



In order of participation

Hon Juan Manuel Galán Pachón (Colombia)



Juan Manuel Galán is a Colombian Senator. He was educated at The Instituto Pedagógico de Bogota where he graduated from in 1989. Galán then went on to continue his education abroad in France where he earned various degrees including his Masters in International Affairs. Juan Manuel Galán has always sought to make positive changes in Colombia, upon returning from his studies abroad he made his way into the political sphere in Colombia. He was appointed Director of Youth at the Ministry of National Education. Galán was also made Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary for the Embassy of Colombia in London. After a year in this post Galán decided to resign in order to pursue further political office in Colombia. He did just that and was elected Senator in 2006.



Luis Alberto Cayetano Wagner Lezcano (Paraguay)

Luis Wagner was born in Paraguay and currently serves as a Senator there. He represents the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) in Paraguay. He graduated from his University with a degree in Accounting. He was elected as a Senator in Paraguay in 2013. He was Governor of the Department of Central and former Minister of Agriculture.



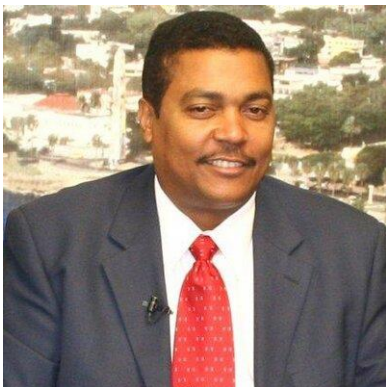
Hon Erik Fresen (USA)

Erik Fresen is a Miami native and attended the Florida State University. He served as a legislative aide for two years from 2000-2002. Following this he went on to become a land use consultant, and continued with this occupation until 2008 when he ran in the 111th district for Florida House of Representatives. Two years later in 2010 he was reelected to the same district. Then in 2012 once the districts were redrawn Erik Fresen once again ran for a House seat in the 114th district, where he narrowly defeated his opponent to be reelected.



Hon. Georgi Bliznashki (Bulgaria)

Professor, Constitutional Law, Sofia University Law School, Sofia, Bulgaria; Formerly Prime Minister, Bulgaria, August-November 2014; Member, European Parliament and Parliament of Bulgaria.



Victor D'Aza (Dominican Republic)

Victor D'Aza is currently the Executive Director of the Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU). Graduated from the Universidad Tecnologica of Santiago with a Degree in Law. He and the organization strive to improve Democracy as well as encourage its development in the municipalities throughout the Dominican Republic. He believes that strong democracy begins at the ground level and this is why the organization seeks to strengthen democratic municipalities throughout the area.



Dr. Allan Rosenbaum (USA)

Allan Rosenbaum is Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Institute for Public Management and Community Service and the Center for Democracy and Good Governance at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. He previously served as Dean of the University's School of Public Affairs. Prior to that, he was on the faculties of the Universities of Maryland, Connecticut and Wisconsin and held a research position at the University of Chicago. He has worked in national, state and local government in the United States and has

carried out numerous international projects for the United Nations, the US Agency for International Development, the World Bank and the Swedish International Development Agency. Currently, he is President of the American Society for Public Administration and a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration as well as occasional Visiting Distinguished Professor at the University of Potsdam, Germany. He has served as President of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration and currently serves on numerous journal editorial boards.



José Alberto Zambrano (Venezuela)

Jose Alberto Zambrano is currently the Secretary of International Issues as well as Vice President of the Social Christian Party (COPEI).



Luigi Boria (Venezuela)

Luigi Boria was born in Caracas, Venezuela. His parents emigrated there from Italy. He attended the public school system in his hometown and upon graduating found a job with GM to help pay for college. He attended the Catholic University of Andres Bello in Venezuela, and graduated with a degree in accounting. Luigi then went on to open his first computer business and moved to the United States in 1989 to continue expanding his business. He moved to Doral in 1989 and opened a new business as well as planting his roots in the town. His passion for family, business and the new city he settled in led him to run for Councilman of Doral in 2010, and then ultimately running for Mayor and being elected as the Mayor of Doral in 2012.



Sergio Arredondo (Mexico)

Sergio Arredondo is the Secretary General of the National Federation of Mexican Municipalities (FENAMM). He has studied Political Science at the Universidad de Nuevo Leon, as well as a Master's in Public Administration from Universidad Belgrano de Argentina.



Cristhian Mancera Mejia (Colombia)

Cristhian Mancera Mejia is a Colombian political activist and blogger. He is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of La Tribunacolus, a Colombian-U.S. blog that covers issues both in Colombia and in the United States, as well as issues that deal with both countries. Additionally, he serves as an Adjunct Professor for the Anthem Education Group.



Eucario Bermudez (Colombia)

Eucario Bermúdez is a well-known and respected Radio and Broadcast Journalist from Colombia. He served as President of the Asociación Colombiana de Locutores, an organization of radio and television broadcasters. He currently is broadcasting for Radio Caracol in Miami.



