



Taxation in Latin America: From Words to Policy Action

Friday, April 21, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Woodrow Wilson Center
6th Floor Auditorium

Agenda

9:00 – 9:15 **Opening Remarks**

Cynthia Arnson, Director, Latin American Program, Wilson Center
Vicente Fretes, Division Chief of Fiscal and Municipal Management, IDB

9:15 – 9:45 ***Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017***

Alberto Barreix, Principal Technical Leader in Fiscal Economics, IDB
Ángel Melguizo, Head, Latin American Unit, OECD Development Centre
Moderator: Inés Bustillo, Director of the Washington Office, ECLAC

9:45 – 10:30 **A Discussion with Ministers and Practitioners**

Andrés Escobar Arango, Vice Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Colombia
José Francisco Pacheco Jiménez, Vice Minister of Finance, Costa Rica
Rodrigo Pena, Deputy Minister of Finance, Argentina
Santiago Peña Palacios, Minister of Finance, Paraguay
Moderator: Cynthia Arnson, Director, Latin American Program, Wilson Center

Speakers

Alberto Barreix is the Principal Technical Leader in Fiscal Economics at the Inter-American Bank (IADB) and the Bank's leading advisor for tax policy and administration reform projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Before joining the IADB, Barreix was a lecturer on Public Finance in Open Economies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Deputy Director of the Program on Revenue Forecasting at Harvard University. Previously, he headed the Department of Fiscal Policy and Statistics at the Ministry of Finance (Internal Revenue Service) of Uruguay. His publications include *Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2014–2017 editions), with J. Roca and F. Velayos; *Taxing Labor in Latin America and the Caribbean*; and *Inter-American Development Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*, with A. Melguizo and M. Bosc (editors). Barreix holds a M.P.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Ángel Melguizo is Head of the Latin American and Caribbean Unit at the OECD Development Centre, coordinating the OECD's flagship publication on Latin America, *Latin American Economic Outlook*. He worked as Lead Specialist for the Labor Markets Unit at the Inter-American Development Bank, where he was Pension Coordinator. Previously, he was a senior adviser at the Economic Bureau of the Prime Minister of Spain and Principal Economist at the BBVA Financial Group, where he specialized in fiscal policy, long-term economic growth, and pension reform in Latin America. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Economics and a B.A. in Economics from Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

A Discussion with Ministers and Practitioners

Andrés Escobar Arango is Vice Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia. He served as Deputy Director of the National Planning Department from 2007 until 2009. He was also Co-founder and President of EConcept AEI, a consulting firm that advised the principal financial institutions investing in Colombia. He has served on the managing boards for several companies, including Ecopetrol; Colgener, Isagan, and Compañía Colombiana Automotriz; and Banco Agrario de Colombia. He has published in various academic journals and been a columnist for *El Espectador*. Previously, he served as Director of Economic Studies at the National Planning Department and Professor of Economics at Universidad de los Andes. He holds a M.A. in Economics from Universidad de los Andes, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from New York University.

José Francisco Pacheco Jiménez is Vice Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Costa Rica. Previously, he worked as an independent consultant for Sanigest International and as Deputy Director and Researcher for the School of Economics at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica. He holds a B.S. in Economics from Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, an M.S. in Economics in Economics from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Holland, and has completed coursework at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rodrigo Pena is Deputy Minister of Finance of Argentina. He is a specialist in finance, macroeconomics, and public finance with academic and professional experience in private and public institutions. He has previously served as Undersecretary of National Budget Evaluation, Chief of Staff for the Advisors to the Ministry of Economy and Production, and Managing Director of the Banco de Formosa, among other distinguished positions. He holds a B.S. in Economics from Universidad de Buenos Aires, and a M.S. in Economics from Universidad Torcuato Di Tella.

Santiago Peña Palacios is Minister of Finance of Paraguay. Peña worked at the Central Bank of Paraguay from 2000 to 2009 before joining the International Monetary Fund in Washington D.C., where he was an economist with the Africa Division. In 2012 he returned to Paraguay as a Board Member of the Central Bank. He holds an M.P.A. from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree from Universidad Católica de Asunción.

Opening Remarks/Moderators

Cynthia Arnson is Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center. She is a widely-recognized expert on Latin American politics, political economy, and international relations, including U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere. She is co-editor (with Carlos de la Torre) of *Latin American Populism in the Twenty-First Century* (Johns Hopkins, 2013) and editor of *In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict in Latin America* (Stanford, 2012), among other publications. Arnson is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, the Spanish-language edition of the distinguished journal *Foreign Affairs*. She is also a member of the advisory boards of the Social Science Research Council's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), and Human Rights Watch/Americas.

Inés Bustillo is Director of the Washington Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). She joined ECLAC in 1989 as Economic Affairs Officer and has worked on topics that include macroeconomic analysis, international trade, and finance. Previously, Bustillo has been Professor of Economics at Universidad Anáhuac (Mexico City), Visiting Faculty at American University, and a consultant to the World Bank, the Center for Latin American and Monetary Studies (CEMLA), and Operadora de Bolsa in Mexico City. She is the author of several articles and a frequent lecturer at universities, think tanks, and other fora. Bustillo, a national of Uruguay, earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from American University.

Vicente Fretes Cibils is Division Chief of Fiscal and Municipal Management for the Institutions for Development of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He previously worked at the World Bank from 1987 until 2007, where his positions included Economist for the Office of the Vice President for West Africa Operations; Chief Economist of the Department of Operations for Andean Countries; and Senior Economist for Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico, among others. Additionally, Fretes has taught at Universidad Nacional del Nordeste in Argentina and at North Carolina State University, and has published numerous works addressing topics in finance, applied econometrics, public finance, international economics, and economic development. He holds a M.A. in Business Administration from University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University.