

COA/51ST

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAS

**Democratic, Prosperous, Secure:
Restoring a Partnership for Sustainable Growth**



1,000,000

TOTAL VIEWS RECEIVED BY THE 2021 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ACROSS DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE ON DEMAND

On May 4, 2021, the 51st Washington Conference on the Americas welcomed the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and numerous U.S. Cabinet officials to the premier forum for policy and business engagement in the Americas, providing an early opportunity for the most senior representatives of the new Biden Administration to lay out a renewed vision for regional affairs. The virtual conference was a resounding success, setting the terms for hemispheric engagement and laying the groundwork for an ambitious, forward looking agenda to address the coronavirus pandemic and build back better in the Americas. Attracting well over one million live views and tens of thousands of additional viewers on demand, the event shattered all previous viewing records while offering Council members and others critical insight into Administration priorities and policies.

A year-long global pandemic exposed existing fissures in a region susceptible to regional and global shocks. The pandemic was exacerbated by social and economic inequality, climate change and insecurity for millions of people. This year's Washington Conference on the Americas focused on restoring partnerships, security and economic growth in the face of the region's most demanding challenges. The conference featured keynote addresses on building a regional recovery agenda that strengthens democracy, increases prosperity and security, and drives positive social change for all of the inhabitants of the Americas.

Top cabinet level leaders from the new Biden administration joined us to share the administration's agenda for the region and offer views on the pandemic, trade, immigration, and security.





For some, it was their first public statement explicitly on the Western Hemisphere in their new official capacity. Vice President Kamala D. Harris highlighted the White House’s plan to address migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the Biden administration’s funding of the COVAX facility, vaccine loans to Canada and Mexico, and provision of medical supplies to the region. Commerce Department Secretary Gina Raimondo spoke on the importance of manufacturing and supply chain vulnerabilities in the Americas, stating, “the next best thing to onshoring is nearshoring with our allies that share our values.”

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

- **Kamala D. Harris**, Vice President of the United States
- **Antony Blinken**, U.S. Secretary of State
- **Gina Raimondo**, U.S. Secretary of Commerce
- **Alejandro Mayorkas**, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
- **Katherine Tai**, U.S. Trade Representative
- **John Kerry**, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Department of State
- **Gregory Meeks**, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Reina Irene Mejía**, Executive Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank
- **Julie Chung**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. State Department
- **Roberto Alvarez**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic
- **Julie Gerberding**, Executive Vice President and Chief Patient Officer, Merck & Co., Inc.
- **Clay Neff**, President, Chevron Middle East, Africa, South America Exploration and Production Company
- **Elizabeth Reicherts**, Interim Senior Vice President, Global Public Policy, General Motors
- **Shery Ahn**, Anchor, Bloomberg Television



Gregory Meeks, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, called for “increased U.S. engagement to address the pandemic across the region.”

Speaking on the regional recovery panel, Reina Irene Mejía, the Executive Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank said, “Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing three crises at the same time that are all closely linked: a public health crisis, an economic crisis, and an inequality crisis.” The panel explored the progress of pandemic recovery in region and the potential for further collaboration.



The in-person Conference Keynote Luncheon at the State Department is scheduled for December 7, 2021. For pricing and registration materials, please contact us at WCA2021@as-coa.org. We look forward to seeing you again very soon!

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