



Steven J. Green  
School of International  
& Public Affairs



**MAY 17-20, 2022**

**HOSTED BY**

**JACK D. GORDON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY  
KIMBERLY GREEN LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CENTER**

**#HSC2022**



### ABOUT THE HEMISPHERIC SECURITY CONFERENCE

The **Hemispheric Security Conference (HSC)** is an annual conference held where experts from academia, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private sectors converge to examine the most pressing security challenges facing the Western Hemisphere. HSC features thought leaders from hemispheric governments, including senior military officials and leaders of the industry. HSC is led by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, both part of the Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.



**Jack D. Gordon  
Institute for Public Policy**

### ABOUT THE JACK D. GORDON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

FIU's **Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy** was founded in 1985 to establish, promote, and advance the study of public policy and national security studies. The institute serves as the forefront of public policy discourse by leading, integrating, and delivering exceptional multidisciplinary education and research while improving the competitiveness and diversity of students and professionals entering the workforce. The institute is centered on four pillars: Academics, Executive Education, Research, and Community Outreach, each serving the mission of shaping public policy and national security solutions in the 21st century



**Kimberly Green  
Latin American and  
Caribbean Center**

### ABOUT THE KIMBERLY GREEN LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CENTER

The **Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University** was founded in 1979 to promote the study of Latin America and the Caribbean in Florida and throughout the United States. By forging linkages across the Americas through high quality education, LACC's research is aimed at better understanding and addressing the most urgent problems confronting the region. LACC is designated by the US Department of Education, funded by Title VI, as a National Resource Center on Latin America, recognizing it as one of the top Latin American and Caribbean Centers in the country.



## **TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 (IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL)**

### **1:00-1:15 PM: Conference Welcome**

- Elizabeth Bejar, Interim Provost, Florida International University
- Luis Guillermo Solis, Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

### **1:15-2:15 PM: Fireside Chat with Juan S. Gonzalez**

- Juan S. Gonzalez, Special Assistant to President Biden and National Security Council Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere
- Moderated by Brian Fonseca, Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy

### **2:30-3:30 PM: Summit of the Americas Preview with Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell**

- Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Special Advisor for the 2022 Summit of the Americas
- Moderated by Luis Guillermo Solis, Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

### **3:30-4:45 PM: The Impact of Cybersecurity on Western Hemisphere Security**

Hosted by the Canadian Consulate of Miami

- Introduced by Eric Walsh, Director General for North America at Global Affairs Canada
- Arturo Cabañas, Security Assurance Leader, Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Robert "Bob" Gordon, Executive Director, Canadian Cyber Threat Exchange (CCTX)
- Kerry-Ann Barrett, Cyber Security Program Manager, Organization of American States (OAS)
- Moderated by Randy Pestana, Assistant Director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022 (VIRTUAL)**

### **9:00-9:15 AM: Conference Day 2 Welcome**

- Luis Guillermo Solis, Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

### **9:15-10:00 AM: Keynote Address**

- Daniel P. Erikson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Western Hemisphere
- Moderated by Randy Pestana, Assistant Director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy

### **10:00-11:15 AM: The Future of the Armed Forces in Latin America**

- Ambassador Alberto Mejia, Colombian Ambassador to Australia and former General Commander of the Military Forces of Colombia
- Craig Faller, retired U.S. Admiral and Senior Fellow at Florida International University
- Rocky Meade, former Chief of Defence Staff of the Jamaica Defence Force
- Moderated by Barbara Fick, Director, Americas Program/Faculty Instructor at Department of National Security and Strategy, US Army War College

### **11:15 AM-12:30 PM: The Geopolitical Convergence in Venezuela**

- David Voght, Managing Director of IPD Latin America
- Michael Penfold, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración
- Celina Realuyo, Professor of Practice, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies
- Brian Fonseca, Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy
- Moderated by Eduardo Gamarra, Director of the Latino Public Opinion Forum, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy



