INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE'S
LATIN AMERICA ADVISOR

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Diego Arria
Director,
Columbus Group

Genaro Arriagada
Nonresident Senior Fellow,
Inter-American Dialogue

Joyce Chang
Global Head of Emerging Markets Research, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

W. Bowman Cutter
Former Partner,
E.M. Warburg Pincus

Dirk Donath
Managing Director,
Eton Park Capital Management

Jane Eddy
Managing Director,
Corporate & Govt. Ratings Group,
Standard & Poor's

Marlene Fernández
Corporate Vice President for Government Relations,
Arcos Dorados

Jason Hafemeister
Vice President,
Allen F. Johnson & Associates

Peter Hakim
President Emeritus,
Inter-American Dialogue

Donna Hrinak
President,
Boeing Brazil

Jon Huenemann
Vice President,
U.S. & Int'l Affairs,
Philip Morris International

James R. Jones
Co-chair,
Manatt Jones Global Strategies LLC

Craig Kelly
Vice President,
The Cohen Group

John Maisto
Director,
U.S. Education Finance Group

Nicolás Mariscal
Chairman,
Grupo Marhnos

Thomas F. McLarty III
President,
McLarty Associates

Carlos Paz-Soldan
Partner,
DTB Associates, LLP

Beatrice Rangel
Director,
AMLA Consulting LLC

José Antonio Ríos
Chief Executive Officer,
Vadium Technology Inc.

Andrés Rozental
President,
Rozental & Asociados and Senior Fellow,
Brookings Institution

Everett Santos
President,
DALEC LLC

Shelly Shetty
Head, Latin America Sovereign Ratings,
Fitch Inc.

FEATURED Q&A

Are Latin American Women Making Economic Progress?

Q The Economist Intelligence Unit on March 6 released its Women's Economic Opportunity Index 2012, which measures women's economic advancement in the formal sector. From among countries within the Americas, Canada ranked the highest at number nine and Uruguay came in at 39, while Bolivia fared the worst at 92 globally. Although Latin American women have made inroads at the highest levels of government—female presidents are today leading Brazil, Argentina and Costa Rica—they have lagged behind men in terms of leadership of the formal economy, according to the EIU. Which Latin American countries offer the best and worst environments for women to succeed economically? Will female presidents help foster better economic opportunities for women? How successful are Latin American women in other branches of government, such as the judiciary?

A Lidia Heller, founding member of the Latin American Network of Women in Management: "According to data from the International Labour Organization, the rate of female labor force participation in Latin America rose from just over 30 percent in 1990 to 54 percent today. From the standpoint of equality, Latin American societies were simply not prepared to adequately deal with the massive influx of women into the labor market. For example, more educated women are entering the labor market but are still being underutilized and the 'double workday' prevents them from exploiting new opportunities in the paid labor market. Public policies have not addressed the new needs that have arisen from this phenomenon, and there hasn't been a redistribution of domestic work between men and women at home. The organization of work and life in society continues to be based on a family model where there is a woman dedicated exclusively to reproductive functions and a male breadwinner. It's very difficult to establish

Continued on page 3

'No More Summits Without Cuba's Participation': Chávez

The leftist ALBA nations should attend next month's Summit of the Americas, but the gathering should be the last one held without Cuba, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez said Monday night. See story on page 2.

Photo: Venezuelan Government.

Inside This Issue

FEATURED Q&A: Are Latin American Women Making Economic Progress? 1

Chávez: This Year's Summit Should Be the Last Without Cuba 2

China, IDB Dedicate New $1 Billion Fund for Latin America Projects.....2

Clarín Shareholders Decline Goldman Sachs Offer.....2

Leading Cuban Dissident Released Hours After Detention.....2

Uruguay May Reach Investment-Grade Status This Year: Moody's.....2

Copyright © 2012, Inter-American Dialogue

NEWS BRIEFS

Leading Cuban Dissident Released Hours After Detention

A leading Cuban dissident said Monday that she was released from custody hours after being detained as she headed to a weekly protest, the Associated Press reported. Bertha Soler, the head of the Ladies in White opposition group, said Cuban authorities were still holding her husband. Soler and about three dozen other dissidents were taken into custody Sunday, but most were released after several hours. Soler said authorities have warned her not to disrupt next week's visit to Cuba by Pope Benedict XVI.