Hon Ramón Romero Roa (Paraguay)

Ramón Romero Roa, Lawyer and Notary, graduated from the Catholic University Our Lady of the Asunción. Specializing in Management, Public Management and Environment. Paraguay, born in the city of Minga Guazú (Alto Paraná, Paraguay), on 3 April 1966. He has been Mayor of the City of Minga Guazú. He is currently National Deputy for the NRA period 2013-2018. Part of the political team of Paraguay President Horacio Cartes. Member of Parliamentarians for Global Action¹.



Dr. Frank Mora (USA)

Dr. Frank Mora received his PhD in International Affairs and M.A. in Inter-American Studies from the University of Miami. He is currently the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU, as well as a Professor at FIU. He recently served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Western Hemisphere from 2009-2013. He has taught as a Professor in National Security

Strategy and Latin American Studies at institutions such as the National War College, National Defense University from 2004-2009. Additionally, he also has been Associate Professor and Chair in International Studies at Rhodes University. Outside of teaching, Dr. Mora has been a consultant for the Library of Congress, U.S. Department of Airforce, Department of the Army, and many other higher governmental organizations. He has published 5 books, and plenty more works and policy articles on hemispheric security, U.S. and Latin American Relations, Civil-Military relations, etc. Dr. Frank Mora is also a recipient of the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Department of Defense, a great honor.



Rosa María Payá (Cuba)

Rosa María is a native Cuban and also an activist for democracy and rights for the people of Cuba. She graduated with a degree in Physics, and is part of the Christian Liberation Movement which her parents helped create. Her father was a well-respected advocate for democracy, and this along with her own experiences prompted her to continue fighting for the rights of the people in her country.



Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta (Argentina)

Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta is the Institute deputy director, she received her Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Political Science from Universidad del Salvador in Argentina, a Master's Degree in Latin American Affairs from Georgetown University and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Public Management at FIU. Since 1994 has been the Deputy Director of IPMCS. In that role she is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the Institute's programs including projects, conferences, field missions, and the Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities. She has been a researcher at the Organization of American States' Unit for the Promotion of Democracy and at the Inter-American Dialogue. A native of Argentina, Mrs. Rodriguez-Acosta has had considerable experience on issues of democratization, governance reform, decentralization and strengthening of local governance in various parts of Latin America and oversaw the Institute's extensive activities in Paraguay.



Juan Carlos Eguren Neuenschwander (Perú)

Ase Juan Carlos Eguren Neuenschwander is a Peruvian Politician. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Law and began his career as a Commercial Director for Tecnología e Importación S.A., a large bottling company in South America. Following this he began to enter the political arena. He became a member of the Christian Peoples Party (PPC) and began to run for a position as Senator for the region of Arequipa. He was elected in 2006, and reelected in 2011 where he is still serving his term



Oscar G. Luengo (Spain)

Dr. Luengo is a Professor of Political Science as well as having served as Vice-Dean of International Relations and Cooperation Programs at the University of Granada. Chair of the Research Committee on Political Communication of the International Association of Political Science (IPSA). He received his PhD in Political Science from the University Complutense in Madrid. Dr. Luengo has also published a vast number of works relating to political science and politics within society.



José Luis Guevara Muñoz (Mexico)

José Luis Guevara Muñoz is the Director of Municipal Development at the Institute of Hidalgo. He works with local and national government deputies to ensure the development of small towns and municipalities through local government action.



David Rivera (USA)

David Rivera is a former U.S. Representative for the 25th Congressional district of Florida. He is a member of the Republican Party. Rivera was born in New York City, and then moved to Florida where he was educated. He graduated from Miami Christian High School and then attended Florida International University where he graduated with a degree in Political Science. After this he worked as a Public Affairs director at Valladares Foundation in Washington D.C. Following this Rivera began his political career by running for Florida House of Representatives in 2002, he was elected each term after that until the end of his 2008 term when he decided to run for U.S House of Representatives. In 2010, he won the election for the 25th Congressional District of Florida and served out the rest of that term.



Daniel Cravacuore (Argentina)

Director of the Department of Economics and Administration, Unions for Local Government at the University of Quilmes. He is a post graduate professor various Universities throughout Argentina and abroad. Daniel is also the Director of Masters Degrees in Local Government at the University of Quilmes, as well as an investigator at the Chilean Institute of Municipal Studies at the Autonomous University of Chile. He has published almost a dozen books, 20 chapters in various scholarly books, and 24 articles on the subject of Local Government.



Victor Jacinto Flecha (Paraguay)

Victor Jacinto Flecha is a well-known poet and professor from Paraguay. He has written many works covering social conditions in his country as well as his own life experiences being an activist for democracy and rights of the people of Paraguay. His works are some of the most known throughout his home country and he has captivated the masses through his literary works.

**Some of bios and photos were provided directly by the participant's or on their behalf, some others were obtained from the internet.*