

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to attend the conference **“Understanding Populism and Popular Participation: A New Look at the ‘New Left’ in Latin America,”** to be held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., on **Monday, March 10, 2008**. The conference will take place from **1:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

This conference takes place as part of the Latin American Program’s three-year initiative on “The ‘New Left’ and Democratic Governance,” and seeks to explore questions of political participation and state-civil society relations in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

The purpose of this conference is to examine new initiatives or policies adopted in these four countries to enhance citizen participation or involvement in questions of governance. Public opinion polls in the region identify a great deal of dissatisfaction with the institutions of democratic governance and with existing channels of political representation. Have the governments in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela sought to respond to these ‘deficits’ with new or innovative programs or initiatives? What has been the consequence for liberal democracy?

#### **AGENDA**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.      Venezuela**

*Luis Vicente León*, Datanálisis, Caracas  
*David Smilde*, University of Georgia

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.      Bolivia**

*René Mayorga*, Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinarios, La Paz  
*Pamela Calla*, Universidad de la Cordillera, La Paz

**3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.      Coffee Break**

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.      Ecuador**

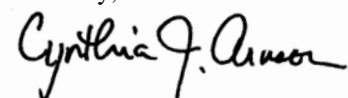
*Adrián Bonilla*, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)-Ecuador, Quito  
*Walter Spurrier*, Grupo Spurrier, Guayaquil, Ecuador

**4:15 p.m – 5:15 p.m                  Nicaragua**

*Carlos F. Chamorro*, Editor, *Confidencial*, Managua  
*Alejandro Bendaña*, Centro De Estudios Internacionales, Managua

Please RSVP, acceptances only, to Jessica Varat, [jessica.varat@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:jessica.varat@wilsoncenter.org), or at 202-691-4075. We look forward to your joining us for this important discussion.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Arnson  
Director, Latin American Program