## **THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022 (VIRTUAL)**

### **9:00-9:15 AM: Conference Day 3 Welcome**

- Randy Pestana, Assistant Director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy

### **9:15-10:00 AM: Keynote Address**

- Kerri S. Hannan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
- Moderated by Juan Cruz, non-resident senior advisor and Director of the Argentina-U.S. Strategic Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

### **10:00-11:15 AM: The Reexamination of the 2003 Declaration on Security in the Americas**

- Jose Miguel Insulza, President of the Public Security Commission and Member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chilean Senate
- Cecilia Farfan, Head of Security Research Programs, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX)
- Ambassador Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to the U.S.
- Rebecca Bill Chavez, President of Inter-American Dialogue and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs
- Moderated by Ryan Berg, Senior Fellow in the Americas Program and head of the Future of Venezuela Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CISA)

### **11:15 AM-12:30 PM: Disinformation, Democracy, and the Inter-American System**

- Ambassador John Feeley, former U.S. Ambassador to Panama
- Carlos Dada, Founder and Director of El Faro in El Salvador
- Paula Roko, Human Rights Consultant at the IACHR's Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression
- Roberta Braga, Director of Counter-Disinformation Strategies, Equis Research
- Moderated by Alejandro Alvarado, Associate Professor and Director of the Spanish-Language Journalism Master's Program, Florida International University

## **FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022 (VIRTUAL)**

### **9:00-9:15 AM: Conference Day 4 Welcome**

- Dr. Scott Tollefson, Dean of Academic Affairs at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies

### **9:15-10:00 AM: Keynote Address**

- Matthew D. Steinhelfer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations
- Moderated by Dr. Scott Tollefson, Dean of Academic Affairs at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies

### **10:00-11:15 AM: Institutional Challenges to Democracy in the Americas**

- Gabriel Marcella, Distinguished Fellow and former Director of the Americas Studies, U.S. Army War College
- Jonathan Rosen, Assistant Professor in the Professional Security Studies Department, New Jersey City University
- Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor, Florida International University
- Moderated by Orlando J. Perez, Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of North Texas at Dallas

### **11:15 AM-12:30 PM: Examining Democracy in the Americas Through Case Studies**

- John Polga-Hecimovich, Associate Professor of Political Science, U.S. Naval Academy
- Maiah Jakoski, Associate Professor of Political Science, Northern Arizona University
- Luis Bitencourt, Professor of International Security, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies
- Moderated by Brian Fonseca, Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy



**Elizabeth M. Béjar** currently serves as Interim Provost at Florida International University. She previously served as Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs where she was an advisor and provided direct support to the University President as well as the Executive Vice President in her primary responsibility for educational policy, academic programs and student affairs. Much of her recent work is dedicated to mobilizing and working with teams of education professionals to research, pilot, develop and implement 21st century student success initiatives. She previously held the positions of Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Accountability. She is a member of the board of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, serves on the Florida Board of Governors Council of Academic Vice Presidents Work Group on Program Coordination and is an advisory board member to Excelencia in Education, an organization that aims to accelerate higher education success for Hispanics.



**Luis Guillermo Solís** is the former President of Costa Rica and Director of FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center. He served as president of Costa Rica from 2014-2018. He began his service in the Foreign Ministry in 1984, eventually becoming Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Foreign Relations from 1986-1990, and worked closely in the formulation and negotiation of the Peace Plan for Central America. He has also been a teacher, researcher, and academic administrator for over 30 years, at both the University of Costa Rica and the National University, as well as a Fulbright professor at the University of Michigan and Florida International University.



**Juan S. Gonzalez** is Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere. He has a plethora of experience in various capacities of government, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2016-2017, Special Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden from 2013-2015, National Security Council Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2011-2013, and in the Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, including as Chief of Staff to Assistant Secretary of State Arturo Valenzuela. He also has time in academia and the private sector, serving as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service, and as Associate Vice President of the Cohen Group.



