The 25th Biannual Latin America Working Group

November 14, 2013
Casa Andina
Lima, Peru

8:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 am Welcoming remarks: Michael Shifter

8:45 – 10:15 am Peru: Another missed opportunity?

What are the factors behind President Humala’s declining popularity? What are the prospects for his governing coalition? How could he increase his political capital? What can be expected in the remaining years of his presidency? What are Humala’s strengths? Has his governing strategy evolved while in office? How is his newest cabinet faring? Is progress on the reform agenda likely? Is fujimorismo gaining strength? Are there any prospects for a true leftist coalition, such as the nascent Frente Amplio, or will the 2016 elections be dominated by traditional political forces? Who are the frontrunners in the next presidential election? Are any new leaders emerging? Will the government continue to face upheaval and social conflict in rural areas? What role will the drug and citizen security issues play in the coming
years? What impact will the president’s drug policies have? Will the increased focus on eradication lead to increased social conflict? Will the recent economic slowdown have political repercussions? Will shrinking fiscal space lead to a change in the direction of the Humala government? What have been the main changes in foreign policy compared to the previous administration?

10:15 – 11:45 am  
**Colombia: Another reelection?**

What is the outlook for the peace process? Is an agreement feasible before the 2014 elections? What concessions to the FARC would Colombians conceivably tolerate? What is the outlook for a popular referendum? How would an indefinite suspension of negotiations affect President Santos’ reelection prospects? Why has Santos’ popularity declined? Can he recover it? What are Santos’ main vulnerabilities? What are his strengths? How will he fare against Zuluaga? What are Zuluaga’s strengths and weaknesses? Are there any other major candidates on the Left that will enter the race? What can be expected in the upcoming congressional elections? What role will Centro Democrático play, and how successful will it be? What is Uribe’s impact on Colombian politics? What accounts for the wave of protests in the country’s rural sectors and some cities? How effective will the agrarian pact be? What are the main economic challenges facing the country? Where do relations with Venezuela stand? How has Santos’ stance on the ICJ’s San Andrés ruling played out politically in Colombia? What implications does his decision have for other border disputes in Latin America?

11:45 – 12:00 pm  
**Coffee break**

12:00 – 1:00 pm  
**Chile: What to expect from a second Bachelet presidency?**

Assuming she is reelected, what are the main challenges facing Michelle Bachelet in her second term? Will she be able to quell popular discontent? What are the most important issues for voters? How would a second Bachelet presidency differ from the first? What are the principal challenges she faces? What legislative environment is she likely to face? How large will her congressional majorities be? What are her main
policy priorities? How does Bachelet plan to address income inequality? Will she be able to follow through with her promises of education, fiscal, and political reforms? Will constitutional reform become a reality? Would economic policy largely be a continuation of past administrations, or can Chileans expect change? What will be the health and strength of Chile’s two competing coalitions? What are the prospects for generational renewal within the Concertación and the Alianza? How is Chile’s foreign policy likely to change under a Bachelet presidency? Will there be different emphases or priorities?

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Lunch: What are the prospects for regional integration? Perspectives from former Peruvian ministers of foreign affairs: José García Belaúnde & Rafael Rocagliolo

How has the landscape of regional organizations changed in recent years? Are recent groupings like ALBA, UNASUR, and CELAC playing a significant role? What are the possibilities and limits of the Alliance of the Pacific? Is it likely to have a political function? What are the risks and opportunities of the Trans-Pacific Partnership? Who are likely to be the principal winners and losers in these trade agreements? Can a reform process make the OAS more effective? Did the OAS report on drug policy have an appreciable impact? Has the Ibero-American Summit lost relevance? How are Spain and Europe viewed in Latin America? What are the prospects of the Summit of the Americas, scheduled for Panama in 2015? Is that process still useful? Are there ways to make it more meaningful? How will the Cuba issue play out? How are perceptions changing about the role and influence of Washington and Beijing in Latin America? What strategic partnerships should Latin America focus on?

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Venezuela: What are possible scenarios?

How serious is the current situation in Venezuela? How has the Maduro administration dealt with the economic problems? How effective have these attempts been? How have approaches to crime fared? To what extent is Maduro tightening his grip and control in Venezuela? Is the military playing a more significant role than it did under Chávez? Has the opposition’s strategy been effective? Has the opposition managed to stay united? How about the chavista coalition? What are the prospects
for the municipal elections in December? What, if anything, is likely to change following the elections? Will Maduro have to make political adjustments to sustain his government? What have been the main goals of Maduro’s foreign policy? Has Latin American support for the Maduro government wavered? What role, if any, are governments like Brazil and Colombia likely to play in Venezuela’s possible scenarios? Should Venezuela be a matter of hemispheric concern, and if so, how should it be treated? In light of the expulsion of diplomats from both countries, what will likely be the future of Venezuela-US relations?

4:30 – 4:45 pm

Coffee break

4:45 – 6:00 pm

Democracy: What are the problems and options?

What is the state of democratic governance in the Americas – the United States included? Why is it so hard for some countries to deliver? To what extent do explanations for the difficulties vary from country to country? Is it still useful to approach these issues using a “Latin American” framework? Or, has the region become too diverse to generalize? Is the traditional notion of “separation of powers” in a presidential system obsolete? Is it time to rethink the nature and features of the political system? Are there any successful models or experiences in which the opposition is playing a productive role? What about the political pact in Mexico? What are the implications of effective governance in societies with highly mobilized social movements such as Ecuador and Bolivia? What can recent protests in Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico tell us about the emergence of Latin America’s middle class? What steps can be taken to strengthen the freedom of the press? How can regional bodies help defend freedom of expression, and democracy issues more broadly?

8:30 pm

Informal closing dinner at Panchita (Calle Dos de Mayo 298, Miraflores)