



CONCORDIA

THE AMERICAS

SUMMARY REPORT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Americas Society / Council of the Americas

HOSTED BY



Miami Dade
College

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NOTICIAS



CONCORDIA | THE AMERICAS



OVERVIEW

Concordia | The Americas brought together over 220 attendees in total. The round-table format of the Summit was truly unique and interactive. Conversation leads ignited an engaging discussion among a diverse group of regional stakeholders from Concordia's network of public, private, and nonprofit leaders.

José María Aznar, former President of the Government of Spain, served as the Summit chair and Paula J. Dobriansky, former Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs & President's Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, served as the Assembly Chair. The result was a robust dialogue on how public-private partnerships can help solve challenges in the region.

CHAIRS



CONCORDIA | THE AMERICAS CHAIR

José María Aznar

Former President, The Government of Spain



ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Paula J. Dobriansky, PH.D.

Former Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs & President's Special Envoy to Northern Ireland

FEATURED CONVERSATION LEADS

President Sebastián Piñera

*Former President,
The Republic of Chile*



President Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramírez

*Former President,
Plurinational State of Bolivia*



President Luis Alberto Lacalle

*Former President,
Republic of Uruguay*



Lilian Tintori

*Venezuelan Human
Rights Activist*



Jorge M. Pérez

*Chairman & CEO,
Related Group of Florida*



Luis Almagro Lemes

*Secretary General,
Organization of American States*



President Álvaro Uribe Vélez

*Former President,
The Republic of Colombia*



Laurent Salvador Lamothe

*Former Prime Minister,
The Republic of Haiti*



President Mikheil Saakashvili

*Former President,
The Republic of Georgia*



Eduardo J. Padrón, PH.D.

President, Miami Dade College



Rosa María Payá Acevedo

*President, Latin-American
Youth Network for Democracy*



BY THE NUMBERS

3

PARTNERS

7

HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT

40

CONVERSATION LEADS

60

REGISTERED PRESS

100

NEWS STORIES

220

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



OPENING REMARKS & STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY: NEW CHALLENGES FOR NEW LEADERS



"THERE IS AN ECONOMIC CRISIS IN MANY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DEFEATED THE EXPECTATIONS AND HOPES OF MANY PEOPLE...THE DREAMS OF MANY PEOPLE. AND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE ANGRY IN MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD." - ANA BOTELLA

CONVERSATION LEADS

Matthew A. Swift, Co-Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Concordia

Nicholas M. Logothetis Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board, Concordia

José María Aznar, former President of the Government of Spain, Chair of Concordia | The Americas and Leadership Council Member

Paula J. Dobriansky, former Under Secretary of State for Democracy & Global Affairs & President's Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, Concordia Leadership Council

Dr. Eduardo Padrón, President, Miami Dade College

Tomás Regalado, Mayor of Miami

Enrique Acevedo, Anchor, Univision (moderator)

Ana Botella, Former Mayor, Madrid, Spain

Luis Alberto Lacalle, Former President, Eastern Republic of Uruguay

Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, Founder, Creating Opportunities Party (CREO), Republic of Ecuador

Álvaro Uribe, Former President, Republic of Colombia

The opening session welcomed all participants to Concordia | The Americas and introduced the Summit, underscoring the transformative time facing the Americas and emphasizing the positive role that public-private partnerships can have throughout the region.

The overriding theme of the subsequent panel was the critical role democratic systems play in establishing stable social and economic systems in fragile economies. Guillermo Lasso Mendoza discussed the oil boom in Ecuador and the state's limitations on the media. He also explained that recent natural disasters have exposed governance challenges, prompting a universal discontent with the government in Ecuador. The frustration at the systematic structures of government across Latin America is leading to political apathy amongst youth in the region. The need to expand education programs is coupled with the increase in technology and accessibility to information, moderator Enrique Acevedo stated. Ana Botella attributed the biggest technological revolution to the modes of communication between political parties and the public. Engagement and transparency are key factors in increasing political interest and eliminating corruption within the system, in addition to establishing an ideology. "The sense of lost values and the difficulty of convincing young people to participate is the deep crisis of the system", Luis Alberto Lacalle noted.

According to Álvaro Uribe, building confidence in international investment is key to the region. As technological advancement has exposed political and economic disparities, Uribe stressed, "We need to go back to social and private investments." President Lacalle elaborated on President Uribe's point, commenting on the benefits of publicly available funds, which help to avoid favoring the rich. He also noted the importance of steering away from traditional forms of government that can enhance corruption. In conclusion, the panel agreed that international collaboration is vital for creating and sustaining regional cooperation and inciting democratic systems.



