



## Building the *Americas* Consensus 2007 Washington Conference on the Americas



The Council of the Americas' 37<sup>th</sup> Washington Conference on the Americas - Building the *Americas Consensus* - which took place May 1-2, 2007, was our best one yet. For those who were able to join us, you were treated to the top conference every year on hemispheric affairs. For those who couldn't, we missed you but don't worry, we'll do it again next year!

From Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe to senior U.S. government officials to ministers from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and Peru, to the heads of the IMF, IDB, and OAS, attendees participated in timely discussions of the defining issues in hemispheric affairs. Some 300 business and policy leaders from across the Americas engaged in lively debate and molded ideas as we jointly sought to develop the emerging Americas Consensus across the hemisphere.



Once again the Council of the Americas brought together the very top leaders in the Americas for discussions on trade, investment, security, and other topics of paramount importance to the hemispheric policy and commercial agenda. Canadian Trade Minister David Emerson highlighted Canada's commitment and strategic outreach throughout the Americas. Peru's Minister Mercedes Araoz urged prompt passage of the bilateral trade agreement.



Brazil's Central Bank President Henrique Meirelles, Mexico's Finance Minister Agustin Carstens, and IMF head Rodrigo Rato discussed issues relating to financial stability in the hemisphere. Senior U.S. government speakers discussed the President's recent trip and policy priorities for the remaining months of the Bush Administration. U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel brought a strong, independent view from Congress urging prompt action on trade agreements, immigration reform, and calling for a fresh look at Cuba.

**From L to R:** Minister Emerson of Canada and Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez; Governor of the Central Bank of Brazil Meirelles; Senator Hagel with Deputy Secretary of State Negroponte; Minister Araoz of Peru



## Colombia: An Ally Worth Fighting For



The President with his Ambassador to the United States Carolina Barco and Colombian Coffee Federation President Juan Esteban Ordaz



President Alvaro Uribe addresses the Council

A highlight this year was the impassioned speech of Colombia's President Uribe, who led off the conference with a clarion call for bilateral trade expansion and continued support for the mutual agenda. Receiving three standing ovations, the President urged Congress to reward—not penalize—one of the United States' strongest hemispheric allies, with a compelling reminder of what is at stake. As a battle rages for the political and economic soul of Latin America, our friends and others alike are watching intently as to what we plan to do: take steps such as passage of pending trade agreements that would support our friends in the region, or turn our backs and undercut our best chances for regional success. It is a choice that will be made between now and the next Washington Conference on the Americas next Spring, and the outcome will in large measure determine the success of US policy in the region in 2008 and beyond.



David Rockefeller greets President Alvaro Uribe



Council Chairman Bill Rhodes and President Alvaro Uribe



Tom Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere



Secretary of Finance of Mexico Agustín Carstens and Bill Arnold of Shell



Senator Chuck Hagel and former Secretary of Commerce Bob Mosbacher



David Rockefeller with Rodrigo Rato of the IMF

## **Presentation of Chairman's Award for Leadership in the Americas**

The Council was honored to name a 2007 awardee for the Chairman's Award for Leadership in the Americas: OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza. Joining past awardees including former US Senator Bob Graham, Congressmen David Dreier, Kevin Brady, and James Moran, and former IDB President Enrique Iglesias, Secretary General Insulza was given the top award that the Council of the Americas can bestow, given to a hemispheric leader who has been democratically-elected and who has a record of significant achievement in hemispheric affairs. The Secretary General played an important role in supporting democracy during the "year of elections" across the Americas in 2006, and was honored for his commitment to democratic governance and the rule of law.



Assistant Secretary of State Shannon, Ambassador of Chile Fernández, David Rockefeller, Susan Segal, Bill Rhodes, Secretary General Insulza and Eric Farnsworth



Secretary General José Miguel Insulza



## Sponsors Private Briefings with Administration Officials Congressional Panels - Private Lunch



Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY)



Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)



Admiral James Stavridis of SOUTHCOM with Mack McLarty of Kissinger McLarty and Council President Susan Segal



David Rockefeller with IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno



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37th Washington Conference on the Americas**

## Closing Reception



David Rockefeller, Ambassador George Landau and Ambassador Mariano Fernández of Chile



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Patrick Duddy and Ambassador John Maisto



Reception Guests

As we look forward to our 38<sup>th</sup> Washington Conference on the Americas in 2008, the Council is already moving ahead with the significant agenda before us. Passage of pending trade agreements is absolutely critical to the achievement of US goals in the hemisphere, with additional thought given to bringing together existing agreements as well as linking Western Hemisphere and Asian markets more closely. Passage of comprehensive immigration reform including a robust guest worker program and a focus on integration and assimilation is a must. Efforts to build competitiveness within North America through the Security and Prosperity Partnership should advance. And energy in the Americas should be a topic that unites us, not divides us, and the Council will continue to move forward as we build an energy strategy for the Americas.



Luncheon with Minister of International Trade of Canada David Emerson

**Our agenda is full. The people of the Americas can't wait. Won't you join us?**