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GLOBAL AMERICANS LAUNCHES RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUSED ON U.S.-ECUADOR RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Global Americans is proud to launch a new research initiative evaluating the future of U.S.-Ecuador relations. This independent project will examine how both the United States and Ecuador might benefit from deeper engagement; a dedication to common principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and an emphasis on shared prosperity. At the end of this project, Global Americans will offer specific recommendations on how to strengthen the U.S.-Ecuador relationship to the benefit of the people of both countries.

Recent developments in both the U.S. and Ecuador—including the elections of new presidents in both countries—offer a unique opportunity to discuss how the two countries might combat the COVID-19 pandemic, spark economic growth, and pursue other priorities.

As part of this project, Global Americans is excited to announce the formation of a High-Level Working Group, comprised of current and former policymakers, seasoned foreign service professionals, business leaders, and scholars. The High-Level Working Group will serve as a forum for nonpartisan and transregional discussion, providing expert analysis on a series of research-intensive reports.

In the coming months, Global Americans will present findings to policymakers and civil society leaders across the hemisphere. The reports will also be featured on the Global Americans website and across other relevant Global Americans social media and multimedia channels.

For more information on this High-Level Working Group, please find in the remainder of this announcement a brief biography of each Working Group member. A special thanks to all of our project contributors for their commitment and dedication to this initiative. We look forward to sharing more on this project in the months ahead.

About Global Americans

Global Americans is a modern day take on the traditional think tank. Through our website, www.theglobalamericans.org, we provide up-to-date research and analysis on key issues affecting the countries of the Americas—democracy, human rights, social inclusion, and international relations. Our goal is to provide policymakers, academics, civil society leaders, and Latin America enthusiasts with the tools needed to promote change and build more prosperous Inter-American relations.

Media Contact

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Global Americans' High-Level Working Group on U.S.-Ecuador Relations

Abelardo Pachano, Ecuador
*Anibal Romero, United States
*Carolina Barco, Colombia
Caterina Costa, Ecuador
Christian Gómez, United States
Enrique Crespo, Ecuador
**Guy Edwards, United States
*José Antonio Ocampo, Colombia
Luis Enrique García, Bolivia
***Luis Felipe Duchicela, Ecuador
*Luis Gilberto Murillo-Urrutia, Colombia
Magdalena Barreiro, Ecuador
María Gloria Barreiro, Ecuador
Maria Rosa Baquerizo, Ecuador
María Sara Jijón Calderón, Ecuador
Maria Sonsoles García León, Ecuador
Nathalie Cely Suárez, Ecuador
Nelson Ortiz, Venezuela
**Nicolás Albertoni, Uruguay
Nicolás Espinosa Maldonado, Ecuador
Olga Lucía Lozano, Colombia
**Patricio Navia, Chile
*Richard Feinberg, United States
Rodrigo De la Cruz Inlago, Ecuador
*Tulio Vera, United States (Working Group Chair)
Verónica Arias, Ecuador
Veronica Vasconez, Ecuador
Walter Spurrier, Ecuador

* Each of these members also serve on the Global Americans International Advisory Council.

** Each of these members also write for Global Americans as Featured Contributors.

*** Luis Felipe Duchicela is serving as a member of this High-Level Working Group in his personal capacity and not as a representative of USAID.

Abelardo Pachano

Deputy General of CEPE (1978-1979) and then President of the Quito Association of Economists (1979-1980). Previously, Mr. Pachano was General Manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador (1968-1984), and he also served as Ecuador's representative to the IMF. From 1988-1990, he was President of the Monetary Board, and during that same time he served as the alternate representative of Ecuador to the World Bank and IDB. He has held numerous other executive positions in organizations and banks such as the Ecuadorean branch of the Business Council of Latin America and Produbanco, respectively. Currently, Mr. Pachano is President of the Ecuadorean Fund for Development and Cooperation, Chairman of the Observatory of Fiscal Policy, and CEO of Finanview, a private consulting and investing firm.

