**Latin American Working Group**

Washington, DC

June 13 & 14, 2011

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**Monday, June 13**

9:00 am  
**Introduction and Overview**

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Root Room, 2nd Floor

9:30 – 11:30 am  
**PERU: What Is In Store for the Next Government?**

- What will a Humala presidency mean for Peru? What kind of country will Humala inherit on July 28? What were the most important differences between Humala and Fujimori during the campaign? What influence did prominent Peruvians (like Vargas Llosa) have in shaping the outcome, and what was the influence of outside forces like Hugo Chávez or Lula? What are the main economic, social, and foreign policy challenges that Humala will confront in the early part of the presidency? What policies can be expected for reducing insecurity, tackling corruption, or dealing with inequality? To what extent did Alan Garcia influence the election, and which aspects of his agenda will Humala look to continue? What is next for Garcia?

- What has the election process shown about the strengths and weaknesses of Peru’s political system? What has it shown about the mood and disposition of the Peruvian electorate? How will Gana Perú wield its majority in Congress? How will the overall makeup of Congress impact legislation for the next five years? How much of an impact will APRA’s small bloc of seats have on the party’s long-term prospects? What other political forces will have a major influence on Humala’s term? Who are some likely advisers and/or ministers to the new president? To what degree is there a risk of increased social conflict in the post-election outlook?

- Have proper steps been taken to address the relative increase in drug production seen over the past year in Peru? To what extent is the Shining Path still a worry for law enforcement? What is the significance of latest ambush near Cuzco on Election Day? What should be the key areas of focus for Peru’s economic management going forward? Are any foreign new trade agreements likely? Is inflation being properly managed? Will Peru’s relations with its neighbors change or stay the same under the new government? What are likely to be the focal points of the new Administration’s relations with the rest of South America, and the world at large? What should be expected for key relationships like Brazil and the United States?
How important is the new Pacific Alliance with Chile, Colombia, and Mexico? How are relations with Ecuador? What effect will Peru’s acceptance of Ecuador’s maritime borders have on its own dispute with Chile over borders, and more generally on the Peru-Chile bilateral relationship?

11:30 – 12:00 pm
Break

12:30 – 1:30 pm
BOLIVIA: Can Morales Continue to Make Progress?
• How do you assess Morales’ political standing and strength? How serious is the drop in his approval ratings, and what have been the main causes of this fall? How have his changing political fortunes affected relations with the MAS? Are there factions of the MAS that have been notably supportive or have opposed Morales’ agenda? How effectively has the Morales administration responded to anger and protests surrounding new policies? What role have opposition parties played in promoting unrest? Has there been any change in the role of the Movimiento Sin Miedo? What about vice president Álvaro García Linera? What are the Morales’ administration’s major policy initiatives for the rest of the year?
• Is the economy stagnant or is there some dynamism? How serious are rising food prices and reported food shortages? What is the fallout from the reversal on fuel prices? What are the prospects for the October 2011 judicial elections? To what extent will Morales and other politicians seek to influence the vote? Does the UN’s criticism of Bolivia’s justice system reflect real problems of corruption and undue influence? What is the status of delayed plans to nationalize mines? How have mining strikes affected the country politically?
• How have relations with Brazil progressed? What are the strongest areas of cooperation between the two countries? How about with Peru? Why have relations with Chile deteriorated? Where does Morales’ relationship with Piñera stand? How much progress has been made on the 13-point agenda? What is the status of anti-drug cooperation with the US? Have there been any new developments regarding the signing of a framework agreement between the US and Bolivia? How significant is the signing of a new plan of cooperation with Argentina? What is the role of Asian countries in Bolivia’s lithium industry? What are relations overall with China, Japan, and South Korea? Where do things stand in relations with Venezuela?