ECONOMIC ALLIANCES: INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY IN THE AMERICAS



"If you work driven by duty over desire, you tap into a renewal energy that is much deeper. Concordia is a duty-bound organization that wants to make the world better" -GEORGE M. LOGOTHETIS, CHAIRMAN & CEO, THE LIBRA GROUP

CONVERSATION LEADS

Nicholas M. Logothetis, Co-Founder & Chairman of the Board, Concordia (moderator)

George M. Logothetis, Chairman & CEO, The Libra Group

Rafael Alonso, President, Airbus Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Jordi Botifoll, President, Latin America Theater, Cisco

Lucio Castro, Secretary of Productive Transformation of the Ministry of Production, Republic of Argentina

Hon. Stockwell Day, Strategic Advisor, McMillan LLP; Former Minister of International Trade, Canada

Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank

George Logothetis, Chairman and CEO of The Libra Group and Chairman of Concordia's Leadership Council, began this session by praising the importance of public-private partnerships, recognizing Concordia's crucial role in fostering dialogue across sectors to build partnerships. Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky went on to highlight Concordia's Partnership Index and the significance of identifying future economic alliances through partnership opportunities. Recurring topics throughout the session included infrastructure investment, trade as a tool to promote democracy, and economic fluctuation. Luis Alberto Moreno suggested that the next twenty years would be critical for the development of a stable and climate-friendly infrastructure, a top priority for Latin America. Secretary Lucio Castro focused on Argentina's economy, explaining that a combination of optimism and gradual reform in rebuilding previously under-invested economies will result in a booming economy.

Rafael Alonso discussed the aviation industry's potential for facilitating cooperation between countries in the Americas. He argued that the government should support this growth, which is providing more than 5 million jobs throughout the region and contributing \$160 billion in GDP. Alonso also emphasized the need for relevant infrastructure growth and increasing presence in regions that are not currently supported, as low cost airlines make up 40% of the market in Latin America. Jordi Botifoll suggested that companies' main role in Latin America should be to invest in infrastructure by developing smart cities, helping them digitize, and fostering economies based on knowledge and innovation. Stockwell Day remarked on Canada's strong interest in the US debates and the ensuing regional ramifications that current stances on international trade would have. Day promoted efforts to advance international trade, emphasizing the local benefits of empowered techniques. He also warned against neutrality, arguing that trade itself advances democracy. The entire panel aligned on the need to invest in youth to both decrease the skills gap and give them a platform to access their entrepreneurial spirit. It is critical to inform the public of the correlation between trade and long-term growth. The panel concluded with the notion that a more knowledgeable public, as it relates to trade and economy, is beneficial for democracy.



EVOLVING ENERGY DYNAMICS ACROSS NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA



"THE WORLD IS ABSOLUTELY AWASH IN FOSSIL FUELS IN OIL AND IN GAS... BUT THE OLD PARADIGM OF ENERGY SECURITY DOESN'T WORK ANY MORE... TODAY WE HAVE TO TAKE INTO THE ACCOUNT THE QUESTION OF GLOBAL WARMING AND THE ENVIRONMENT." - DR. EDWARD GLAB

CONVERSATION LEADS

Daniel Restrepo, Founder, Restrepo Strategies, LLC; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council (moderator)

Dr. Edward Glab, Director Global Energy Security Forum, School of International and Public Affairs, FIU

Laurent Lamothe, President, LSL WI, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Haiti

Thomas O'Flynn, Chief Financial Officer & Executive Vice President, The AES Corporation

This session sought to explore the region's role in the broader global context of the energy revolution by examining country specific needs, private companies' interests, and the consumer perspective. The oil-rich regions of the Americas hold a distinct position in the world as the demand for oil fluctuates. The session addressed the politicization of energy issues, the difficulty in effectively communicating realities to the public, and issues related to resources and transport.

Panelists and participants agreed that energy efficiency serves the best interest of all stakeholders, yet challenges remain in communicating policies in the face of strategic opposition. Dr. Edward Glab noted that the U.S. military currently ranks climate change as the greatest national threat to security. However, the dependency of the transportation sector on oil creates a political barrier to affecting change. The path to efficiency involves the use of free markets to determine the new era in energy. In order to do so, the consumer needs to see the real price of energy reflected in their bill. Former Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe commented that we are not fully harnessing the power of the sun, while battery technology to store energy for solar power needs more financing. Thomas O'Flynn agreed that increased battery storage could improve energy supply in cases of renewable sources, such as solar and wind. The market will fluctuate naturally with resources, rather than being decoupled from consumption. The session also touched on the Keystone Pipeline, highlighting the benefits of transporting oil via the pipeline despite opposition due to its potential negative impacts. Throughout the session, panelists focused on alternatives to current energy sources and concluded that wealthy nations must bear the responsibility of addressing energy issues and leading the efforts forward. Access to technology, expertise, and money need to be shared with the rest of the world to determine the cleanest alternatives.