Anibal Romero

Founder of The Romero Firm, an immigration firm specializing in immigration issues and resolutions for the undocumented population in the United States. Mr. Romero started his career as a United States Probation Officer in Albany, New York. He then became an attorney and associate at the Law Firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf in New York City until 2009, when he founded his own firm. He has been widely quoted in dozens of publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg*, *AP*, and *USA Today*. He has appeared regularly on NBC, CNN, MSNBC, Univision, and Telemundo, and with his clients, profiled on CNN, NBC, ABC, and CBS. CNN won a prestigious Peabody Award for their documentary series, *The Hidden Workforce*, which included a seminar segment on the Trump Organization's employees, whom Mr. Romero represented. Mr. Romero's clients' personal and legal challenges were also featured in a Univision Spanish documentary, entitled, *The Secret of Trump's Housekeepers*, which was nominated for an Emmy Award for outstanding investigative journalism.

Carolina Barco

Former Foreign Minister of Colombia (2002-2006), former Colombian Ambassador to the United States (2006-2010), and former Colombian Ambassador to Spain (2019-2020). Previously, Ambassador Barco was a consultant for eight years with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), directly involved in creating and implementing the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Program (ESCI) in over 60 mid-size cities in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Colombia, Ambassador Barco served as Director of City Planning of Bogotá and headed several UNDP programs at the Ministry of Economic Development and at the Ministry of Culture's Historic Towns Program. Ambassador Barco also serves on several boards, including the Council of the Fundación Santa Fé de Bogotá, the University Hospital, and the International Advisory Council of the Instituto de Empresa in Madrid. She was awarded Colombia's Gran Orden al Mérito Nacional; the Government of France's Légion d'honneur (Commander); and national decorations from Perú, El Salvador, Honduras, Spain, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Panamá, Guatemala, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, and the Philippines.

Caterina Costa

President of the Industrial Group Poligrup, manufacturing mainly for the aquaculture, agriculture, flower, dairy, and construction sectors. Ms. Costa chaired the Chamber of Industries in Guayaquil, the National Federation of Industries of Ecuador, and the Ecuadorean Business Committee. She is also Vice President of the Board of Directors of LafargeHolcim in Ecuador. She serves as a board member for several NGOs, including the Ecuadorean Association of Plastics (ASEPLAS), where she was president for six years, and other institutions, such as the Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia Ecuatoriana (APROFE) and Fundación Niños con Futuros. She has also presided over the Latin American Association of Plastics (ALTIPLAST) and served as Vice President of the Latin American Manufacturers Association (AILA).

Christian Gómez

Walmart's Director of Global Government Affairs for Latin America. Mr. Gómez supports Walmart's relations with Latin American governments and policy stakeholders such as multilateral organizations, think tanks, trade associations, academia, and NGOs. Mr. Gómez formerly served as Economic Growth Advisor in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID, during which time he designed trade facilitation projects in Central America. While at the Council of the Americas, Mr. Gómez led programs regarding energy in the Western Hemisphere and published numerous articles and op-eds in leading regional publications. He has also consulted for the International Finance Corporation, served as a research analyst at the Inter-American Dialogue, and directed the Princeton in Latin America program.

Enrique Crespo

Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum, serving as Coordinator of Science, Technology, and Innovation at the Agency for Economic Development of Quito (ConQuito). Mr. Crespo is also a professor of political science at the Universidad de Los Hemisferios. He has a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito and a M.Sc. in Public Policy and Administration, with a specialization in Comparative Public Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He's passionate about social development, politics, economics, and communication, with a special focus on how these factors interact to generate knowledge and progress. He has eight years of experience in creating, developing, and implementing socioeconomic projects to foster development, especially in the Global South.

Guy Edwards

Former Senior Consultant in the Climate Change Division at the Inter-American Development Bank and currently an independent consultant. Prior to that, Mr. Edwards was a research fellow at the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society and co-Director of the Climate and Development Laboratory at Brown University. He is the co-author of the book, *A Fragmented Continent: Latin America and Global Climate Change*

Policies (MIT Press 2015). His work has been published by Climate Policy, Brookings Institution, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Project Syndicate*, *Americas Quarterly*, and *The Guardian*. From 2009-2019, he was the Resident Manager of the award-winning Huaorani Ecological in the Ecuadorean Amazon. Mr. Edwards has a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of London.

