Latin America Working Group

19 January 2012
Bogotá, Colombia

AGENDA

Thursday, 19 January

9:00-9:15 am  Welcoming Remarks
              Michael Shifter, IAD

9:15– 11:00  Colombia: Politics and Economy

How well has Santos used his political capital in pursuing a reform agenda? What have been the administration’s main successes? What have been its main weaknesses and vulnerabilities? Are the land and victims laws being effectively implemented? Has the human rights situation improved on the ground? What are the main concerns in the economic outlook? Is progress being made in reducing poverty and inequality? What opposition does Santos face? How has the administration fared on foreign policy? Has it successfully pursued its agenda in the region, with the United States, and globally?

11:00 – 11:15 am  Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 pm  Colombia: Security

How has Santos responded to reports that Colombia’s security situation has deteriorated, particularly in areas that were previous success stories, such as the cities of Medellin and Bogota? How is the government dealing with “bandas criminales emergentes”? How is institutional reform in intelligence/security areas proceeding? What are the politics behind such reform efforts? What is the relationship between the government and the armed forces? How strong is the FARC? Are there any serious prospects for a peace process?
1:00 – 2:30 pm                  Lunch

2:30 – 4:00 pm                  Regional Security

What are the main challenges for citizen security in Latin America? How has the nature of the challenge changed in recent years and how does it vary across countries and sub-regions? How important is the drug dimension within this area? Why has it been so difficult to make progress on this question? What have been the keys to successful policy efforts? Are they sustainable? Are police forces becoming more effective and professional in the region? How have other experiences in the region, such as Colombia, informed both regional and national security policies, particularly in Central America? What are the implications of deteriorating security situations in other countries, such as Venezuela and Brazil? To what extent has declining international support affected the ability to respond to the security situation?

4:00 – 4:15 pm                  Coffee break

4:15 – 5:45 pm                  Multilateralism in Security

To what extent does it make sense to pursue multilateral efforts in the security area? Is this an issue that can be tackled effectively by the OAS? UNASUR? What about the Summit of the Americas? Would it be worthwhile to pursue an effort to have standards and norms that would inform policy in the Americas on security matters? Is there common ground in key questions?