THE FUTURE OF CUBA: WHAT THAWING US-CUBA RELATIONS MEANS FOR BUSINESS AND DEMOCRACY



"THE ONLY SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN COLOMBIA AND TRUE DEMOCRACY IN CUBA REQUIRES PEACE IN VENEZUELA." - PRESIDENT JORGE QUIROGA

CONVERSATION LEADS

Rosa María Payá Acevedo, Coordinator of the Cuba Decide Campaign, President of the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy, Vice President of the FDP (moderator)

Jorge Quiroga, Former President, Plurinational State of Bolivia

Sebastián Piñera, Former President, Republic of Chile

Mariana Atencio, Host and Correspondent, Fusion (moderator)

Maria Elena Lagomasino, Managing Partner & CEO, WE Family Offices

Jorge Pérez, Chairman & CEO, The Related Group

The closing session of the Summit's first day concentrated on Cuba-U.S. relations and the delicate role of the United States in supporting Cuban development. Panelists and participants discussed the relative importance of economic versus political development and ways to engage young Cubans in civil society.

There is a struggle between the old and the new in Cuba. Jorge M. Pérez sees Raúl Castro as the new regime, representative of young people potentially willing to listen to fresh ideas. He argued that Cuban youth, residing in both the U.S. and Cuba, may be best equipped to change and rebuild the country. Freedom of expression is essential to democratic growth and reform, especially to youth active on social media. Luis Alberto Lacalle suggested the creation a program similar to the Peace Corps to engage Cuban-American youth, which would offer them opportunities to acquire knowledge and gain skillsets without threat or imposition. Former President Jorge Quiroga commented on the connection between Venezuela, Colombia, and Cuba, which is also known as the Caribbean triangle. This relationship illustrates the interdependence between these nations, alluding to the interconnected nature of conflict and crisis in the region.

The discussion addressed next steps and the inherent nature of this transitional phase. The consensus was that both political and economic liberalization would be essential to the success of Cuba: the transition is unstoppable, but the erosion of press freedom obscures reality and the needs of the people. As former President Piñera said "The transition has already started, and once it starts, its very hard to stop it. The important thing is to realize the economic and political changes have to go hand in hand". To engage Cuban-American youth and spur private tourism businesses, stories of Cuba need to make their way into the English-speaking market. The clearest investment route to Cuba is through tourism, and as the legal framework develops, ownership of land needs to reflect Cuban ownership. Pérez suggested 100-year leases to incite development, where properties revert back to government ownership at the conclusion. The growth of the tourism sector might in turn spawn the development of the agricultural sector. The panel concluded that both economic and political freedoms require action. As the economy grows and the public experiences wealth, political freedoms will naturally follow. At the same time, circumventing the rule of law to grow the economy will undercut the basic requirements of political freedom, thus, the two must go hand in hand.



WHAT THE 2016 US ELECTION MEANS FOR THE AMERICAS



"THIS HAS BEEN A VERY PAINFUL ELECTION FOR LATINOS. WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS EMBODIED THE AMERICAN DREAM. WE ARE HERE TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND TRY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS COUNTRY." - JOSÉ FERNANDEZ

CONVERSATION LEADS

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, U.S. Representatives from Florida, 27th District (via Video)

Maria Elena Salinas, Anchor, Univision (moderator)

Jorge Arrizurieta, Chairman & CEO, Arrizurieta & Assoc. LLC

José Fernandez, Former United States Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs

Matthew Swift, Co-Founder, Chairman, & CEO, Concordia

Neera Tanden, President & CEO, Center for American Progress

Concordia Co-Founder and Chairman, Nicholas Logothetis, and Deputy Mayor of Miami Dade, Jack Osterholt opened the second day of programming. Video remarks by Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, implied that the upcoming U.S. election would have significant ramifications on the economic and political sphere in the Americas.