Uruguay May Reach Investment-Grade Status This Year: Moody's

Uruguay is likely to be the next Latin American country to win a coveted "investment grade" rating from **Moody's Investors Service**, Reuters reported Monday. If upgraded, the South American nation would join Brazil, Colombia and Peru with that status in the region. The ratings agency would be discussing a potential upgrade of Uruguay late in the year "at the earliest," said Mauro Leos, the Latin American regional credit officer at Moody's. Both **Standard & Poor's** and **Fitch Ratings** have Uruguay at a similar rating level to Moody's.

HSBC's Brazil Chief Executive Steps Down

Conrado Engel, the head of **HSBC**'s Brazil unit, resigned on Monday, Reuters reported. Engel has been chief executive for **Grupo HSBC** in Brazil since June 2009. The British bank, which did not say why Engel was stepping down, said a replacement would be named within days. Engel will remain an advisor for the bank until the end of the month, said an HSBC spokeswoman.

Political News

Chávez: This Year's Summit Should Be the Last Without Cuba

Nations of the left-leaning ALBA bloc should attend next month's Summit of the Americas, but the gathering should be the last one without Cuba, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez said Monday night, the Associated Press reported, citing Venezuela's state-run news agency. Chávez and other leftist leaders have pushed for Cuba's inclusion at the gathering, to be held April 14-15 in Cartagena, Colombia. However, U.S. officials oppose Cuba's participation, saying the summit is for democratic nations only. Although ALBA nations have demanded Cuba's inclusion, they have stopped short of threatening to boycott the summit. In a phone call broadcast on government-run television, Chávez said Monday that after this year's summit, the gathering should not be held without Cuba taking part. "This will be the last so-called Summit of the Americas without Cuba. The next one wouldn't occur," said Chávez. "No more summits without Cuba's participation." The host of the summit, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, met earlier this month with Cuban President Raúl Castro in Havana, but said countries involved have been unable to arrive at a consensus regarding Cuba's inclusion. Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca said Monday that ALBA countries have not yet decided whether to participate in the summit. "We're in the middle of discussing this issue. We think we aren't in times of exclusion. We're in times of inclusion," he said after meeting with his Brazilian counterpart, Antonio Patriota, in Brasília. In addition to Venezuela, Cuba and Bolivia, the ALBA bloc includes Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. [Editor's note: See related Q&A in the March 2 issue of the *Advisor*.]

ALBA nations have stopped short of calling for a boycott of the summit.

Economic News

China, IDB Dedicate New $1 Billion Fund for Latin America Projects

The Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank said on Monday that it will establish a $1 billion fund to invest in Latin America, Reuters reported. "This shows the enormous interest that China has in the Latin American region," IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno told reporters at the multilateral investment bank's annual meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay. The bank will provide a $150 million loan to the new investment platform while China's state-run Export-Import Bank will provide an equal amount of investment. "This partnership is an example of how the IDB can play a pivotal role in increasing cooperation between our region and China to promote greater trade and investment," said Moreno.

Moreno

File Photo: IDB.

Company News

Clarín Shareholders Decline Goldman Sachs Offer

The controlling shareholders of Argentine multimedia company **Grupo Clarín** have turned down an offer to purchase a 9.1 percent stake in the company currently held by New York-based investment bank **Goldman Sachs**, Dow Jones reported Monday. Last month, Clarín said Goldman had offered to sell the stake for about $75 million. Four controlling shareholders hold 71 percent of the company's shares.

