

International Economic Forum
**LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN 2026**

How to position the region on the global stage?

JANUARY 28 AND 29
PANAMA CITY



MEAGENDA

International Economic Forum

Latin America and the Caribbean 2026

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

PLENARY SESSION

7:00a.m. – 8:25 a.m.: Registration

8:30 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.: Opening session with the participation of:

- **Sergio Díaz-Granados**, Executive President of CAF
- **José Raúl Mulino**, President of Panama
- **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, President of Brazil
- **Rodrigo Paz**, President of Bolivia
- **Daniel Noboa**, President of Ecuador
- **Bernardo Arévalo**, President of Guatemala
- **Andrew Holness**, Prime Minister of Jamaica
- **José Antonio Kast**, President-elect of Chile
- **Pedro Heilbron**, Chief Executive Officer of Copa Airlines
- **Rafael Mariano Grossi**, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.: Economic Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean:
Between Stability and Growth

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This panel offers a strategic view of the economic outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on the decisions shaping the balance between macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth toward 2026. The discussion will address responsible debt management, spending efficiency, and public policy signals that strengthen confidence and drive investment, productivity, and economic diversification. The session will highlight how to preserve social gains while expanding fiscal space to respond to a more demanding and uncertain global environment.

- **Felipe Chapman**, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Panama
- **Gabriel Oddone**, Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay
- **Fayval Williams**, Minister of Finance and the Public Service of Jamaica
- **Sariha Moya**, Minister of Economy and Finance of Ecuador
- **Jorge Quiroz**, Head of the Economic Program of Chile's President-elect, José Antonio Kast
- **Davendranath Tancoo**, Minister of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Denisse Azucena Miralles**, Minister of Economy and Finance of Peru
- **Dennis Cornwall**, Minister of Finance of Grenada
- **Felipe Larraín**, Former Minister of Finance of Chile and Director of the Latin American Center for Economic and Social Policies at the Pontifical Catholic University (*Moderator*)

12:50 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.: Remarks by **Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- **Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.: Keynote by **James Robinson** – 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics

- **James Robinson**, 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics, renowned economist and political scientist, co-author of “Why Nations Fail” and “The Narrow Corridor”
- **Julissa Reynoso**, Partner at Winston & Strawn LLP (*Moderator*)



2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.: Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe: Toward a New Shared Strategic Agenda

Amid a reconfigured international order, marked by tensions among major powers, wars, energy and food crises, and an ongoing green and digital transition, the relationship between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe needs to take a qualitative leap. This panel will explore how to build a new shared strategic agenda that goes beyond traditional cooperation frameworks and is grounded in mutual interests in trade and investment, energy and food security, climate action, digital transformation, and the defense of multilateralism.

- **Enrico Letta**, Former Prime Minister of Italy
- **Josep Borrell**, Former Vice President of the European Commission
- **Eduardo Frei**, Former President of Chile
- **Laura Chinchilla**, Former President of Costa Rica
- **Íván Duque**, Former President of Colombia
- **Andrea Rizzi**, Global Affairs Correspondent and columnist at *El País*
(Moderator)

4:40 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Rewriting the Rules of Trade: Challenges and Opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean

Multilateral trade is facing its greatest crisis since its creation, marked by rising protectionism, geopolitical tensions, and major powers' pursuit of strategic autonomy. The discussion will explore how LAC can navigate this new environment, redefine its trade strategies, and seize emerging opportunities. Leaders who have been at the center of global negotiations will address issues such as 21st-century trade agreements, regional value chains, digital trade, and sustainability. The session will examine LAC's potential role as a leader in promoting more inclusive and sustainable trade.

- **José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs**, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- **Amparo López Senovilla**, Secretary of State for Trade of Spain
- **Gonzalo Gutiérrez**, Secretary General of the Andean Community
- **María Luisa Hayem**, Minister of Economy of El Salvador

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- **Víctor Orlando Bisonó**, Minister of Industry, Trade and MSMEs of the Dominican Republic
- **Gabriela Frías**, Journalist and CNN Presenter (*Moderator*)

5:35 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.: The Age of Global Fragmentation: A Results-Oriented Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean

The discussion will examine how the region can enhance its effectiveness in multilateral and cooperation spaces, promote agreements that facilitate trade and investment, and mobilize support for initiatives linked to sustainable growth, innovation, infrastructure, and social well-being. The focus will be on the “how”: the institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms required to move from declarations to implementation, how to ensure continuity across governments and sectors, and how to measure progress through clear and verifiable targets.

- **Hugo de Zela Martínez**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru
- **Mauro Vieira**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil
- **Carlos Ramiro Martínez**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala

SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

BLUE ROOM

2:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. | Panama: Investment Platform for the Americas

- **Felipe Chapman**, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Panama
- **Lucía Meza**, CAF Representative in Panama (*Moderator*)

2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. | Structuring Risk to Grow: National Development Banking and Investment Opportunities in the Region

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This panel will explore how the creation and expansion of new markets can become a decisive lever for growth, competitiveness, and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting how development banks—working in partnership with the private sector—are using innovative financial instruments to turn complex opportunities into viable and scalable investments. Drawing on concrete cases, the presidents of Banco del Pacífico, COFIDE, Banco Nacional de Panamá, and Mexico's Fund of Funds will explain how guarantees, blended finance schemes, venture capital vehicles, and shared-risk structures are improving risk–return profiles, lowering entry barriers, and mobilizing private capital toward strategic sectors—creating tangible opportunities for businesses and accelerating the emergence of new industries and regional development.

