May 10, 2012

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to the conference:

**Brazil and South America**  
**Friday, June 1, 2012**  
**1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Sixth Floor Flom Auditorium**

At her inauguration in 2011, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff announced, “with vehemence and firmness,” Brazil’s decision to “associate its economic, social, and political development” with the continent of South America. Rousseff specifically mentioned the Mercosur trade bloc and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) as essential components in the construction of a multipolar world. Yet huge asymmetries separate Brazil from its neighbors: at the end of 2011, Brazil’s GDP accounted for approximately 60 percent of the total GDP of South America and close to 40 percent of the total output of all of Latin America. Brazil’s “rise” as a global power and its growing clout on a host of global issues raise as many questions as they answer about the Brazil’s relationship with other nations in South America.

- What does South America mean for a range of actors in Brazil— the government, private sector, and other state entities such as the development bank BNDES and the oil company Petrobras? Do strategic actors in Brazil view South America or Latin America in general as a platform from which to project the country’s global rise?

- How is Brazil viewed by its neighbors? Is it considered a regional leader in political and diplomatic terms, or do others act in that capacity? How do countries situate themselves vis-à-vis Brazil’s economic power? Is Brazil’s rise viewed as beneficial or threatening or some combination of the two?

**Agenda**

- **9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**  
  **The Views from Brazil**  
  Hon. Antonio Simões, Under-Secretary for South America, Brazilian Ministry of External Relations  
  Sergio Fausto, Executive Director, Instituto Fernando Henrique Cardoso  
  Ricardo Sennes, Director and Partner, Prospectiva Consultoria Internacional

- **10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
  **Coffee Break**

- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
  **The Views from the Region**  
  Hon. Juan Gabriel Valdés, former Foreign Minister of Chile  
  Hon. Gustavo Fernández, former Foreign Minister of Bolivia  
  Ana María Sanjuán, Senior Advisor, Andean Development Corporation, Venezuela  
  Juan Gabriel Tokatlian, Professor, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Argentina  
  Juan Esteban Orduz, President, Colombian Coffee Federation, Inc.

Please click here to RSVP, or email acceptances only, to lap@wilsoncenter.org.

We hope you will be able to join us for this important discussion.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Arnson  
Director, Latin American Program

Paulo Sotero  
Director, Brazil Institute