José Antonio Ocampo

Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, co-President of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), and a member of the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Mr. Ocampo is also Chair of the Committee for Development Policy of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT). He has occupied numerous positions at the United Nations and his native Colombia, including UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, Director of the National Planning Office of Colombia, and a member of the Board of Directors of Banco de la República (Colombia's central bank). He has published extensively on macroeconomic theory and policy, international financial issues, economic and social development, international trade, and Colombian and Latin American economic history.

Luis Enrique García

Former Executive President of CAF, a regional multilateral financial institution that has brought 19 countries together for 25 years. Before his election as President of CAF, Mr. García held numerous other titles in Bolivia, including Minister of Planning and Coordination, Chief of the Economic and Social Cabinet, Undersecretary of Planning, and a member of the Board of the Central Bank. At the international level, he also held professional and executive positions for 17 years at the Inter-American Development Bank, where he concluded his career as Treasurer before joining the Bolivian cabinet in 1989. He is currently the President of the Council of International Relations for Latin America (RIAL), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Trust for the Americas, and a member of numerous academic and economic advisory boards.

Luis Felipe Duchicela

Senior Advisor for Indigenous Peoples' Issues for the Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance at USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance. Previously, Mr. Duchicela served as the Global Advisor on Indigenous Peoples at the World Bank (2013-2018). He led the global dialogue between the World Bank and the Indigenous Peoples of the world as part of the reform process of the Bank's environmental and social policies, resulting in the creation of a new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the new Standard for Indigenous Peoples (ESS7). He also served as the Executive Director of the Amazon Conservation Association, Regional Director for the Rainforest Alliance, and was the first National Secretary of

Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minority Affairs of Ecuador. Mr. Duchicela is serving as a member of this working group on a personal basis, not as a USAID representative.

Luis Gilberto Murillo-Urrutia

Former Governor of the predominantly Afro-Colombian State of Choco and former Presidential Advisor and Director for the Todos Somos PAZcifico Development Plan. Mr. Murillo-Urrutia later served as Colombia's Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development. He has also served as a senior consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), among others. Currently, he is a Martin Luther King Fellow at the MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative. He is a well-known national political figure in Colombia, with more than 30 years of experience in public policy design, implementation, and advocacy; particularly, in the areas of sustainable regional development, environmental protection, social inclusion, and peace building.

Magdalena Barreiro

Former Dean of Finance at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ). Dr. Barreiro is currently a senior professor of Finance at USFQ and a visiting professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. She served as Minister of Economy and Finance for Ecuador and as Director of the Financial Sector at the Central Bank. As such, Dr. Barreiro worked closely with the IDB to develop and implement the Financial Sector Project and to coordinate a reform of the country's pension fund. She is a GlobalSource Partners' Country Analyst for Ecuador and one of the leading authorities on the country's financial system, fiscal sustainability, and capital markets. She is a member of the Observatory of Fiscal Policy's Board of Directors and was a member of the ad-hoc committee appointed by the General Comptroller to conduct an examination of public external debt.

María Gloria Barreiro

Executive Director of Desarrollo y Autogestión (Development and Self-Management, or DyA) Peru, an NGO specializing in child protection, education, income generation, and health. Formerly, Ms. Barreiro served as Executive Director of DyA's office in Ecuador. In the last 15 years, she has been responsible for the coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the DyA projects portfolio for child labor. Ms. Barreiro has over 25 years of experience in designing and managing projects in the areas of education, health, and child labor. She has led teams to develop educational and child labor prevention models that are currently in use in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, such as the child labor free seal (SELT) for the Ministry of Labor in Peru, as well as the municipal management model for the prevention and eradication of child labor in Ecuador and Peru.

Maria Rosa Baquerizo

CEO of the Andean American Association and CEO of the United States-Paraguay Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Baquerizo has extensive experience working in the fields of

international trade and development. She is also the AAP Chair for Ecuador at Georgetown University, and is on the Board of Directors for Pan American Musical Art Research (PAMAR).

María Sara Jijón Calderón

Former Undersecretary General of Governance in Ecuador (2019-2020), during which time she coordinated Ecuador's 2030 agenda. Ms. Jijón was formerly a member of the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce in Quito (2013-2017) and the former Executive Director of Ecuador's Capital Markets Association (ASOCAVAL). She also served as the Director of Ecuador's IDE Business School of Government (2006-2010) and worked as Program Legal Counsel at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) in Italy (1999-2004). Ms. Jijón has been a board member for numerous other organizations, including Women Advancing Microfinance (WAM) International, MFTransparency, and Banco D-MIRO, an Ecuadorean microfinance institution. She is the co-Founder of Ecuador's Network of Women Entrepreneurs and was a vice presidential candidate in Ecuador's 2021 election.