- **Javier Carrizo Esquivel**, General Manager of the National Bank of Panama
- **Jorge Velarde**, Chief Executive Officer of the Development Bank of Peru (COFIDE)
- **José Alberto Garzón**, President of Bancóldex
- **Alejandra Botero**, Manager of Planning and Development Impact, CAF - development bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (*Moderator*)

3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Clean Energy and the Energy Transition

The global energy transition is both a climate imperative and an unprecedented economic opportunity for Latin America. With abundant energy resources and critical reserves of lithium, copper, and other minerals essential for clean technologies, the region is well positioned to play a key role in the global green economy. This panel will bring together leading experts in energy and climate to discuss decarbonization strategies, financing the energy transition, the development of critical minerals value chains, and how Latin America can industrialize around clean energy rather than remaining solely an exporter of raw materials. The discussion will also address challenges related to infrastructure, regulation, financing, and regional energy integration.

- **Mónica Lupiáñez**, Regional Director of Renewables at InterEnergy
- **Enrique Riquelme Vives**, Executive Chairman of the COX Group
- **Sebastián Ruales**, CEO and Co-Founder de BIA
- **Andrés Rebolledo Smitmans**, Executive Secretary of the Latin American Energy Organization - OLADE
- **Javier Pastorino**, Managing Director, LATAM North at Siemens Energy

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- **Andrea Bernal**, Journalist and Anchor at NTN24 (*Moderator*)

4:40 p.m. - 5:20 p.m. | Philanthropy for Development

This panel will bring together business leaders and key figures from the philanthropic ecosystem of Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss how strategic philanthropy—both corporate and family-based—is evolving from traditional giving toward results-oriented models capable of accelerating solutions in education, health, productivity, and social innovation. Drawing on concrete cases and evidence, the discussion will explore what works to measure and manage impact, how to align incentives with governments and multilateral organizations, and which instruments—such as impact investing, blended finance, thematic funds, and public-private partnerships—can help scale interventions, attract additional capital, and sustain results over time.

- **Isabella Luksic**, General Manager of the Luksic Foundation
- **Mireya Cisneros**, Co-founder of Venezuela Sin Límites and Unidos en Red
- **Lyana Latorre**, Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Rockefeller Foundation
- **Carlos Añaños**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Grupo AJE
- **Telma Ortíz**, Senior Advisor in the Resource Mobilization and Global Partnerships Management at CAF (*Moderator*)

5:25 p.m. – 6:05 p.m. | Commercial Banking as a Driver of Development in LAC

This panel examines how commercial banking can consolidate its role as a central enabler of economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The discussion will focus on what is needed to deepen productive and long-term financing: clear rules, more sophisticated risk management, greater competition, macroeconomic stability, and stronger institutional quality. It will also explore how to better align private banks with development banks and the public sector to expand digitalization, reduce access gaps, and scale investments in housing, infrastructure, and productive transition.

- **Juan Carlos Mora**, President of Bancolombia
- **Verónica Gavilanes**, CEO of Banco Sol
- **Ignacio Vollmer**, President of Banco Mercantil

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- **Iván Andrade**, President of Banco Pacífico
- **Claudia Flores**, Manager of Productive Sectors and New Business at CAF
(Moderator)

GREEN ROOM

2:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. | The Digital Leap in Latin America and the Caribbean: Innovation, Productivity and New Investment Opportunities

Digital transformation represents a unique opportunity for Latin America to accelerate development and close productivity gaps. This panel will explore how the region is leveraging digital technologies across sectors such as fintech, e-commerce, agtech, healthtech, and digital services. The discussion will cover startup ecosystems, digitalization policies, digital infrastructure, modern regulatory frameworks, and investment opportunities in Latin America's digital economy. Panelists will examine how digitalization can boost business productivity, create quality jobs, and position Latin America as an exporter of digital services and technology solutions.

- **Eleonora Rabinovich**, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy for Hispanic America at Google
- **Glória Guimarães**, Member of the Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation Commission of the Sustainable Social and Economic Development Council (CDESS) and Founding Partner, Guimarães Consulting
- **Dario Werthein**, President of Waiken ILW
- **José Vicente de los Mozos**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indra Group
- **Yandira Nuñez**, Deputy Editorial Director for Central America at Forbes
(Moderator)

2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. | Blue Economy: Leading Ocean Action from LAC

Latin America and the Caribbean, home to more than 25% of the world's marine biodiversity, have a unique potential to lead the sustainable blue economy. This panel will bring together governments, multilateral organizations, and private sector



actors to showcase initiatives that integrate ocean conservation, technological innovation, and inclusive economic development, addressing challenges such as coral and mangrove protection, sargassum management, conservation beyond national jurisdictions (BBNJ), maritime transport decarbonization, and the transition toward sustainable ports. The dialogue will highlight how nature-based solutions and international cooperation can turn the ocean into a driver of climate resilience, green jobs, and regional competitiveness, while outlining a Latin American blue action agenda with commitments on financing, innovation, and coordinated public policies.

