

CLSOING REMARKS BY CYNTHIA ARNSON

Miami, Florida

April 30, 2019

Thank you Teresa, for your magnificent role this evening.

My role at this point is simply to say thank you, with a heart that could not feel more full.

Thank you to our wonderful awardees, Woods, Ricardo, Maria Helena, and Susana, for your way of being in the world, a way that models compassion and generosity and caring about the collective future of all Latin Americans.

Susana, we are especially grateful for all that you do, and wish you strength and continued courage as you return to Venezuela and all its challenges.

Thank you to this evening's sponsors, who have shown their love and appreciation for the honorees and for the Latin American Program with their generous support.

Thank you to our Advisory Board, which met earlier today, and continues to provide the advice and encouragement to be even better, more impactful, and high profile than we are now.

A special and most heartfelt thanks to my amazing colleagues in the Latin American Program family—Benjamin Gedan, Anders Beal, Catalina Casas and our consultant Muni Jensen—You have worked countless hours to advance the goals of the Latin American Program and make tonight's event such a meaningful and successful one.

No one in this room needs to be reminded of the many challenges our region faces. You live them every day. So let's conclude with the hope that the friendship and solidarity and inspiration we have experienced this evening give each of us even more energy to bring about the democratic, inclusive, and sustainable future we all hope to build for the region.

Muchísimas gracias, muy buenas noches, mucho cariño para todos y todas.