Maria Sonsoles García León

President of the Foreign Trade and Investment Policy Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce in Ecuador. Ms. García was Director of the Ecuadorean Federation of Exporters (FEDEXPOR) in Guayaquil. She was also Director of Authorized Economic Operators at the National Customs Service of Ecuador (SENAE) in 2019. She is a columnist for the newspaper *El Universo* in Ecuador, and the co-Founder of COMERxEC, an Ecuadorean organization that focuses on foreign trade, customs, and investment.

Nathalie Cely Suárez

Former Minister of Production of Ecuador and former Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States. From May 2009 until November 2011, Ms. Suárez served as Ecuador's Coordinating Minister of Production, Employment, and Competitiveness. With a grant from the Inter-American Development Bank, she attended Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, graduating in 2001 with a Master's degree in Public Administration and a diploma in Public Policy. Ms. Suárez has 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors addressing issues such as competitiveness, trade, innovation, and education.

Nelson Ortiz

Former President of the Caracas Stock Exchange (2000-2007). Mr. Ortiz was part of the Latin American Merchant Banking Group at Bankers Trust in New York from 1992 to 1998. Previously, he spent almost 17 years at the Central Bank of Venezuela in various positions, including President and Chief of Staff. On two occasions during his career at the Central Bank, he was called to serve as technical secretary of the Economic Cabinet of Venezuela. He also twice chaired the Committee of the Board of Governors of the Inter-

American Development Bank. Mr. Ortiz is currently the Vice-Chairman of the IESA Venezuela School of Business, a member of the board of directors of several private corporations in Latin America, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Global Competitiveness and Leadership Program at Georgetown University, and a member of the Dean's Council of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Nicolás Albertoni

Professor at the Universidad Católica del Uruguay and Research Associate at the Security and Political Economy (SPEC) Lab at the University of Southern California, where he received a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations. Mr. Albertoni's research broadly engages questions in international political economy and comparative politics with an emphasis on Latin America trade policymaking and economic integration. He has published three books on South American integration with a focus on the Southern Cone.

Nicolás Espinosa Maldonado

President of the National Finance Corporation (CFN), the Commission for Civic Control of Corruption, the Chamber of Commerce of Quito (on three occasions), the Chamber of Industries and Production (on two occasions), the Ecuador-Mexico Binational Chamber of Commerce, and the Ecuadorean-Colombian Binational Council. Mr. Espinosa is also Chairman of the Board of the Association of Automotive Companies of Ecuador (AEADE). He is the former Director and Executive President of Automotores y Anexos S.A. Mr. Espinosa is also Vice President of the flower export company, Agrocoex, and is a member of the Business Committee of the Pacific Alliance. He also currently serves as General Manager of a number of construction, real estate, agricultural, and shrimp companies.

Olga Lucía Lozano

Lawyer with over 30 years of experience in issues dealing with trade, beginning with her participation in the creation of Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Trade in 1991, where she has served as Vice Minister of Foreign Trade. Ms. Lozano represented Colombia before the World Trade Organization as Minister Counselor of the Mission in Geneva and as the negotiator of free trade and investment agreements. Currently, she serves as Director of the OKAPI Observatory, a think tank focused on trade policy and competition issues.

Patricio Navia

Professor of liberal studies and an adjunct professor at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University. He is also a professor of political science at Universidad Diego Portales in Chile. His research interests include democratization, electoral rules, and democratic institutions in Latin America. Dr. Navia has published numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, and he has been a visiting professor at Princeton, New School University, Universidad de Salamanca, and Universidad de Chile. Several of his books, including *Diccionario de la política chilena*, *El discolo*,

conversaciones con Marco Enríquez-Ominami, and *Las grandes alamedas: El Chile post-Pinochet*, have been best sellers in Chile. He is currently a columnist for *El Libero*, and he has previously written columns for *La Tercera*, *Revista Capital*, and *Que Pasa*.