- **Cynthia Barzuna**, Global Deputy Director of the Ocean Program at the World Resources Institute
- **Jair Urriola**, Executive Secretary of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR)
- **Ricardo Lagos**, Chilean Senator
- **Carlos Eduardo Correa**, Exministro de Ambiente de Colombia
- **Karen-Mae Hill**, High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom
- **Alicia Montalvo**, Manager for Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity, CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean- *(Moderator)*

3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | The Voice of the Private Sector: The Path to Regional Expansion

Expanding across Latin America and the Caribbean today is not just about operating in more countries—it is about scaling with focus and execution excellence across diverse regulatory, competitive, and cultural environments. This panel will bring together business leaders with hands-on experience in regional expansion to discuss the decisions that make the difference when crossing borders: how to adapt business models without losing strength or long-term vision, how to build partnerships and platforms that accelerate growth, and how to manage regulatory, operational, and reputational risks. Drawing on real cases, the discussion will identify common pitfalls, transferable lessons, and enabling conditions to turn regional ambition into sustainable business growth and deeper economic integration across the region.

- **Alberto Vollmer**, President of Ron Santa Teresa

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- **Bruno Pietracci**, President of Coca-Cola LATAM
- **Nuria Vilanova**, President of the Business Council Alliance for Ibero-America - CEAPI
- **Carlos Enrique Cavelier**, President of Alquería
- **Ivette Leonardi**, Editor-in-Chief of La Estrella of Panamá (*Moderator*)

4:40 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. | The Voice of the Private Sector: The Regional Business Association Roadmap

In a regional environment shaped by volatility and short-term pressures, long-term investment becomes a decisive competitive advantage to drive sustainable growth, productivity, and modern infrastructure. This panel will bring together business leaders and private sector representatives with a decades-long perspective to discuss what is needed to mobilize patient capital toward productive projects and real assets: stable and predictable policy frameworks, structures that improve risk-return profiles, and the capabilities required to turn opportunities into scalable investments. The discussion will also explore how to align private investment with public priorities through clear rules, partnerships, and public-private dialogue, as well as the regional lessons that can strengthen a sustained commitment to development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Susana Jiménez**, President of the Confederation of Production and Commerce
- **Bruce Mac Master**, President of the National Business Association (ANDI)
- **Sergio Contreras**, Executive President of the Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology (COMCE)
- **Ricardo Diab**, Argentine Confederation of Medium-Sized Enterprises (CAME)
- **Cecilia Valdés**, Chilean journalist (*Moderator*)

5:25 p.m. – 6:05 p.m. | Social Housing as a Driver of Development: Public, Private, and Financial Sector Coordination

The housing deficit in Latin America exceeds 50 million homes, primarily affecting vulnerable populations. This panel will explore how social housing can act as a catalyst for comprehensive development by generating jobs, strengthening communities, improving health and education outcomes, and stimulating local economies. The discussion will cover innovative financing models—such as

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subsidies, microfinance, and social mortgages—public–private coordination mechanisms, sustainable urban design, efficient construction technologies, and neighborhood upgrading programs. Panelists will share successful experiences from different countries and examine how to scale housing solutions that are financially viable, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

- **Ana Claudia Rossbach**, Executive Secretary of UN-Habitat
- **Tamara Paseyro**, Minister of Housing and Territorial Planning of Uruguay
- **Juan José Ayerza**, CEO of TECHO
- **Carlos Fernando Galán**, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia
- **Guillermo Herrera**, President of the Colombian Chamber of Construction (Camacol) *(Moderator)*

LAC INSPIRES ROOM

2:00 p.m - 2:40 p.m. | Beyond the Games: Sports, Inclusion, and Public Policy

This panel will explore how sport can serve as a high-impact public policy tool for social inclusion, health, education, and public safety—beyond entertainment and mega-events. Drawing on concrete experiences, the discussion will analyze what works to expand access—especially for girls, youth, and vulnerable populations—reduce territorial gaps, and create pathways for social mobility through sports schools, community infrastructure, and partnerships with the private sector. It will also address how to measure results (school retention, employability, social cohesion, and prevention), ensure sustainable financing, and design intersectoral governance so that sport becomes an effective platform for development and cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Michele Formonte**, CEO of the Americas Paralympic Committee
- **Amalia Toro**, Senior Partner McKinsey & Company
- **Juan Diego Blas**, Paralympic athlete
- **Junior Noboa**, National Baseball Commissioner of the Dominican Republic
- **Andrea Guerrero**, CEO of Win Sports *(Moderator)*



2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. | Bolivia: Growth, Investment, and Sustainable Development Agenda

Bolivia will showcase its potential for sustained and inclusive growth by strategically leveraging its natural resources, its Andean–Amazonian position, and its expanding domestic market. The discussion will address the challenges and opportunities to boost public and private investment, diversify the productive matrix beyond hydrocarbons, promote sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, and the lithium economy, and strengthen infrastructure and regional logistics integration. With the participation of leaders from the public and private sectors, as well as multilateral organizations, the session will explore the reforms, regulatory frameworks, and partnerships needed for Bolivia to consolidate a development model that combines macroeconomic stability, quality job creation, and environmental sustainability.

