



PRESSING ISSUES IN  
**CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO**

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CITIZEN SECURITY | MIGRATION | INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**CAPITOL HILL  
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (ROOM B-338)  
WASHINGTON, DC  
FRIDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2014  
FOLLOW LIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA @THE\_DIALOGUE**



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# AGENDA

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**8:45 AM**    **Welcome**

**9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**    **State of Play: Economic and Political Overview of Central America & Mexico**

How will recent and upcoming elections affect the region's political and economic trajectory? What are the most pressing political and economic challenges facing the region's new leaders?

Introduction:    Jared Polis, US House of Representatives (D-CO)

Moderator:    Michael Shifter, Inter-American Dialogue

Panelists:    Kevin Casas-Zamora, Organization of American States

                  Mario Arana, Nicaraguan Foundation for Social and Economic Development (FUNIDES)

                  Carlos Dada, *El Faro*

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**    **Migration, Deportation, and US Immigration Policy**

What impact have deportations had on Central America's economic development and citizen security? How likely is it that US immigration reform will pass this year? How might reform affect the region's economies as well as bilateral relations with the United States? Can countries do more to address the mistreatment of migrants passing through their territories? What can Central American countries do to ease pressures for outward migration? What role have remittances played in shaping policy on both sides of the border? How might countries use remittances to advance economic development?

Moderator:    Manuel Orozco, Inter-American Dialogue

Panelists:    Rubén Zamora, Embassy of El Salvador in Washington, DC

                  Rafael Fernández de Castro, Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM)

                  Doris Meissner, Migration Policy Institute

**12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**    **Luncheon Keynote Address**

Address:    Hugo Martínez, Central American Integration System (SICA)

Moderator:    Michael Shifter, Inter-American Dialogue

**1:30 PM -3:00 PM**    **International Security Cooperation**

How effective has international cooperation been in helping the region confront its security challenges? Which measures have worked and which should be abandoned? What new initiatives should be explored? Can CARSI be effectively used to shape security policy? Is there an overall US security strategy toward the region or just a collection of initiatives? Is the US focus on drug interdiction and the gang problem misplaced? Has staggering violence and criminal activity pushed the Northern Triangle beyond help?

Moderator:    Peter Hakim, Inter-American Dialogue

Panelists:    Eduardo Stein, Former Vice-President of Guatemala

                  Jorge Chabat, Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE)

                  Hector Silva, American University

## SPEAKER PROFILES

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**Mario Arana** served as president of Nicaragua's Central Bank from 2006 to 2007, minister of economic development from 2002 to 2004, and minister of finance from 2005 to 2006. He also previously served as executive director of the Nicaraguan Foundation for Economic and Social Development and is currently an independent consultant advising a number of multilateral financial organizations and private businesses.

**Kevin Casas-Zamora** is secretary for political affairs at the Organization of American States and non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He previously served as minister of national planning and economic policy and second vice president of Costa Rica under the administration of Óscar Arias.

**Jorge Chabat** is professor of international studies at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE) in Mexico City. He speaks and writes widely on Mexico-US relations, drug trafficking, and national security issues.

**Carlos Dada** is founder and director of *El Faro*, El Salvador's first online newspaper. He has been praised for his investigative journalism and has reported from various conflict zones around the world.

**Rafael Fernández de Castro** is founder and director of the department of international studies of the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM) as well as editor of *Foreign Affairs en Español*. He previously served as advisor to the president of Mexico for international affairs and competitiveness.

**Peter Hakim** is president emeritus and senior fellow of the Inter-American Dialogue.

**Hugo Martínez** was elected secretary general of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in June 2013. He previously served as minister of foreign affairs of El Salvador and as a member of the National Assembly.

**Doris Meissner** is director of the US immigration policy program of the Migration Policy Institute. From 1993-2000, she served in the administration of US President Bill Clinton as Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**Manuel Orozco** is senior fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue and senior migration and remittances advisor at the International Fund for Agricultural Development. He is also chair of Central America and the Caribbean at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute and senior researcher at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration.

**Michael Shifter** is president of the Inter-American Dialogue and adjunct professor of Latin American politics at Georgetown University's School of Foreign service.

**Eduardo Stein** previously served as vice president and foreign minister of Guatemala. He has since served as an advisor to a number of international organizations and as coordinator of la RED, a Central American network of think tanks.

**Hector Silva** is a research fellow at American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. He previously served as deputy chief of mission at the embassy of El Salvador in Washington, DC and worked for 15 years as an investigative reporter for *La Prensa Gráfica*, a major Salvadoran newspaper.

**Rubén Zamora** is ambassador of El Salvador in Washington, DC. He previously served as vice president of the National Assembly and as a member of the National Peace Commission.