

Open discussion with the Inter-American Development Bank and Swiss Experts

- Place** [Gottlieb Duttweiler Institut, Langhaldenstrasse 21, 8803 Rüschlikon/Zürich](#)
- Date** Thursday, 16th of January 2020
- Schedule**
- 14:00 - 15:15h: *Session 1*
Latin America and the Caribbean, quo vadis?
 - 15:15 - 15:45h: Coffee break
 - 15:45 - 17:30h: *Session 2*
Modernisation of the Environmental and Social Safeguards – IDB as Pioneer?
 - 18:15 - 20:00h: Networking Apéro
at [Hotel Belvoir](#) (Säumerstrasse 37, 8803 Rüschlikon/Zürich)
- Registration** until 14th of January 2020 to wemf.sekretariat@seco.admin.ch, free of charge



The Inter-American Development Bank

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), founded in 1959, is the leading multilateral source of financing for development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Headquartered in Washington D.C, the IDB's aims at reducing poverty and inequality in a sustainable, climate-friendly way. The bank provides loans, grants, and technical assistance focused on health, education and infrastructure. It maintains a strong commitment to achieving measurable results and the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability. Since 1975, Switzerland is an active member of the IDB with a shareholding of 0.47% in IDB, 1.63% in the private sector branch "IDB Invest" and 0.9% in the innovation facility "IDB Lab". In addition, both SECO and SDC, carry out development projects together with the IDB.

Session 1: Latin America and the Caribbean, quo vadis?

Panel Discussion on Development Challenges and Opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean

The panel will provide both an academic and a business perspective on the opportunities and challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean in the new decade towards 2030. The region has achieved substantial progress since the middle of the last century, based on peace, democracy, and booming commodity exports. Yet, some structural and institutional challenges remain: Petty and grand corruption, violence, as well as economic and social inequality have undermined people's trust, creating rising frustration towards public affairs and globalization. At the same time, the region is highly exposed to the impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

The region needs to strike the right balance between economic, social and environmental concerns, against the background of global opportunities and responsibilities. A role model could be the city of Medellín, Colombia. During the last decades, the city has developed through investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure to create better and sustainable living conditions for the inhabitants. The cooperation of the city council, academia, civil society and the companies has made Medellín the "Smartest City of the World".

The region will also need to scale up cooperation between the public and private sectors. Innovative instruments for risk transfer and mobilization of private capital will be key to upgrade infrastructure, and create decent jobs. This will help Latin America and the Caribbean to deliver on the Agenda 2030.

Moderator:

Luis Alberto Moreno
Inter-American Development Bank



Luis Alberto Moreno is the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) since 2005. Before he served as the Colombian's Ambassador in Washington for 7 years. The IDB works to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bank's current focus areas include three development challenges – social inclusion and equality, productivity and innovation, and economic integration – and three cross-cutting issues – gender equality and diversity, climate change and environmental sustainability; and institutional capacity and the rule of law.

Panel participants:

Prof. Dr. Yvette Sanchez
University of St. Gallen



Prof. Dr. Yvette Sanchez leads the centre of Latin America Studies at the University of St. Gallen. She has specialised herself on the development of the South American continent and was involved in helping different Start-Ups to expand or start their business to the Latin-American-countries.

Veronica Scotti
Swiss Re



Veronica Scotti is the Chairperson of Public Sector Solutions at Swiss Re since July 2018. Before she started her job, she was President and CEO of Swiss Re Canada & the English Caribbean. Her department is helping national, provincial and municipal governments, public entities and international organizations to develop innovative risk transfer solutions to strengthen societal resilience.

Session 2: Modernisation of the Environmental and Social Safeguards – IDB as Pioneer? Discussion with Representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Academia

The IDB Group is the most important multilateral source of financing in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially for small and vulnerable countries. The region has seen a sustainable development during the last decades. It will be discussed how other MDBs address safeguards, starting with AIIB and NDB (new Development Bank), to highlight key conceptual issues that both CSOs and IDB might want to keep in mind when undertaking the IDB safeguard reform. This session will also outline the increasing efforts of MDBs including IDB to mobilize private sector investment, with implications for MDBs instruments, their relations to CSOs and the safeguards systems. Current hot topics in Latin America and the Caribbean such as climate change will be debated. The discussion will show how IDB's new Environmental and Social Policy Framework and constructive relations with CSOs can mitigate risks and create opportunities. Further information: <https://www.iadb.org/en/mpas>

Moderator:

Daniel Birchmeier, Head of Multilateral Cooperation, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Experts:

Thomas Vellacott,
WWF Schweiz



Thomas Vellacott is the CEO of WWF Switzerland since 2012. WWF is one of the biggest environmental organizations worldwide. They are focusing on preserving the nature to save the future. With his experience in the banking sector before he joined WWF, he can make the excellence connection between business and civil society.

Dr. Chris Humphrey,
ETH Centre for Development &
Cooperation



Dr. Chris Humphrey is a lecturer and senior scientist at the ETH in Zurich. His research is focusing on the impact of global economic and political change on multilateral development banks. He has worked for the World Bank's Latin American division and as a journalist in Mexico.

Dr. Roberto Manrique
IDB Group



Dr. Roberto Manrique leads the modernization process of the environmental and social operational policies of the IDB Group. He completed a Master's degree and doctoral studies in economics in Michigan. Before joining the IDB Group, he has worked as an economist at the World Bank in Washington.