- **Enrique García**, Former Executive President of CAF
- **Jean Pierre Antelo**, President of CAINCO
- **José Gabriel Espinoza**, Minister of Economy and Public Finance of Bolivia
- **Marilyn Cochamanidis**, Corporate Vice President, Kuljis Cochamanidis Group
- **Jeannette Sánchez**, CAF representative in Bolivia (*Moderator*)

3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Private Sector Inclusion in Transport Projects

Latin America faces an investment gap of hundreds of billions of dollars in transport infrastructure. This panel will examine innovative public–private partnership (PPP) models for transport projects, ranging from roads and ports to metro systems and urban mobility solutions. Successful cases will be presented, along with lessons on contract design, risk mitigation, structured finance, and regulatory frameworks that attract private capital while safeguarding the public interest. Panelists will discuss how to structure bankable projects, the role of development finance institutions, and how to ensure transparency and social benefits in long-term concessions.

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- **Ana Julia Carreira**, National Secretary for Public-Private Partnerships of Panama
- **Bosco Martí**, President of the Aleatica Road Safety Foundation
- **Guillermo Muñoz**, Chair of the Board of Directors of Metro de Santiago, Chile
- **Héctor Morales**, Managing Director for Latin America – Macquarie Group
- **Hostos Rizik**, General Director of the RD Vial Trust
- **Ángel Cárdenas**, Manager of Infrastructure for Development at CAF (*Moderator*)

4:40 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. | South–South Connection: CELAC–Africa Partnerships Toward a New Global Leadership

This panel brings together leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa to explore how South–South cooperation can move from aspiration to a results-oriented agenda in a world in transition. Building on the growth of trade flows and converging challenges—such as dependence on primary exports, international volatility, productivity gaps, and persistent inequalities, alongside shared environmental and food-security pressures—the discussion will focus on how to build more strategic and sustained CELAC–Africa partnerships.

The dialogue will seek to identify concrete priorities and collaboration mechanisms in areas such as economic diversification, digital transformation, human development, and the green transition, while also highlighting the role of the African diaspora in the region as a bridge for exchange, innovation, and the construction of a bi-regional leadership with greater autonomy and global influence.

- **Francia Márquez**, Vice President of Colombia
- **Rania A. Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- **Okechukwu Ihejirika**, Regional Director of Operations, Caribbean Office, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)
- **Lorena Arroyo**, Director of América Futura at EL PAÍS in Spain (Moderator)

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5:25 p.m. – 6:05 p.m. | Economic Development Opportunities for the Caribbean

This panel will explore the Caribbean's potential, presenting it as a geography of opportunities where innovation and sustainability can become tangible drivers of growth. The discussion will highlight project stories that are already transforming value chains—from high-value tourism and sustainable aquaculture to renewable energy and smart port logistics—and will show how technology, creative financing, and public-private partnerships reduce risks and open regional and global markets.

- **Racquel Moses**, CEO of the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator
- **Aubyn Hill**, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce of Jamaica
- **Didacus Jules**, Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- **Kiesha Farnum**, Head of Partnerships and Programmes at CCREEE (Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency)
- **Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy**, Regional Manager for the Caribbean of CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean- *(Moderator)*

LAC FUTURE ROOM

2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. | Financial Ecosystem for Gender Equality

This session addresses the importance of inclusive, gender-responsive financial ecosystems as a driver of women's well-being and sustainable growth for countries. Building bridges among governments, regulators, and the financial sector is key to designing and scaling financial inclusion laws, equality seals for financial institutions, gender bonds, credit lines for women-led and/or women-owned SMEs, and other transformative instruments. It highlights that equal opportunities for women are not only a matter of social justice, but also a core strategy for economic development and inequality reduction.

- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States
- **Stella Guillen**, President of the Development Finance Agency of Paraguay
- **María Belén Loor Iturralde**, President of Ecuador's National Corporation for Popular and Solidarity Finance



- **Ana Baiardi**, Manager of Gender, Inclusion, and Diversity at CAF – development bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (*Moderator*)

2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. | The Strategic Minerals Agenda in LAC

This panel will bring together key representatives from the main producers of strategic minerals in Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss how to turn the potential of resources such as lithium, copper, nickel, and rare earths into sustainable development, value added, and social inclusion. The discussion will address the challenges of designing stable regulatory frameworks, attracting long-term investment, promoting local value chains, and building technological and industrial capabilities in the region, while ensuring high socio-environmental standards and strong engagement with communities. Drawing on concrete experiences, the panel will examine what a shared LAC agenda should look like in the context of the global energy transition, geopolitical competition for critical minerals, and the need for the region to move beyond being merely a supplier of raw materials to become a relevant player in the green economy value chains.

- **Jorge Riesco**, President of the National Mining Society of Chile
- **Diego Heilbrunn**, Corporate General Manager of Consorcio Minero Horizonte
- **Juan Camilo Nariño**, President of the Colombian Mining Association
- **Kathleen L. Quirk**, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Freeport-McMoRan Inc
- **Ricardo Ávila**, *El Tiempo* (*Moderator*)

3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Scaling Circularity: Partnerships, Investment and Territories

This panel explores waste management as a strategic lever for productive transformation and value creation, focusing on how recycling, eco-design, and circular design help close material loops and reduce environmental costs. It will analyze concrete cases of integration among producers, waste managers, and secondary markets to highlight practical pathways for value recovery, impact measurement, and the removal of operational and regulatory barriers that hinder the scaling of circular solutions. The discussion will also address the emergence of new business models—service-based offerings, subscription models, reuse

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platforms, and secondary raw materials markets—and the conditions they require to be viable: financing, logistics innovation, regulatory incentives, and consumer behavior change.