**Brian Fonseca** is director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs. He serves as the Institute's technical expert for national security and foreign policy. His analysis has been featured in local and national media, including ABC, BBC, Bloomberg, Fox News, MSNBC, and the Miami Herald. He also serves as WSVN-Fox 7's on-air political expert. He joined the Gordon Institute in 2015 after serving as director of operations at FIU's Applied Research Center, where he led the center's expansion into national security and cybersecurity research initiatives. Prior, he served as the senior research manager for socio-cultural analysis at U.S. Southern Command. From 1997 to 2004, he served in the United States Marine Corps and facilitated the training of foreign military forces in both hostile theaters and during peacetime operations.



**Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell** is the Special Advisor for the 2022 Summit of the Americas. The first South American-born Member of Congress, she has over 20 years of experience providing strategic, policy, fiscal, fundraising, and operational leadership in both the public and non-profit sectors. She is a national leader with a proven track record of success in non-profits, higher education, and Congress. The first and only Latina democrat to represent a Congressional district in Florida, she led the charge to pass legislation that secured Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelans; \$400M in aid directly to the Venezuelan people both in Venezuela and neighboring countries; the Cuban Reunification Parole Program; and \$200M for Everglades restoration. She also continues to appear as an analyst and commentator on MSNBC, CNN, Telemundo, Univision, CBS 4, Newsweek, and several other Spanish and English media outlets.



**Eric Walsh** serves as Director General for North America at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa. In this position, he is responsible for providing strategic advice to Ministers and senior government officials on Canada's bilateral and trilateral relationships with the United States and Mexico, while supporting the North American mission network in its pursuit of Canada's advocacy and business development objectives. He leads a team of 60, analyzing major issues in the United States and Mexico that affect Canada, and making recommendations for government policy. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Walsh was the Ambassador of Canada to Korea from 2015-2018. He has also served as Deputy Head of Mission in Germany (2010-2015) and as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (2005-2007), in addition to earlier postings in Romania (2001-2003) and Turkey (1998-2001). At headquarters in Ottawa, Mr. Walsh has worked as Coordinator for Middle East and North African Affairs, as well as Director for the East Asia and North Asia divisions.



**Arturo Cabañas** is currently the Security Assurance Leader at Amazon Web Services (AWS) for the public sector in Latin America. In this capacity, he is responsible for creating programs that help Latin American government partners and customers move their regulated data and workloads to the cloud by meeting their specific security, regulatory, and compliance requirements. He was born in San Salvador, El Salvador, and has more than 18 years of experience working with multinationals on security and regulatory compliance projects for clients located in Spain, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia and Argentina; among other countries in the region.



**Robert (Bob) Gordon** is the executive director of the Canadian Cyber Threat Exchange (CCTX). Over his career, Bob has worked for four federal national security agencies—the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Communications Security Establishment, and Public Safety Canada—as well as in the private sector at CGI. While serving in these roles, Bob has been a senior assistant deputy minister, led the national counterterrorism program, overseen broad technology and internal security initiatives (including personnel, IT, and physical security), and designed Canada's first Cyber Security Strategy. At the CCTX, Bob oversees information sharing and collaboration programs designed to create an open threat data exchange between the public and private sectors.



**Kerry-Ann Barrett** is the Cyber Security Program Manager at the Cyber Security Program at the Organization of American States. In her capacity she offers technical assistance to member states in the development and implementation of their national cybersecurity strategies as well as assist in the implementation of various technical capacity building initiatives within the Cyber Security Program. Additionally, in this capacity she has participated as a speaker at various regional and international cyberspace fora with a focus on cyber related issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is also an attorney-at-law with over 20 years of experience. Included in her legal professional experience have been appointments within several government ministries in the Caribbean, as well as legal consultancy services to the CARICOM Secretariat and the ILO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean. Most recently, she has led or provided technical support for the development of the national cyber security frameworks for countries such as Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, México, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago.



