



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Reports on Internal Politics of Each Country	4
3	Efforts toward a Common Agenda: the Dissemination Process.....	7
4	Forum Working Groups.....	9
4.1	Media Working Group	9
4.2	Development Working Group.....	10
4.3	Different Perceptions of Democracy as Impediment to Better Relationships	11
4.4	Drug Policy and Organized Crime	12
5	Participatory Evaluation of the Andean – U.S. Dialogue Forum	14
6	Recommendations for the Future: Last Reflections	1415
	Annex 1. Agenda of Meeting.....	16
	Annex 2. List of Participants	18

1 Introduction

The meeting that took place on August 2-3, 2011 in

2 Reports on Internal Politics of Each Country

The fourth plenary meeting of the Forum aimed to cement the achievements to date, in strengthening personal relationships between participants and promoting mutual understanding. To achieve this, one Forum member from each country presented the current internal political situation of his or her respective country, followed by a brief period for questions and discussion with the other members. *It is worth mentioning that these reports reflect the viewpoint of individual members and are not necessarily shared by all Forum members.*

Bolivia

reform political infrastructure, allocate funds to new social programs and continue to nurture

4 Forum Working Groups

During the course of the Forum, members have formed inter-country working groups to explore various priority issues, such as drug policy, organized crime, the role of the media in inter-country relationships, democracy, inclusive trade and development. As a result, members from the various countries have been working together on a variety of issues, ranging from bilateral

development in the Andean region. In order to promote the passage of the ATPDEA, a bipartisan letter was developed, signed by former President Jimmy Carter and former Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) that was sent to key actors in the U.S. government.

4.3 Different Perceptions of Democracy as Impediment to Better Relationships

Forum members discussed the UNDP/OAS report '*Our Democracy*', together with one of the collaborators of the report, Mr. Juan Pablo Corlazzoli who participated via videoconference. Mr. Corlazzoli outlined the main points of the report while including some anecdotal support drawn from his experiences in the political realm and in civil society. He discussed the need to create a civic democracy where the citizens have full civic, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The participants had the opportunity to ask questions and debate the findings of the report with Mr. Corlazzoli. While participants generally endorsed the importance of the report, they also raised some questions: one participant pointed out that the report missed topics such as social discrimination and personal security issues (such as common delinquency) when examining democracy; another was concerned about the empowerment of the executive branch since it opens the opportunity of creating autocrats; another wondered whether it would be better to create parliamentary systems rather than presidential in Latin America; another participant asked about components such as corruption, distrust of the authorities and the significant informal sector that corrode democracy. Finally, one partici

conflicting views, another member noted that civil society must reach a compromise by identifying and pursuing those elements of democracy that are essential in the long term but are independent of the short term social dynamics and structural differences in practicing democracies that often hinder cooperation in the region.

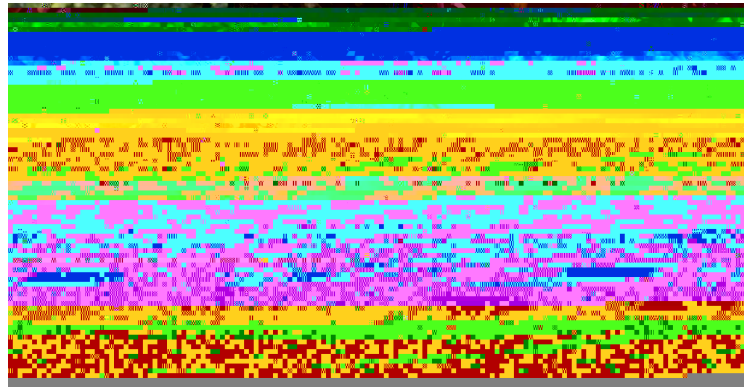
Several members of the Forum noted the institutional fragility that plagues the Andean region and further complicates the exercise of democracy. As one member stated, this fragility has resulted in many countries lacking organized and effective political parties in which large sectors of the population can become directly involved. This lack of political participation has led to the inability of populations to express the pluralistic characteristics of their societies, further eroding democratic conditions. In such cases, the systems tend to lack an effective balance of power both institutionally and politically that further deteriorates the exercise of democracy. If an effective balance of power existed in such contexts, one member suggested, the potential risks of not

In support of this approach, Gaviria took note of several alternative drug policies that exist in Europe. He lauded the Swiss drug policy, noting that it maintains a program for citizens found guilty of consumption that allows them to seek treatment while continuing to go to work and stay with their families. Gaviria also noted the importance of continually evaluating the effectiveness and success of these programs. Statistics show that treatment programs greatly reduce addiction relapse and drug-related violence.