- **Gonzalo Muñoz**, Co-CEO at Ambition Loop and High-Level Climate Action Champion
- **Gustavo Migues**, Group Director for the Iberia–Latin America Zone at Veolia
- **Adriana Bueno**, Founder and Executive Director of Hábitat Sur
- **Erasmo Zuleta**, President of the National Federation of Departments – Colombia
- **Óvil Moreno**, Administrator of the Panama Urban and Household Waste Authority (AAUD)
- **Julián Suárez Migliozi**, Manager of Sustainable Territorial Development at CAF (*Moderator*)

4:40 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. | Jamaica Open for Business: Partnership and Investment Opportunities

5:25 p.m. – 6:05 p.m. | Security and Development in the Face of the Challenge of Illegal Markets: Evidence, Cooperation, and Regional Action

This panel will focus on analyzing the relationship between security, illegal markets, and development, highlighting how organized crime and illicit economies have become a structural challenge to regional prosperity, undermining investment, institutional trust, social cohesion, and democratic governance. Using an evidence-based approach, the panel will underscore how initiatives such as DAVACrim help turn data into public policy, strengthen regional cooperation, and promote more comprehensive and sustainable strategies for citizen security.

- **Ana Irene Delgado**, Ambassador of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS) and Chair of the Hemispheric Security Commission
- **Fernando Carrión**, FLACSO Academic
- **Alejandra Monteoliva**, Minister of National Security of Argentina
- **Lucía Dammert**, Academic and author of Anatomy of Illegal Power, and Professor of International Relations at the University of Santiago, Chile (*Moderator*)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

PLENARY SESSION

8:30a.m. – 8:45 a.m.: Remarks by Mayer Mizrachi – Mayor of Panama City

- **Mayer Mizrachi**, Mayor of Panama City, Panama

8:45 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.: Remarks by Joseph Oughourlian - Grupo Prisa

- **Joseph Oughourlian**, President of the PRISA Group

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.: Transforming Growth: How AI and the Digital Economy Are Redefining Competitiveness – Michio Kaku

This keynote address will examine the impact of artificial intelligence and the digital economy on productivity, employment, and economic competitiveness. Drawing on empirical evidence from cutting-edge research, it will explore how AI is reshaping entire sectors of the economy, which skills and capabilities will be critical for the future of work, and how Latin America can avoid falling behind in this technological revolution. The presentation will offer insights into public policy, investment in human capital, and business strategies needed for the region to harness the opportunities of the digital economy while managing its disruptions.

- **Michio Kaku**, Theoretical physicist, futurist, and author of the best-selling book QUANTUM SUPREMACY

9:35 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.: Rethinking LAC: Democracy, Governance, and Development

This session explores how Latin America and the Caribbean can strengthen their global influence amid uncertainty. The discussion centers on three pillars: bolstering democracy, improving governance for lasting reforms, and balancing competitiveness with social cohesion. It offers a strategic reflection on the

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leadership needed to overcome polarization, rebuild institutional trust, and establish long-term agreements for sustainable regional development.

- **Juan Manuel Santos**, Former President of Colombia and 2016 Nobel Peace Prize laureate
- **Michael Stott**, Latin America Editor at the Financial Times (*Moderator*)

10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: The Era of Global Fragmentation: Will LAC Find Its Voice?

This panel will examine how Latin America and the Caribbean can build a clearer and more effective position in an international order marked by geopolitical fragmentation, rivalry among major powers, and the weakening of multilateralism. The discussion will explore what it means to “have a voice” in practice: defining shared interests, prioritizing agendas where the region can exert influence, and acting coherently in key forums. Pathways to advance regional objectives in trade and investment, climate action, security, and reform of multilateral institutions will be assessed, along with the balance between strategic autonomy and cooperation with different partners. The panel will also consider whether LAC can play a bridging role in a polarized world and what kind of regional integration and coordination—more flexible and results-oriented—would help amplify its global influence and negotiating power.

- **Gabriela Sommerfeld**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador
- **Fernando Hugo Aramayo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia
- **Javier Martínez-Acha**, Foreign Minister of Panama
- **Kamina Johnson Smith**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica
- **Carlos Díaz-Rosillo**, Director and Founder of the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom (*Moderator*)

11:10 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.: Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Action and Biodiversity: LAC as a Region of Solutions

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This panel will explore how Latin America and the Caribbean can turn their natural wealth into a platform for global leadership, shifting from being perceived as a “vulnerable region” to becoming a region of solutions for climate and biodiversity. The discussion will examine the decisions needed to align conservation, development, and competitiveness: integrating biodiversity goals into national and sectoral plans, strengthening regulatory and institutional frameworks, and accelerating a just transition that reduces emissions without widening social gaps. It will also address mechanisms to scale up climate and nature finance (public, private, and multilateral), mobilize investment in nature-based solutions with verifiable metrics, and ensure that benefits—jobs, productivity, and well-being—translate into sustainable and inclusive prosperity by 2030.