**Randy Pestana** serves as Assistant Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at Florida International University's (FIU) Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, where he manages the institute's partnerships with U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense, and State. He also serves as Director of Education and Training at Cybersecurity@FIU, a designated Emerging Preeminent Program. His technical specialization is in international relations with focus on U.S. foreign policy, security studies, and cybersecurity. The majority of his work has been linked to governance and security in Latin America and the Caribbean and cybersecurity workforce development issues broadly stated. He has published and assisted on various publications for both academic and defense audiences related to U.S. foreign policy and national security and has appeared on local and national news outlets as a political commentator and supported the U.S. national security community through academic discourse.



**Daniel P. Erikson** is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Western Hemisphere Affairs. He was previously Managing Director at Blue Star Strategies, LLC, where he led the firm's Latin America practice. He was also a Senior Fellow at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement. He has also served in the White House as Special Advisor to the Vice President, where he focused on Western Hemisphere Affairs and covered foreign affairs and national security issues. In addition to his U.S. government experience, he has held senior positions in the private sector, think tanks, and academia. He has published widely on a range of topics related to international and Latin American and Caribbean affairs and has testified before the U.S. Congress.



**Alberto José Mejía Ferrero** is the former Colombian Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand and a retired General in the Colombian Army. From December 2017 to December 2018, he served as General Commander of the Colombian Military Forces, one of many major posts he held in his 41-year career with the Colombian Army. He is considered an expert in irregular and asymmetrical warfare, as well as in fourth-generation wars, special operations, and civic action operations. He is recognized at the national and international levels for his distinguished efforts in the defense of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. As Colombian ambassador to Australia and New Zealand, Mejía worked for national interests in the Pacific Alliance and participated in the consolidation of the bilateral relationship. He also served as an adjunct professor at Charles Sturt University in Canberra, Australia, and is currently honorary president of the Australia Colombia Business Council.

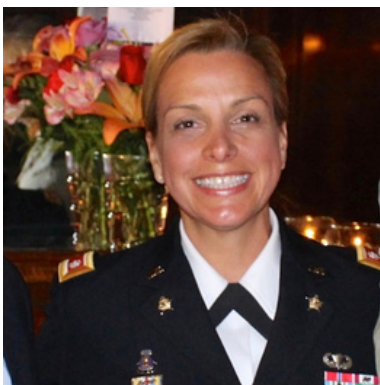




**Craig Faller** is a senior fellow at Florida International University, and former Commander of U.S. Southern Command. A retired four-star United States Navy Admiral, he has nearly four decades of global leadership experience. He is also a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center and Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, and a senior fellow at the National Defense University. At U.S. Southern Command where he was responsible for U.S. military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean with the primary objective of forging strong security partnerships. He has served in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific regions both on large staffs and in Command of a United States Navy Carrier Strike Group and two warships. He has extensive experience in Washington, DC, in the Pentagon as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense, James N. Mattis, and in Congress as the Department of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs (lead representative to Congress on behalf of the leadership of the Navy).



**Rocky Meade**, recently retired as Jamaica's Chief of Defence Staff after 38 years. His numerous achievements include the enhancement of the JDF's personnel, resources, and infrastructure, from a Brigade to a Division; several policies including gender optimization; the Jamaica National Service Corps; the Caribbean Military Academy; the Flight Safety Programme; the Jamaican Military Museum, Library/Internet Café; the Moneague Papers; and the Caribbean Journal of Strategic and Security Studies. He has chaired several Boards/Committees locally and internationally, has several publications and supervises PhD students in Strategic Studies and Linguistics. He holds BA and MA Degrees from the University of the West Indies, a Masters of Military Arts and Science from the US Army Command and General Staff College, a PhD from the University of Amsterdam and is an alumnus of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany.



