

Political Parties and Elections in Latin America

Por Otton Solis

Americas Conference

Miami, October 1-3, 2008

No threats for democracy

- Communism
- Arm Forces

Threats to democracy

1. Corruption
2. Caudillist Populism: petro money, CHINA: foreign investment, prices of raw materials, remittances. Recent prosperity does not originate mainly in local structural reforms. Dangers when international conditions change
3. Inequity
4. Centralism and Non-recognition of Civil Society
5. Irrelevance: universal models, identical FTAs

Challenges

- We need to Guarantee that democracy works: make sure citizens see it as a tool for overcoming problems & as a tool for materializing aspirations
- Place corruption at the core of the debate, locally, IFIs, global media, bilateral relations
- Promote reforms appropriated by the citizens coherent with sustainable prosperity: No to short run populism, no imported-*ready for use*-universal models, yes to local appropriation, decentralization, respect for civil society
Pact with national citizenship not with foreigners
- Recognize that free market neoliberalism and free trade do not lead to economic growth (cases of Mexico, US). Even if they were a tool for economic growth those policies might rather increase corruption and inequality