- **Alicia Bárcena**, Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico
- **Juan Carlos Navarro**, Minister of Environment of Panama
- **Gustavo Manrique**, Former Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador
- **Rachel Biderman**, Senior Vice President for the Americas at Conservation International
- **Claudia Gurusatti**, Director of NTN24 (*Moderator*)

11:55 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. : Multilateralism and a World in Transition

In a context marked by geopolitical reconfiguration, the reshoring of value chains, the energy transition, and growing tensions over the international order, Latin America and the Caribbean face a pending agenda to strengthen their voice, integration, and development model. This dialogue will examine the role of multilateralism in the region, the opportunities and limits of North–South relations, and the institutional and political adjustments needed for Latin American and Caribbean countries to translate this context into greater democracy, investment, social cohesion, and sustainability. Shared priorities and paths for cooperation will be identified to enable the region to play a stronger role in shaping the global agenda.

- **Albert Ramdin**, Secretary General of the OAS
- **Andrés Allamand**, Ibero-American Secretary General - SEGIB

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- **Susan Segal**, President and CEO of Americas Society/Council of the Americas (*Moderator*)

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Presentation by Philippe Aghion – 2025 Nobel Prize in Economics

- **Philippe Aghion**, 2025 Nobel Prize in Economics

5:15 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.: Partnerships for Development: Democracy, Inclusion, and Capacities for the Next Decade

- **Michelle Muschett**, Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP
- **Susana Sumelzo**, Secretary of State for Ibero-America and the Caribbean and the Spanish Language Worldwide
- **Mariano Jabonero**, Secretary-General of the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI)
- **Giorgio Silli**, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy
- **Ivonne Baki**, Former Ambassador of Ecuador to the Government of the United States

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m: “A Century of Plenty” – McKinsey Report

- **Andrés Cadena**, McKinsey & Company
- **Marc Canal**, Associate Partner in Spain and Senior Fellow of the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI)

SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

BLUE ROOM

2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. | Open Skies: Airport Infrastructure and Connectivity in LAC

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This panel will address the aviation and tourism paradox in Latin America: a region with world-class destinations, unique biodiversity, exceptional cultural heritage, and a growing middle class eager to travel more—yet constrained by lagging airport infrastructure and air connectivity. Against this backdrop, the discussion will explore how to transform Latin American airports into true catalysts for economic development, regional integration, and tourism competitiveness. It will analyze successful models for modernization and expansion through PPPs and concessions, strategies to strengthen intra- and interregional connectivity, regulatory frameworks that promote competition and efficiency, and the synergies between aviation, tourism, investment, and employment. The panel will propose viewing airports not only as transport infrastructure, but as economic ecosystems that position cities and regions within global networks.

- **Ezequiel Barrenechea**, Director of LATAM, Corporación América
- **Silvio Costa Filho**, Minister of Ports and Airports of Brazil
- **María Luisa Navarro**, Senior Director of Government Relations at Copa Airlines
- **Felisa Pérez**, Director of Airport Operations at Tocumen International Airport, Panama
- **Peter Cerdá**, Regional Vice President for the Americas, International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- **Fabio Rabbani**, Regional Director of the South American Office of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (*Moderator*)

2:55 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. | Agriculture and Food Systems for a Sustainable Transformation in LAC

This panel explores how Latin America and the Caribbean can mobilize and scale the financing needed to transform their agri-food systems toward more sustainable, resilient, and regenerative models. Drawing on concrete regional experiences, the discussion will examine how to combine public and private investment with international cooperation to drive productive, technological, and institutional innovations that increase productivity without compromising natural resources. The panel will emphasize ensuring food and economic security for the most vulnerable populations, while promoting inclusive value chains, climate-smart agriculture, and stronger policy and incentive frameworks.

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- **Juan Carlos Vega**, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Ecuador
- **Muhammad Ibrahim**, Director General of IICA
- **Rocio Medina Bolívar**, Regional Director for LAC at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Gonzalo Uriarte**, President of the Chilean Food and Beverage Association (AB Chile)
- **Rene Orellana**, Deputy Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean (*Moderator*)

3:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. | Report Launch: Unlocking Growth in a Changing World for LAC

This panel explores the development trap in Latin America and the Caribbean, characterized by low growth and productivity gaps. Facing global transitions, the discussion prioritizes reducing informality, boosting innovation, and enhancing international integration. Experts will address how to unlock growth barriers and implement a comprehensive development agenda despite fiscal constraints, aiming for sustainable regional progress.

- **Maria Cecilia Plottier**, Senior Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **José Juan Ruiz**, President of the Elcano Royal Institute
- **Ricardo Hausmann**, Founder and Director of the Growth Lab at Harvard University
- **Verónica Frisancho**, Knowledge Manager, CAF -Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean- (*Moderator*)

4:25 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. | The Voice of the Private Sector: Productivity, Industry and Trade

Scaling from Latin America and the Caribbean means much more than producing well—it requires integrating industry, branding, and effective market access in an environment where logistics, regulation, distribution, and positioning matter as much as product quality. This panel will bring together business and industrial leaders with hands-on experience along this path to identify, through concrete



cases, which decisions enable the transition from production to market, how to build brands with regional and global reach, and which capabilities and “soft infrastructure”—regulatory compliance, standards, commercial channels, data, and talent—are critical to add value, achieve scale, and compete successfully beyond borders.