In a discussion moderated by Univision's anchor, Maria Elena Salinas, Matthew Swift, Co-Founder, Chairman, & CEO of Concordia, emphasized the fact that American voters have been challenging the establishment on both sides of the aisle. The lack of focus on foreign policy issues in this campaign cycle raises grave concerns throughout the region. Jorge Quiroga, former President of Bolivia, presented the Latin American point of view, revealing that there is a resounding fear of how U.S. relations with Latin America will change if Trump is elected. He raised questions whether the U.S. would still receive people or products from the region under a Trump Administration. José Fernandez projected that the likely Democratic nominee will put forth a principled, values-driven set of foreign policies, supported by a strong military and a nuanced intelligence strategy. Additionally, the panelists who identified as Republicans, admitted the significance of Trump's isolationist foreign policies and the detrimental regional effect these would have. Neera Tanden asserted that Trump feeds off of American's anxieties and fears but has failed to address salient points regarding foreign policy issues. The United States needs to recognize its impact on Latin American nations as a result of this election process, as highlighted by Ambassador Negroponte in calling for further U.S. coverage of the situations in Brazil and Venezuela. Jorge L. Arrizurieta argued that there has been a significant bias across media networks thus far and insisted that media outlets should provide a deeper analysis of each candidate to bring more substantive critiques to light.

Strategic U.S. engagement is key for both likely nominees moving forward to avoid regional instability. The notion that Hispanics will always be welcome in the United States also resounded throughout the discussion. The need for engagement at a congressional level and focus on deeper analysis of the nominees' policies during the general election will result in confronting major foreign policy issues and how these policies will reflect the regional importance of Latin America. While the group generally agreed upon the threatening nature of Trump's rhetoric in regards to Latin America, multiple speakers noted the tendency of candidates to tone down their fringe positions come the general election. As U.S. Republicans struggle with an identity crisis, candidates on both sides of the aisle are pedaling simple solutions. Panelists and participants hoped that candidates would present more nuanced, dynamic, and substantive policy platforms come the general election.



COMBATING CORRUPTION: AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO REGIONAL SECURITY?



"THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET SECURITY IS REGIONAL COOPERATION. THERE'S NOT ONE COUNTRY THAT IS ABLE TO DO IT ALONE, BUT THERE WON'T BE EFFECTIVENESS IF THINGS FALL TO CORRUPTION." - LTG. JOSEPH DiSALVO

CONVERSATION LEADS

Brian Winter, Vice President, Policy, Americas Society/Council of the Americas & Editor-in-Chief of Americas Quarterly (moderator)

Andrés Chadwick, former Minister of the Interior, Republic of Chile

Michael Cherkasky, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, Exiger, Monitor of HSBC

Lieutenant General Joseph DiSalvo, Deputy Commander, US Southern Command

The Hon. Peter Gordon MacKay, Partner, Baker & McKenzie; Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Canada

The Hon. Alejandro Ordóñez, Inspector General, Republic of Colombia

In the wake of the impeachment proceedings in Brazil, the pervasive corruption in the Venezuelan government, and fragile internal structures of Cuba, this discussion focused on similar regional issues and their implications on democracy throughout the region. The advocates present at Concordia | The Americas, along with their cross-sector peers, addressed these issues and potential solutions.

Brian Winter identified high levels of dissatisfaction as correlated with the rise of the middle class and their demands for good governance. Due to increased transparency as a result of the social media phenomenon, citizens are increasingly aware of government fraud and deception. This empowers people to rise up and unify. Alejandro Ordóñez Maldonado succinctly conveyed the gravity of the situation, saying, "The great scourge of democracy is corruption".

Lt. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo identified the dangers of corruption in all sectors, revealing that corruption negatively impacts security. Institutions must be challenged systematically to truly solve problems instead of ousting one corrupt government in favor of another. The military plays a special role in enforcing the rule of law and protecting the people. The actors at play in Venezuela illustrate the range of interests. Without an effective security force, opposition leaders have been jailed and citizens have lost. Peter Mackay highlighted the risks that ever-expanding Internet access poses, alluding to the ease with which children can be corrupted online. Mackay also referenced terrorism as a very clear form of corruption. As unfortunate as the new norm of terrorism is, it does allow us to put a spotlight on the issue of corruption. Michael Cherkasky explained how corruption destroys hope, faith, and happiness. Cherkasky came out as a proponent of expanding the traditional definition of corruption to include notions of nepotism, favoritism, and the concentration of power among the ultra-rich, which continues to plague society today.