Richard E. Feinberg

Professor of international political economy at the School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California, San Diego. Mr. Feinberg has over four decades of engagement with inter-American relations that spans government service (in the White House, Department of State, and U.S. Treasury, plus a stint as a staffer in the U.S. Congress), numerous Washington, D.C.-based public policy institutes (Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, The Wilson Center's Latin American Program, Peterson Institute for International Economics, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), the Peace Corps (Chile), and now academia. As the book reviewer for the Western Hemisphere section of *Foreign Affairs* magazine, he has contributed more than 300 capsule reviews over 15 years.

Rodrigo De la Cruz Inlago

Member of the Kichua/Kayambi Peoples of Ecuador and an expert in intellectual property, biodiversity, climate change, and Traditional Knowledge. Mr. De la Cruz has served as a consultant for numerous national and international organizations, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Development Program (UNDP), UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Andean Community (CAN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), Ecuador's Institute of Advanced National Studies (IAEN), German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and more. He is a widely published author on the topics of climate change, intellectual property, and Traditional Knowledge. He is also currently a member of the Global Steering Committee for the World Bank's Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) for Indigenous Peoples and he is involved in the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

Tulio Vera

Former Managing Director and the Chief Investment Strategist for the J.P. Morgan (JPM) Latin America Private Bank and served as part of the JPM Private Bank's Global Investment Committee. Previously, he was a Portfolio Manager in global emerging markets (EM) at the hedge fund Millennium Management and was a Founder/Partner and Chief Investment Strategist at Bladex Asset Management (BAM), a Latin American macro hedge fund. For ten years, Mr. Vera was the Chief EM Macro Strategist for Merrill Lynch. He also ran research teams at ABN-Amro and Bear Stearns, and he served as a financial officer at the World Bank and a senior sovereign analyst at Moody's. Mr. Vera sat on the board of the North American-Chilean Chamber of Commerce (NACCC).

Verónica Arias

Executive Director of the Coalition of Capital Cities of the Americas on Climate Change (CC35) and Former Secretary of Environment of the Metropolitan District of Quito. Ms. Arias was the Representative for Ecuador at The Nature Conservancy, and in 1997 she founded the Environmental Law Center of Ecuador. She has a J.D. from the Catholic University of Ecuador and an LL.M. in International Environmental Law from American University, Washington, D.C. She has a diploma in leadership and political science from the Instituto Líderes de Gobernar, IDE and a diploma from Harvard Bloomberg Cities Leadership Program. She currently teaches at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito and is considered an environmental leader, recognized among the 100 most influential Latin American leaders globally on climate change issues in 2020, and elected among Ecuador's top ten women of 2020. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Renewables in Cities Global Status Report of REN21. Ms. Arias has dedicated her professional career to environmental conservation and sustainable development in Ecuador and internationally, with experience working in national and international organizations, public and private sectors, civil society, and academia.

Veronica Vasconez

Consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank at the Innovation for Citizen Services Division (ICS). Ms. Vasconez received a Master's degree in Public Administration and Development from Columbia University, and a B.Sc. in Economics and Management from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador and the Université Pierre Mendès-France. She is a Fulbright scholar and the first Ecuadorean to win the Citi Journalistic Excellence Award for her articles on economic sectors in Ecuador. Ms. Vasconez is also an Impact Officer of the Global Shapers Quito Hub, an initiative of the World Economic Forum. With more than 10 years of experience in consulting, business intelligence, project management, and M&E, Ms. Vasconez is passionate about sustainable development, economics, entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation. She also co-founded Panal in Ecuador, a social organization that aims to empower youth with 21st century skills, and was part of the regional board. Likewise, as a fellow of Balloon Latam, she accompanied entrepreneurs in rural areas in Chile in the development of sustainable business models. Previously, Ms. Vasconez was a consultant for SHEF, a foundation focused on gender-based education in India, and she has worked for the United Nations Development Program.

Walter Spurrier

President of Grupo Spurrier and an editorialist in two Ecuadorean newspapers: *El Universo* and *El Comercio*. Mr. Spurrier also serves as director of the political economic publication *Análisis Semanal* and its English version, *Weekly Analysis*. He is an advisor to the Chamber of Industries of Guayaquil, and he carries out advisory work for various institutions and companies.