- **Goldy Hyder**, President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada
- **Bettina Bulgheroni**, President of the Inter-American Council of Trade and Production
- **Ricardo Alban**, President of the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) of Brazil
- **Celso Juan Marranzini**, President of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP)
- **Maria Claudia Lacouture**, Executive director of the Colombo American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Colombia) (*Moderator*)

GREEN ROOM

2:00 p.m - 2:50 p.m. | From Energy to Innovation: an LAC–Middle East Agenda for the Next Decade

The Middle East—particularly the Gulf—is accelerating its economic diversification and deploying unique long-term financing capabilities through sovereign wealth funds, logistics conglomerates, and innovation platforms. This session will analyze how Latin America and the Caribbean can build a more strategic relationship with the region: mobilizing patient capital for infrastructure and energy, developing bankable projects, expanding trade in key sectors (food, minerals, tourism, and services), and linking energy transition agendas—renewables, hydrogen, and efficiency—to new investment pathways.

- **Abdulhamid Alkhailifa**, Director-General and President of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund)
- **Rania A. Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation of the Arab Republic of Egypt

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- **Abdulrahman Bakir**, Director General and Head of the Americas at the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia
- **Noura Al Kaabi**, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates
- **Javier Lafuente**, Deputy Editor of EL PAÍS América (*Moderator*)

2:55 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. | LAC-Asia: Opportunities for a New-Generation Strategic Agenda

In a context of geoeconomic reconfiguration, Asia is consolidating its role as a driver of demand, innovation, financing, and industrialization, while Latin America and the Caribbean seek to boost productivity, diversify exports, and attract high-quality investment. This panel explores how to build a next-generation LAC-Asia agenda that moves beyond the traditional commodity-based relationship and focuses on productive investment, integration into regional and global value chains, technology transfer, logistics connectivity, and cooperation on standards and capabilities. The discussion will highlight concrete opportunities—advanced manufacturing, the digital economy, the energy transition, sophisticated agribusiness, and services—as well as the conditions needed to realize them: bankable projects, predictable regulatory frameworks, trade facilitation, physical and digital infrastructure, and risk-mitigation mechanisms.

- **Kimura Fukunari**, President of IDE-JETRO
- **Zhongjing Wang**, Executive Director of the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF)
- **Sudhakar Dalela**, Secretary of Economic Relations at the Ministry of External Affairs of India
- **Lilia Luciano**, Correspondent and anchor at CBS News (*Moderator*)

3:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. | Cities, Digitalization, and Innovation

This panel brings together mayors from Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss how digital transformation translates into tangible improvements in daily life and greater urban competitiveness. It will examine how cities are using data and technologies to integrate interoperable public services, improve mobility, strengthen public safety, modernize tax collection and cadastral systems, enhance environmental management, and leverage innovation-driven public procurement.

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The discussion will focus on local political leadership, digital governance models, partnerships with the private sector, and the barriers that still remain, with the aim of showing what makes a digital city also more inclusive, sustainable, and attractive for investment.

- **Camila Merino**, Mayor of Vitacura, Chile
- **Cristian Eduardo Zamora**, Mayor of Cuenca, Ecuador
- **Federico Gutiérrez**, Mayor of Medellín, Colombia
- **Andrés Mijes**, Mayor of the General Municipality of Escobedo – Nuevo León, Mexico
- **Glenda Umaña**, International journalist, President and Founder of Glenda Umaña Communications (*Moderator*)

4:25 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. | Water 2030: Access, Climate Adaptation, Infrastructure and Governance

A high-level dialogue to place water at the center of development: how Latin America and the Caribbean can ensure water security in the face of droughts, floods, and watershed degradation, while expanding universal access to water and sanitation, decarbonizing their systems, protecting ecosystems, and closing urban–rural gaps. The discussion will focus on governance and regulatory frameworks that integrate watershed management, access to water, and cross-border coordination, as well as on critical enablers such as investment in infrastructure projects and the innovation and use of data to improve access for citizens.

- **Mariella Sánchez**, Executive Director of Aquafondo
- **Nizar Baraka**, Minister of Equipment and Water of Morocco
- **Paulette Bynoe**, President of the World Water Association – Caribbean
- **Rocío Cavazos**, Regional Director for Latin America at Water.org
- **Juan Roberto Vargas**, Director of Caracol News (*Moderator*)

LAC INSPIRES ROOM



2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. | Latin American Economic Outlook 2025 – Driving and Financing Productive Transformation

This panel presents the **LEO 2025** roadmap for a green and inclusive LAC economy through three pillars: implementing coordinated productive policies in strategic sectors; mobilizing domestic resources and development finance to close funding gaps; and attracting high-quality FDI to foster technology transfer, regional integration, and export diversification through shared value chains.

- **Félix Fernández Shaw**, Director for Latin America, the Caribbean, and relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories in the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission
- **Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir**, Director OECD Development Centre
- **José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs**, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- **Juan Vázquez Zamora**, Deputy Head for Latin America and the Caribbean at the OECD Development Centre
- **Marco Llinas**, Director, Division of Productive and Business Development, ECLAC
- **Anna Guijarro Jiménez**, Programme Manager – DG INTPA – Regional Programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean, European Commission
- **Verónica Frisanchio**, Manager, Knowledge Management Department at CAF
- **Jessica Roldán Peña**, Director of Macroeconomic Studies at CAF

2:55 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. | Boosting Tourism Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean

This tourism panel will host a high-level conversation on how to turn tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean into a true engine of sustainable development, investment, and innovation—shifting from a focus on “arrivals” to a value-creation approach rooted in local territories. The session will address three main areas: (i) how to design clear and comparable tourism investment guides that steer funds, banks, and operators toward high-impact projects; (ii) which tools are needed to strengthen the sector’s investment culture—PPP frameworks, risk management, ESG criteria, and destination governance; and (iii) how to align public policies,



tourism promotion, and digital transformation to diversify the offer, improve connectivity, and enhance regional competitiveness.