1:30 – 3:00 pm
Lunch

3:00 – 4:30 pm
VENEZUELA: What Is Expected as the 2012 Election Approaches?
• What are Hugo Chávez’s strengths and weaknesses heading into the 2012 presidential campaign? What are his main legislative goals prior to the election? What have been the strengths and weaknesses so far of the Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (MUD)? What is its program, and who among Venezuelans are its main supporters? Which potential MUD presidential candidates are positioned best to win the party primary? Who can pose the strongest challenge to Chávez? What are Chávez’s levels of support throughout the country?
• How has the “emergency law” affected lawmaking and politics? How has Venezuela’s economy fared so far in 2011? Is there any possibility that unemployment will decline? Have the energy problems of the past years been brought under control? How significantly has the drop in oil production affected the country’s finances? How serious is the insecurity question in Venezuela? How is
the crime issue playing out politically throughout the country? What are the human rights and press freedom conditions in Venezuela? Have they gotten any worse or better in the past six months? Should more acts of civil disobedience be expected? How much support does Chávez retain from the military and Venezuela’s other security forces?

- How is Chávez currently viewed throughout the hemisphere? What is his level of influence? Has it waned at all? To what extent has Chávez been able to mediate regional conflicts? How important was he in helping to bring an agreement in Honduras? Have relations changed with Brazil under the Rousseff administration or with Cuba under Raúl Castro? How much truth is there to reports about the robust influence of Cuban military advisors in Caracas? What do the economic reforms undertaken by Cuba mean for the long-term relationship with Venezuela? What are the long-term prospects for the current rapprochement between Chávez and Santos to be maintained? How serious are the accords and agreements being signed between the two countries? Has there been any major fallout in Venezuela for the Chávez administration from information revealed by the so-called “FARC files”? How will Venezuela’s exit from the Andean Community of Nations impact regional relations? Is there any prospect that relations with the US can improve in the short-term? What about the short and long-term prospects with current global allies like China, Russia, and Iran?

7:30 pm

Latin America Working Group Dinner With Featured Guest Carlos Pascual, Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs and former US Ambassador to Mexico

RIS
2275 L Street NW

Tuesday, June 14

9:00 – 11:00 am

COLOMBIA: Can the Santos Administration Create Santismo?

- Is Santos’ “honeymoon period” coming to an end? What has accounted for his approval, and why has that approval dipped in recent months (from a high of 89 percent to 71 percent in May)? What are the Santos administration’s main accomplishments to date? What other important measures are still pending? What are the government’s main vulnerabilities? Which groups have been Santos’ main allies? What about his opposition? Has Mockus (and the Green Party) had any public role or influence? How has the “Uribe factor” figured into Santos’ term so far? What role are established parties (Liberal, la U, Radical Change) playing in influencing the direction of the country? Is the Polo Democrático dead? What are likely to be the main issues of focus for the municipal elections in October 2011? To what degree have the extensive rains and resulting damage affected Santos’ agenda and his ability to pursue it? Has there been resistance to the Ley de Tierras and/or Ley de Víctimas?

- Is Colombia’s overall security situation improving, getting worse, or holding steady? How worrisome are the new “criminal bands?” Do they have any links to the paramilitaries? Is there a difference between perceived security gains/losses and the reality? How are major cities like Bogota and Medellin faring? How solid are the security gains that have been made there over the past decade? Are there certain security gains that must be achieved before a peace process begins in earnest?
there actually a peace process already underway? What are the prospects for potential negotiations? How does the public view the possibilities for an endgame? Is the FARC ready to negotiate, and what would be the main sticking points?

- What are Colombia’s foreign policy priorities, and to what extent have they shifted from the previous administration? Has Santos been successful in “diversifying” Colombia’s foreign policy? Is the rapprochement with Hugo Chávez working? What have been the results for Santos and Colombia? Are there political risks in moving closer to Chávez? How have things progressed with Ecuador under Santos? What about with Brazil? How have relations with the US changed? Is Colombia successfully “de-narcotizing” the relationship? What are the final steps the Santos administration is taking to secure approval of the FTA with the United States? What will be the focal points of the bilateral relationship once the FTA is finalized? How damaging was the decision to extradite Makled to Venezuela? What role does Santos see Colombia playing in Central America and Mexico? Have relations deepened with Asian countries, particularly with China?