Copyright © 2012, Inter-American Dialogue

Featured Q&A

Continued from page 1

which countries in the region offer the best environments for women from the economic point of view. According to recent studies, we could say that Peru and Chile offer better opportunities and Panama and Colombia have environments more favorable for women who aspire to the highest levels of corporate work. Having women presidents has not yet translated into better economic opportunities for women. However, the strong growth and vitality of the women's movement in the region is truly shocking. The movement is enabling the emergence of networks and partnerships between women to encourage and support productive development in different sectors. These partnerships are making it easier for women to understand the complex requirements of starting a business—bureaucratic procedures and credit access, for example. In addition, these networks help expand the minds of entrepreneurial women to see more possibilities for their contributions to the business world, and promote social commitment and effective leadership. In other branches of government, such as the judiciary, women are the majority in law, but they don't occupy a significant number of senior positions."

Louise Cord, sector manager of the poverty reduction and gender group in the Latin America and Caribbean region at the World Bank: "While there is significant variation in the performance of Latin American countries on the Women's Economic Opportunity Index, overall they score in the middle, falling between 39th and 92nd place out of 128 nations. Bolivia, Mexico, Uruguay and Costa Rica showed some of the largest gains since 2010. The index integrates performance on all three dimensions of gender equality—assets, opportunities and empowerment or agency—implicitly acknowledging their interdependence and the need for sustained progress in all areas. There have been gains in equality of endowments (education and health outcomes) and in the development of a gender-equal legislative and regulatory framework. However, there have been mixed results in translating this progress in rights and capabilities into greater equality of opportunities for women. On the one hand, there has been a sustained increase in female labor force participation and the controlled wage gap has been closing. However, women remain generally overrepresented in the informal sector where wages and job security are lower. In Bolivia, for example, 71 percent of the women are in the informal sector compared to 54 percent of working men. However, the largest challenge is understanding how to enable women's agency, defined as women's ability to make their own decisions and shape their future. Agency is the third dimension of gender equality in the World Bank's World Development Report 2012 and is important in its own right, but also as a catalyst to promote gender equality and economic development more broadly. While difficult to measure, some of the manifestations of the challenges in Latin America are the relatively low number of women in parliament, high rates of gender-based violence and high rates of teen pregnancy—all of which suggest significant hurdles for women, including their ability to take full advantage of the region's growing economic opportunities. Some of the concrete steps that can be taken to tackle issues of agency include supporting flexible working conditions and helping women with their care responsibilities, expanding women's ability to work in nontraditional and high-growth sectors through vocational training, expanding female networks and addressing issues related to teen pregnancy and gender-based violence."

The Advisor *welcomes reactions to the Q&A above. Readers can write editor Gene Kuleta at gkuleta@thedialogue.org with comments.*

Latin America Advisor
is published every business day by the Inter-American Dialogue, Copyright © 2012

Erik Brand
General Manager, Publishing
ebrand@thedialogue.org

Gene Kuleta
Editor
gkuleta@thedialogue.org

Rachel Sadon
Reporter, Assistant Editor
rsadon@thedialogue.org

Inter-American Dialogue

Michael Shifter, President

Peter Hakim, President Emeritus

Genaro Arriagada, Nonresident Senior Fellow

Sergio Bitar, Nonresident Senior Fellow

Joan Caivano, Director, Special Projects

Maria Darie, Director of Finance & Administration

Paul Isbell, Visiting Senior Fellow

Claudio Loser, Senior Fellow

Nora Lustig, Nonresident Senior Fellow

Margaret Myers, Director, China and Latin America Program

Manuel Orozco, Director, Remittances and Development Program

Tamara Ortega Goodspeed, Senior Associate, Education

Jeffrey Puryear, Vice President, Social Policy

Latin America Advisor is published every business day, except for major U.S. holidays, by the Inter-American Dialogue at:
1211 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-822-9002 Fax: 202-822-9553
www.thedialogue.org ISSN 2163-7962

Subscription Inquiries are welcomed at freetrial@thedialogue.org

The opinions expressed by the members of the Board of Advisors and by guest commentators do not necessarily represent those of the publisher. The analysis is the sole view of each Advisor and does not necessarily represent the views of their respective employers or firms. The information in this report has been obtained from reliable sources, but neither its accuracy and completeness, nor the opinions based thereon, are guaranteed. If you have any questions relating to the contents of this publication, contact the editorial offices of the Inter-American Dialogue. Contents of this report may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted without prior written permission from the publisher.