- **Dumek Turbay**, Mayor of Cartagena
- **Dona Regis-Prosper**, Secretary-General and CEO of the Caribbean Tourism Organization
- **Mónica Zalaquett**, Executive President of the Federation of Tourism Enterprises of Chile
- **Gustavo Feliciano**, Minister of Tourism of Brazil
- **Natalia Bayona**, Executive Director of UN Tourism (*Moderator*)

3:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. | Special Economic Zones and Productive Development: Regional Experiences

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been successful industrial policy instruments in Asia, but Latin America has seen mixed results. This panel explores how to design and implement effective SEZs that attract investment, generate quality jobs, promote technology transfer, and integrate with local economies. It will examine experiences from different Latin American countries and Spain, discussing regulatory frameworks, tax incentives, infrastructure, linkages with productive clusters, sustainability, and governance. Panelists will share lessons learned on what works—and what does not—in SEZs, and how they can serve as tools for productive diversification and regional development.

- **Claudia Pellerano**, President of the Americas Industrial Free Zones and President of the Dominican Association of Free Zones
- **Sonsoles García**, President of the Association of Free Zones of Ecuador (AZFE) and former Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries of Ecuador
- **Martin Dovat**, CEO of Zonamerica
- **Martín Gustavo Ibarra**, President of Araujo Ibarra
- **Yolanda Sandoval**, Economics Editor at La Prensa (*Moderator*)

4:25 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. | Railway Infrastructure as a Driver of Connectivity and Economic Growth in LAC

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Freight and passenger rail projects are essential for the physical integration of Latin America, but they require massive investment and long maturation periods. This panel brings together government authorities and multilateral financiers to discuss innovative financing structures, the role of development banks, green bonds, public–private partnerships in railways, and regional coordination. The discussion will explore South American integration projects, bioceanic corridors, and mass urban transit systems. Panelists will also address challenges related to financial viability, institutional design, cross-country coordination, and how to mobilize the capital needed to build the rail network Latin America requires.

- **Eric Martín González**, President of State Railways of Chile
- **Henry Faarup**, National Secretary of the Panama Railroad
- **Irene Flores**, General Manager of Ferrovías de Guatemala
- **Joo Hyun Ha**, Head of Advocacy at the UIC – International Union of Railways
- **María Consuelo Araújo**, President of the Colombian Chamber of Infrastructure (CCI) (*Moderator*)

LAC FUTURE ROOM

2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. | Returns that Transform: The Impact Investing Revolution

Impact investing is transforming the global financial landscape, demonstrating that it is possible to generate attractive financial returns while delivering measurable positive social and environmental impact. This panel brings together impact investing pioneers in Latin America to explore how the ecosystem is evolving, which sectors offer the strongest opportunities—financial inclusion, health, education, sustainable agriculture, and clean energy—how impact is measured and verified, and which regulatory frameworks and investment vehicles are emerging. The discussion will feature success stories, scaling challenges, strategies to mobilize institutional capital into impact investing, and perspectives on the future of purpose-driven finance in the region.

- **Liliana Reyes**, Managing Director, Fund of Funds
- **Raúl Pomares**, Founder of Sonen Capital LLC
- **Rosario Bazán**, Founder and President of Danper

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- **Tammy Newmark**, CEO and Managing Partner of EcoEnterprises Fund
- **Yasmina Zaidman**, Director of Development and Partnerships at Acumen
- **Ernesto Cortés**, Editor-in-Chief of EL TIEMPO (*Moderator*)

2:55 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. | CAF Presents Banco Futuro LAC: An Initiative to Advance Child and Youth Development (UNICEF)

- **Kitty van der Heijden**, Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships, UNICEF

3:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. | Networks Without Borders: The Critical Path of Latin American Electrical Interconnection

This analysis examines the main technical, regulatory, and financial challenges of electrical interconnection in Latin America and the Caribbean, reviewing projects that have been successfully implemented as well as those that have been delayed or failed to materialize. The discussion will address regulatory harmonization, cross-border tariffs and tolls, bankability and country risk, socio-environmental consultation, transmission capacity, cybersecurity, the integration of renewable energy, and technologies such as HVDC and energy storage. Based on these experiences, the panel promotes a regional 2026–2030 roadmap to accelerate energy integration and strengthen electricity security and the energy transition in LAC.

- **César Butrón**, President of COES
- **Félix Fernández Shaw**, Director for Latin America, the Caribbean, and Relations with Overseas Countries and Territories, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission
- **Thaís Barcellos**, Journalist for the newspaper O Globo (*Moderator*)

4:25 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. | Democracies Under Pressure: Reimagining the Future of Democracies in Latin America and the Caribbean

This panel analyzes the reinforcing link between democracy and development in Latin America. Despite democratization, institutional failures to deliver well-being

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fuel social unrest and personalistic leadership. The discussion focuses on how participation and representation must translate rights into equity to preserve democratic stability and human progress amidst growing regional pressures.

- **Michelle Muschett**, Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director of the UNDP for Latin America and the Caribbean