11:00 – 11:30am

Break

11:30 – 1:00pm

ECUADOR: What is the Outlook Following Correa’s Referendum Victory?

- What are the short and long-term effects/consequences of the passage of the ten national referendums? Which of the new reforms are most significant and relevant to the country’s future? In what areas and sectors of the country were the “yes” votes most prevalent? What does the closer-than-expected outcome say about Correa’s support in the country, and will it influence his governance going forward? How will the media referendum affect journalists and press freedom? How is the judicial system likely to be changed? What are the Correa administration’s next steps following the referendums’ success? What are the obstacles to the implementation of the referendum questions? To what extent did the September political crisis lead Correa to call for these referendums?

- How has the Correa administration’s management of the economy been? Has there been any progress towards proposed fiscal and/or tax reforms? How strong are Ecuador’s opposition parties, and what is likely to be their strategy going forward? Is Alianza PAIS still proving an effective coalition for Correa? Have defections from Alianza PAIS been extensive? What role did the referendum play in causing internal party dissention? How significant is the split between Correa and indigenous groups?

- Are the diplomatic problems with the US likely to have a lasting effect? What has been the cost incurred by both countries following the removal of the ambassadors? Does the signing of new accords with Iran signal a growing relationship between the two countries? What is the status of the relationship with Venezuela, Brazil, and Peru? What has driven the improved relations with Colombia? Which areas in the bilateral relationship are most important for the Correa administration? Has there been any fallout in Ecuador from the ‘FARC files’ that linked Correa to financing from the FARC? How accurate are reports of Ecuador as a growing drug trafficking hub? What does Ecuador hope to accomplish by voting against Honduras’ readmission to the OAS?

1:00 – 3:00pm

Lunch and Wrap-Up: Regional, Cross-Cutting and Pending Issues

- What are the main foreign policy priorities of Brazil’s new government? Do they
differ from the priorities of the Lula administration? Has the relationship changed between Venezuela and other countries that Lula frequently engaged with? Have expectations changed about Brazil’s role in region? To what extent are Andean countries high on its agenda?

- Is Regionalism Taking Hold in Latin American and the Caribbean? Is there a split between Mexico and Central America on one hand, and South America on the other? Which individual regional mechanisms are the most influential and useful to governments—UNASUR, Mercosur, etc? How is the OAS viewed? In what areas is it most effective? What are the main opportunities for collaboration before the next Summit of the Americas in April 2012? Have any of these groupings contributed to diminished distrust and/or polarization in the region? On which issues, or in which areas, has polarization been especially noteworthy? How is the new regional grouping of only Latin American and Caribbean countries taking shape? Which countries are expected to have the most influence in it?

- Is US influence in Latin America declining? What are the US’ priorities in the region? In what areas has the US succeeded in pushing its agenda? How is the Obama administration viewed in Latin America? What impact did his trip to the region have? What are the main areas for collaboration moving forward? What has been the effect of the WikiLeaks cables? Is there any possibility of movement on the Cuba issue?

- How important has China become for the region’s economy? How will Latin American countries seek to attract continued attention from the Chinese? Has this burgeoning relationship had any effect on political relations and governance in the region? What is the perception of China’s role amongst Latin America’s countries? What other countries have increased their foreign investment in Latin America? Is India poised to make similar inroads to China? How have these countries changed political and economic considerations in the region? How has the economic crisis in Europe impacted Latin America? What are the main areas of interest for other extra-hemispheric actors like Iran and Russia?

4:00 – 5:15 pm  **Post-Election Peru: Challenges and Possible Scenarios**  
Conference Room, Inter-American Dialogue  
1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 510

5:30 – 6:30 pm  **Memorial for Carlos Iván Degregori**  
Conference Room, Inter-American Dialogue

**Wednesday, June 15**

9:00 – 10:30am  **Colombia-Venezuela Relations: What Are the Prospects?**  
Conference Room, Inter-American Dialogue