for opposition leaders.
 - Social media has given political leaders an opportunity to connect more intimate with their followers and citizens as well as keep them well informed.
- To some, fake news and misinformation is one of the biggest global threats to democracy and nations lack the proper legal framework to address this issue.
- Social media is being used as a very powerful propaganda tool.
- The way politics are being practiced is damaging the integrity and the quality of democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean. We must choose long term policies and laws that endure very little change and are consistent and follow through with each new administration in power.
 - Costa Rica recently won an award for its work in environmental development, a project that has been worked on for over 50 years. In Costa Rica, environmental laws have been long-term regardless of the different ruling parties and administrations in power. This should also be the case for policies in education, democracy and human rights.
- Political parties need to operate with a sense of morality and integrity. Their main concern should be defending and supporting human rights, and improving socioeconomic challenges.
- Is artificial intelligence and robots a threat to human labor (already low) in the region?
 - In Colombia, online mobile applications have become part of the everyday service for citizens. In the future will humans become depending on technology to function and carry out their every day lives?
- How can Latin America protect human rights like freedom of speech from being threatened?
- Polarization, cultural rivalries, corruption, and dissatisfaction of democracy is affecting democracy negatively.
- The region is facing a severe political and humanitarian crisis in the countries of Venezuela and Nicaragua.
 - The Nicaraguan crisis is barely reported on in the international media.
 - There are approximately 300-500 deaths, over 800 political prisoners, and news reporters and media outlets have been censored.

The second Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean which took place in New York City this past 26th and 27th of September, parallel to the United Nations' annual General Assembly meeting concluded in a modest optimistic view. The current challenges being faced in the region has impacted Latin American and Caribbean drastically and negatively. The regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean for International IDEA Daniel Zovatto summarized the main arguments the panelist discussed. He reiterated the need for “a new agenda for Latin America” focused on strong leaders who uphold democratic principles and support regional consolidation to target the socioeconomic and political crisis, the “fourth industrial revolution,” (artificial intelligence and robots) and the impact of social media and technology on democracy. The last argument highlighted The needs to democratically elect leaders capable of leading during times of

high levels of volatility and uncertainty rates and in polarization and who can deliver fast and effective answers to high expectations of public demand. In democracy to prevail, the only way to guarantee fair and clean elections in the region is with the assistance of the international community.