**Colonel Barbara R. Fick** is an International Affairs Specialist focused on Latin American issues, including U.S. policy for Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Hemisphere defense and security affairs, and multinational and transregional cooperation. Currently, she is the Director of the Americas Program and serves as a professor in the Department of National Security Strategy at the US Army War College. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. Prior to serving at the U.S. Army War College, she was the Political-Military Affairs Chief at U.S. Southern Command. Her previous assignments include Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Paraguay; Strategic Advisor to the Commander International Security Assistance Forces Afghanistan (ISAF); Special Assistant to NATO Supreme Allied Commander; Security Cooperation Strategy/Plans Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Colombia; and various regional and country advisor positions at U.S. Southern Command.



**David Voght** is Managing Director of IPD Latin America, a consulting firm specializing in the oil, gas, and power markets. He has thirty years of experience in Latin America (twenty of those living in Venezuela), consulting for international energy developers, service companies, financial institutions, and governments. His firm specializes in market intelligence with a focus on country risk, government relations, and energy policy. Building on his oil and gas career, David has developed a keen interest in the global energy transition and the unique challenges for oil and gas producing nations. He is co-founder of the Madrid Energy Conference, an annual event that fosters energy investment and policy development between Europe and the Americas.



**Michael Penfold** is a Full Professor of Political Economy and Governance at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) Business and Public Policy School in Caracas as well as a Visiting Professor at the Universidad de los Andes School of Government in Bogotá. He is also a Global Fellow of the Latin American Program, Woodrow Wilson Center, in Washington, D.C. He served as Director for Public Policy at the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) from 2009-15, where he spearheaded the expansion of knowledge and technical assistance programs from five to sixteen countries throughout the region. He was also Executive Director for Venezuela's Foreign Investment Agency (CONAPRI) between 1999 and 2004, playing a key role in the opening of the telecommunication industry.



**Celina Realuyo** is Professor of Practice at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at the National Defense University where she focuses on US national security, illicit networks, transnational organized crime, counterterrorism and threat finance issues in the Americas. As a former US diplomat, international banker with Goldman Sachs, US counterterrorism official and professor of international security affairs at the National Defense, Georgetown, George Washington and Joint Special Operations Universities, she has over two decades of international experience in the public, private, and academic sectors. She co-chaired the Terrorist Financing Working Group and managed a multi-million dollar foreign assistance program to safeguard financial systems against terrorist financing. Prior to returning to Washington she was a private banker in London with Goldman Sachs International. Previously, she had a distinguished career as a US Foreign Service Officer assigned to Madrid, Panama and the US Mission to NATO, Brussels.



**Eduardo Gamarra** is a tenured full professor of political science in the department of politics and international relations at Florida International University. He has been at FIU since 1986 where he also directed the Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) from 1994 to 2007. As director of LACC, he was involved in research and public policy issues, academic exchanges, fund raising, and other multiple activities in most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In February 2016 he was appointed founding director of the Latino Public Opinion Forum at the Stephen Green School of International and Public Affairs. Throughout his career, his research, teaching, and consulting focus has been on security, democratization, drug trafficking and related illicit industries, political parties, campaigns/elections, public opinion, among other topics in Latin America and the Caribbean. He is also the founder of Integrated Communications and Research (ICR), a consulting firm with an active portfolio of public and private sector clients throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



**Kerri S. Hannan** is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Policy, Planning, and Coordination, and covers issues related to the People's Republic of China for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. Ms. Hannan previously served as the Director of the Office of Press and Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, as Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg, and Senior Advisor in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources (R/PPR) for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Prior overseas assignments include Bolivia, Argentina and India, as well as Spokesperson at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. Her Washington tours included Director of English Language Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for the Balkans, and tours in the State Department Operations Center and European Affairs Bureau.



**Juan Cruz** is the Director of the Argentina-U.S. Strategic Forum, and a non-resident senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Prior, he has served as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere affairs, from 2017-2019. He was instrumental in defining the administration's approach to the Venezuelan crisis, the administration's Cuba policy, and furthering the overall Western Hemisphere strategy. His professional career spans three decades as a public servant in the U.S. government, throughout which he has led teams to support, execute, and shape U.S. foreign policy and national security. He holds a deep understanding of the region, honed through overseas postings in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. Particularly, in Colombia, he fostered historic successes against drug cartels and guerrilla insurgencies.



