



SPRING MEETINGS WB/IMF 2009

FORUM AND ROUNDTABLE DEBATE LATIN AMERICA AND THE GLOBAL CRISIS *Towards a Rapid Regional Recovery*

April 24th, 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Eugene Black Auditorium
(600, 19th Street NW, H-B1 level, Washington, DC)

It is with great pleasure that the World Bank invites you to the Regional Forum *Latin America and the Global Crisis*. The two session forum will take place in Washington DC, on April 24th, 2:00-6:00 p.m. and will meet at a critical time to discuss the economic impacts of the global crisis and policy challenges in the region and its social and political implications.

Government officials, experts, policy makers and opinion leaders from all over the region had been invited to discuss what is the nature of the current crisis and its impact on Latin American economies; what are the main challenges for a different region and what does it expect from developed countries and multilateral institutions. The risks and implications of a significant reversal of hard-won gains in social indicators and the potential impacts of the crisis on the political scenario in a busy electoral year will also be addressed.

PROGRAM

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks

Juan José Daboub, Managing Director, World Bank

Introduction

Pamela Cox, Regional Vice President, World Bank

2:15 – 3:40 p.m.

Session 1: *Economic Impacts and Policy Challenges*

What is the nature of the current crisis and its impact on Latin American economies? What are the main challenges for the region? What does the region expect from the multilateral organizations?

Moderator: *Augusto de la Torre*, Regional Chief Economist, WB

Panelists: *Agustín Carstens*, Minister of Finance, Mexico
José de Gregorio, Central Bank Governor, Chile
Oscar Zuluaga, Minister of Finance, Colombia
Ricardo Hausmann, Harvard University

3:40 - 3:50 p.m.

Coffee Break

3:50 – 4:20 p.m. **Keynote Speech**
Fernando Lugo Méndez, President of Paraguay

4:20 – 4:40 p.m. **Special Address**
Mauricio Funes, President-Elect of El Salvador

4:40 – 5:55 p.m. **Session 2: *Political and Social Implications and Challenges***

How to address the risk of a reversal of the hard-won gains in social indicators in Latin America? How will the adjustment to the global crisis will be affected by electoral politics? Is protectionism a serious risk?

Moderator: *Andrés Oppenheimer*, Miami Herald

Panelists: *Alicia Bárcena*, Executive Secretary, ECLAC
 Jorge Castañeda, New York University
 Julia E. Sweig, Council of Foreign Relations

5:55 – 6:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Marcelo Giugale, Regional Director of Economic Policy and Poverty Reduction, World Bank

Please join us at the Eugene Black Auditorium (600, 19th Street NW, H-B1 level, Washington DC). Space is limited.