Gaviria also noted problems in current Latin American drug policy. The largest obstacle to effective drug policy in the region is the misconception that domestic drug consumption is low and static. Only Brazil has recognized that drug consumption is a large problem and has taken steps to curtail it. Gaviria stressed that drug consumption is a factor that leads to insecurity in Latin American countries, citing statistics that show a positive correlation between drug consumption and crime rates. Additionally, he qualified the successes of Plan Colombia, noting its beneficial effect on national security, but disagreeing with its claimed success in reducing drug production. While the area of illegal farming is reduced, Gaviria claims that production has moved into the mountains, into Peru and onto smaller plots of land that are harder to identify and impossible to fumigate. Additionally, Gaviria supported amendments to the judicial system, noting reforms enacted in Colombia that would allow witnesses to testify in secret and maintain their own safety in cases that relate to big-time drug operations. These changes in public policy could have much greater effects on drug consumption and production than the policies the region has followed since the 1980s.

Presentation and analysis of report “D po cy n p e Ande n e c o / o e / ne nd e ec p e p e n p e ”

Based on consultations carried out in the Andean countries during 2011, two Forum members drafted a report that summarizes the state of the debate on alternative policies in the Andean region. The report was presented by the members and discussed among the participants. The concern was raised that the report was too focused on criticizing the U.S. and the vocabulary



Mayor of Lima, Susana Villarán, Peru Forum member Felipe Ortiz de Zevallos and U.S. Forum member Hattie Babbitt discuss the importance of working with cities and municipalities when looking for alternatives to the current drug policy in the Andean countries.

of the recommendations needed to be more specific. However, generally all the participants agreed that the report was informative and constructive. The two authors welcomed the recommendations that had been given and would incorporate them when finalizing the report.

Additionally, most of the participants emphasized the need to coordinate and cooperate among the Andean countries in order to have a positive effect. One participant stated that if countries did not work together in drug eradication efforts then there was the risk of the ‘balloon effect,’

The members of the Forum explored possible future actions that the group could undertake without the involvement of the IDEA and The Carter Center Secretariat. Some of the recommendations given by the participants were:

- To continue to promulgate the values and approach of the Dialogue Forum by using the lessons learned from the Colombia-Venezuela-U.S. media dialogues to expand to others, for instance between Peru and its neighbors.
- To take action on the efforts undertaken by the working group on drug policy and organized crime, for instance by promoting and opening the debate on alternatives to the current approach to drug policy in each Andean country.
- To measure the long-term impact of the Forum in the next 2-3 years in order to show the effect that the Forum has had in the region through individual members.

Annex 1. Agenda of Meeting

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

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|-----------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:30am | Opening, review of agenda of the meeting and introduction of members that have previously not participated in plenary meetings. Short presentation of evaluation ideas.
<i>[Kristen Sample, Jennifer McCoy, Graciela Tapia]</i> |
| 9:30 – 9:45am | Review of the dissemination of the Report towards a Common Agenda for the Andean Countries and the United States in the six Forum countries. Overall overview and strategies employed in each country.
<i>[Presenter: Santiago Mariani]</i> |
| 9:45 – 10:15am | Open discussion between members on the Report towards a Common Agenda: focus on lessons learned regarding limitations, potential impact, and openings for promoting this type of exercise
<i>[Moderator: Santiago Mariani]</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30am | Report and discussion on the activities and the impact of the development working group
<i>[Presenter: Eduardo Egas]</i> |

- 4:15 – 5:45pm Discussion: Differing perceptions of democracy as an impediment to better relationships
[Moderators: Ana María San Juan and Jennifer McCoy]
- 5:45 – 6:00pm Conclusions of first day
[Karin Andersson]
- 6:30 – 7:00pm Transportation to Foreign Ministry
- 7:30 – 8:30pm Reception with Peru’s Foreign Minister, Mr. Rafael Roncagliolo
- 8:30 – 10:00pm Dinner. Transportation to Hotel.

Wednesday, August 3, 2011

- 9:00 – 9:30am Opening, re-cap of first day, review of agenda of second day
[Kristen Sample]

Annex 2. List of Participants

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Ricardo Calla Ortega

Academic; Researcher; International Consultant;

Coletta Youngers Senior Fellow, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA); Associate,
International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

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Eleazar Díaz Rangel Director of *Ultimas Noticias*

Orlando Maniglia Ferreira Former Minister of Defense; Retired Admiral

Ana María San Juan Coordinator on Security, State and Democracy, Corporación Andina de
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