**José Miguel Insulza** is an accomplished Chilean politician, lawyer and academic, who has occupied several relevant positions in his country's government and in the Interamerican system, including serving as Vice-president of Chile and Secretary General of the Organization of American States for 10 years. In the early 1970s, Insulza played an active role in Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government, serving as Political Advisor to the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile. Following the coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet into power, he went into exile for 15 years, first in Rome (1974-1980) and then in Mexico (1981-1988). He has been decorated by twenty-three countries and holds Honorary Degrees from multiple colleges and Universities.



**Cecilia Farfán-Méndez** is Head of Security Research Programs at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX) at the University of California San Diego. She also is an affiliated researcher with the Center for Studies on Security, Intelligence, and Governance (CESIG) at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) based in Mexico City. Dr. Farfán is an expert on organized crime and U.S.-Mexico security cooperation, and co-founded the Mexico Violence Resource Project, an online platform providing analysis and resources for journalists and policymakers on violence and organized crime in Mexico. Since 2020 she co-chairs the Public Security and Public Health working group of the U.S.-Mexico Forum 2025 led by USMEX. Dr. Farfán has consulted for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United States Institute of Peace, is a columnist for Mexico Today, member of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, the Urban Violence Research Network, and the strategy committee for the Journal of Illicit Economies and Development.



**Anthony Phillips-Spencer**, Brigadier General (Ret'd.) is Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States. He has more than 35 years of service in the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, where he served in a variety of roles, including as the Vice Chief of Defence Staff. He speaks fluently in both French and Spanish and is an avid reader, thinker and innovator on issues related to organizational development, change and transformation, leadership and management, and strategic security decision-making and public policy implementation.



**Rebecca Bill Chavez** is president and CEO of the Inter-American Dialogue. She served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2013 until 2016 where she prioritized Women, Peace, and Security initiatives, combatting the militarization of law enforcement, and expanding defense institution-building programs. Her work included moving the U.S.-Mexico relationship beyond the counternarcotics focus, supporting the Colombian peace process, resetting defense relations with Argentina and Brazil, and establishing a productive dialogue with Cuba on humanitarian assistance and disaster response. As a tenured professor of political science at the United States Naval Academy, her research focused on democracy, rule of law, and human rights, including teaching courses on Latin American and Caribbean Politics, Democratization, and United States-Latin America Relations.



**Ryan Berg** is senior fellow in the Americas Program and head of the Future of Venezuela Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is also an adjunct professor at the Catholic University of America and visiting research fellow at the University of Oxford's Changing Character of War Programme. His research focuses on U.S.-Latin America relations, authoritarian regimes, armed conflict, strategic competition, and trade and development issues. He also studies Latin America's criminal groups and the region's governance and security challenges. He has served as a research consultant to the World Bank, a Fulbright scholar in Brazil, and a visiting doctoral fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. He has lived and worked in Peru and Brazil and is an expert member of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime and the Urban Violence Research Network.



**John Feeley** is a former U.S. ambassador. During his 28-year State Department career, he served as Ambassador to Panama, Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires in Mexico City, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. As Deputy Executive Secretary, he worked on the staffs of Secretaries Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, in addition to serving in other Latin American and Caribbean assignments both in Washington and at embassies throughout the region. He is a forceful advocate for a respectful, alliance-based approach to U.S. relationships with Latin American governments and societies. Prior to his Foreign Service career, he served as a United States Marine officer and helicopter pilot.



**Carlos Dada** is the founder and director of the news website El Faro, which has become a reference for independent and high-quality journalism in Central America since 1998 and is known for its investigations of corruption and violence. Dada has reported from various conflict zones including Iraq, Venezuela, Mexico, Guatemala and, most recently, Honduras. His work has been published in Latin America, the United States, Bosnia and Spain. In 2011 he won the Maria Moors Cabot Prize for Latin American Reporting.