ROAD TO RECOVERY: VENEZUELA'S UPHILL BATTLE



"WE HAVE TO BE FOCUSED ON LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. THE POLITICAL SOLUTION IS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE GOING TO REACH WITH WORLD LEADERS. SOLIDARITY IS WHAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS." - LILIAN TINTORI

CONVERSATION LEADS

Andrés Oppenheimer, Anchor, "Oppenheimer Presenta", CNN Español & Columnist, The Miami Herald (moderator)

María Corina Machado, Political Figure, Venezuela (via video)

Luis Almagro Lemes, Secretary General, Organization of American States

José María Aznar, Former President of the Government of Spain, Chair Concordia | The Americas and Concordia Leadership Council Member

Mitzy Capriles De Ledezma, Wife of the Mayor of Caracas, Venezuela

José Toro-Hardy, Director, Cedice

Lilian Tintori, Venezuelan Human Rights Activist

Dr. Asdrúbal Aguiar, Director, Iniciativa Democrática de España y las Américas (IDEA)

Carlos Vecchio, National Political Coordinator for Voluntad Popular

The closing session addressed the severe economic, political, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Implications of the regional effect on trade, the democratic opposition movement, and external actions spurred discussion on the challenges facing Venezuela and its people, as they fight an uphill battle to recovery.

María Corina Machado, a Venezuelan political activist, expressed her distress at the dire situation of the Venezuelan people and conveyed the urgent need for international support. Her ardent statement set the tone for the meeting; all the speakers and participants who followed echoed her call to action. OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro detailed procedures on how to apply specific tasks to the inter-American system, outlining the complex political framework of an organization made up of sovereign nations. He concluded by affirming an article that outlines provisions and strategies for change in Venezuela's electoral system and, consequently, the country's fundamental rights. Former President José María Aznar went on to connect OAS' commitment to that of broader international support. The group unanimously agreed that voices outside of Venezuela capable of speaking out must continue to do so. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, the former President of Colombia, looked beyond the OAS to the United Nations as an international entity with the authority to intervene and protect the people. The violence on the street resulting from aggression in the political sphere in the wake of Chavez and the ability of the outgoing congress to evade the incoming congress illustrates the disarray and violations of basic democratic principles permeating the country's politics.

The Cuba session on the proceeding day established the importance of Venezuela to the region and developing governments. The hope that both Cuba and Venezuela build stable democratic governments requires mutual cooperation and international support. Panelists and participants detailed the experience of the Venezuelan crisis from the perspective of the public: José Toro-Hardy discussed the effects of hyperinflation on the supermarket lines, while Venezuelan human rights activist Lilian Tintori commemorated members of the opposition abused by the regime. As the wife of Leopoldo López, a political prisoner in Venezuela, her message carried particular gravity. The consensus to garner international support requires continued action. The regional membership of the OAS makes it the ideal institution to lead unified action against human rights abuses and provide a forum for potential solutions. Tintori's message was a powerful follow-up to Machado, saying, "Solidarity is what makes a political solution in Venezuela possible."

NEWS & PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



Concordia | The Americas garnered significant attention from the press, particularly from Latin American media outlets, given the relevance of topics to current events in the region. Univision, the largest media network serving America's growing Latin American community, was the official media partner for the event. Three of their top anchors, Enrique Acevedo, María Elena Salinas, and Mariana Atencio, served as moderators. As a result of this partnership and high press attendance, the Summit made headlines across Latin America – a first for Concordia, symbolizing a big step up in recognition for the organization.

UNIVISION NOTICIAS – CONCORDIA | THE AMERICAS MEDIA PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

[Primetime news broadcast on Univision 23](#)

[Evening news Broadcast on Univision 23](#)

[Trump y El Renacer de la Ira Antiestadounidense En America Latina](#)

VIDEO & BROADCAST

[Marti Noticias - TV Martí](#)

[Noticias Telemundo - Telemundo 51](#)

[Noticias an5 - América TeVé](#)

[Noticias NTN24 - NTN24 Miami](#)

PRINT & ONLINE

[Líderes mundiales analizaran retos políticos del continente americano en Miami - El Nuevo Herald](#)

[La Cumbre Concordia reúne en Miami a líderes del continente Americano – Terra Noticias via EFE](#)

[Informe de OEA sobre crisis en Venezuela, a fines de mayo – Terra Noticias](#)

[Aznar preside este jueves en Miami un foro de líderes mundiales sobre los desafíos de América Latina – ABC Diario](#)

[Gane o no, Trump ya dañó las relaciones con Latinoamérica, según expertos – Diario Las Americas](#)

[Airbus “optimista” respecto a América Latina, pese a ser año “complicado” – Aerolatin News](#)

[Cumbre Concordia de las Américas: El fracasado modelo del Socialismo del Siglo XXI – El Diario Internacional](#)

[Uribe: Gobiernos dejaron solos a los venezolanos al no activar Carta Democrática –El Venezolano News](#)

[Cumbre Concordia: Aznar pide dejar espejismos de libertad en Cuba – Miami Diario](#)