

The Latin American region is undoubtedly complex and each country deserves targeted attention when troubling human rights situations arise. But we would like to underscore the importance of **consultation aimed at advancing a true multilateral human rights agenda**. To the extent that the United States government is able to build legitimacy internationally, it will re-gain credibility in Latin America as well. We understand that the US government faces multiple competing priorities, but we would like to highlight a few areas where we think progress can be advanced. Specifically, and in **close coordination** with its Latin American counterparts, we urge the Obama administration to:

1. Promote and support policies that are respectful of human rights, and in this sense:

- Express support for and contribute with information, (i. e. declassifying Defense Department and CIA files); toward **processes of accountability** for past human rights abuses (Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay).
- Re-think US **drug and anti-terrorism policies** so that they are respectful of human rights, **supporting security policies** that focus on prevention and professionalization of police on the one hand, and that limit and/or regulate the role of the armed forces in tackling common crime and violence associated with drug-trafficking on the other.
- Continue to promote and fight for more effective, inclusive, and rights-respecting **immigration** policies (Mexico and Central America).
- Underscore the importance of a robust **socio-economic rights** agenda that advances greater equality, while respecting democratic institutions, rule of law, and civil and political rights.

2. Advance a political agenda oriented towards the consolidation of peace and democracy in the region, including:

- Developing a strategic **framework to positively engage with new regional mechanisms** such as UNASUR and the South American Defense Council to foster stability in Latin America through the managing and prevention of crises, while advancing a human rights agenda.
- Unequivocally condemning any and all **breakdowns of democratic rule** in the region (whether through military or other forms of coups), highlighting the United States' belief in the rule of law and democratically elected leadership.



-Supporting a peaceful transition in **Cuba**, recognizing, encouraging, and facilitating humanitarian gestures, as well as a human rights agenda that advances and reflects the interests of the Cuban people in the island.

-Aiming to make **human rights a primary cross-cutting theme in all areas of foreign policy**, including free trade agreements, security, energy, etc.

Above all, we would like to stress the importance of having rights-respecting US policies toward Latin America that are **strategic, consistent, respectful, and elaborated in consultation** with governments and civil society organizations of the region.