**Paula Roko** is a Human Rights Consultant at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. She is a lawyer and journalist with over 6 years of experience in the field of International Human Rights Law. Her work includes planning and implementing communication strategies and leading advocacy projects to promote the right to freedom of expression and access to information, especially within the Inter-American human rights system. Over the last six years, she has focused on the challenges of Internet governance and the impact of digital technologies in the exercise of fundamental rights, working jointly with different local and regional civil society organizations in Latin America as well as internet companies, State representatives, policymakers, and human rights experts.



**Roberta Braga** is Director of Counter-Disinformation at Equis Research, involved in monitoring and countering disinformation targeted at Latinos and Hispanics in the United States. Prior, she was Deputy Director for Programs and Outreach at the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America. She has led projects on Brazil, disinformation and misinformation in elections, trade integration, and energy in Latin America. She has also worked as a strategic communications analyst at the US Department of Homeland Security, and at Promega Corporation, an international biotechnology firm headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. She has been published in major media outlets and provides English- and Portuguese-language commentary on political and economic issues in Latin America. Originally from Brazil, she is a native Portuguese- and English-speaker, and fluent in Spanish.



**Alejandro Alvarado** is the Director of the Spanish-Language Journalism Master's program at Florida International University. He is also an Associate Professor of Journalism and Communication, and the Spanish-language editor of the South Florida Media Network. Additionally, he co-chairs the Journalist & Editors Annual Workshop in coordination with the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center. He is a fellow of the Scripps-Howard Journalism Entrepreneurship Institute, and a trained educator at the Solutions Journalism Educators Academy. He also teaches several courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels, including Social Media for Communicators; Social Media Analytics; Applied Research Methods; Media Management, and Entrepreneurship, among others. An Emmy award-winning TV writer and published author, he served as a business news anchor, reporter, and producer at CBS Telenoticias and later was editor in chief for ZDNet Latin America, as well as producer and copy editor at Univision.



**Scott D. Tollefson** received his PhD in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School (1988–1999) and an Assistant Professor and Director of the MA Program in Political Science at Kansas State University (1999–2004). He is the co-editor of *Who Guards the Guardians and How: Democratic Civil-Military Relations* (University of Texas Press, 2006) and the author of numerous chapters and articles on defense and security issues in Latin America. Dr. Tollefson grew up in Brazil and has lived and worked in Chile, Jamaica, and Saudi Arabia.



**Matthew D. Steinhelfer** is the Department of State Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) Deputy Assistant Secretary. A member of the Senior Executive Service, he leads the Bureau's efforts to anticipate, prevent, and respond to conflict and instability in the Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. He also oversees CSO's Office of Advanced Analytics. He joined CSO from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA). In NEA, he led a team of democracy, governance, economic, and security sector subject matter experts responsible for thematic analysis and coordination of over \$8.3 billion in annual U.S. foreign assistance. His prior assignments include: Chief of Staff to the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan; Political Military Affairs Unit Chief at U.S. Embassy Kabul; International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Central America Coordinator; and Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Program Officer for Southeast and East Asia, and Iraq.



**Gabriel Marcella** is a Distinguished Fellow and former Director of the Americas Studies at the United States Army War College. During his career, he taught the Americas, military strategy, national security and the interagency process, political violence, and terrorism. He served as International Affairs Advisor to the Commander-in-Chief at the United States Southern Command. In addition, he has been a consultant to the Departments of State and Defense on Latin American security. He also taught international relations at Dickinson College. He has written extensively on Latin American security and U.S. policy. He has also written on the Colombian conflict, the role of U.S. assistance, and the peace process. His current research focuses on the state and military capacity in Latin America. Dr. Marcella is a commentator on Latin American security and U.S. policy in the media in the United States and Latin America.



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