

Notable Remarks – Senior Director Antonio Garrastazu

Panel “Oportunidades y Riesgos Globales para nuestra región”

1. “Political parties must strengthen their ideological and communication platforms clearly with the electorate, which is critical to navigate the region's most pressing challenges. In a time of global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, regional cohesion and commitment to democracy and prosperity are more important than ever. Latin American countries must strengthen regional cooperation and solidarity to better negotiate their interests on the global stage. A unified front can help address economic challenges and foster beneficial relationships with international partners.”
2. “In the face of the potential global recession and the ongoing disruption caused by the wars in Ukraine and Israel, it is essential for Latin American countries to focus on building economic resilience. This includes implementing sound economic policies, diversifying industries, and making efforts to attract foreign investments.”
3. “The prevailing regional fragmentation due to economic uncertainties and global challenges underscores the urgency for Latin American countries to adopt a policy of active and coordinated leadership. However, nowadays it is more common to observe a high degree of politicization and polarization at the political and diplomatic levels rather than a unified response from the region.”
4. “AI represents a clear threat, but also an opportunity. It is already evident that AI can be a double-edged sword. On one hand, it can be used by authoritarian regimes to undermine information integrity, influence elections, or strengthen security and social control regimes. However, for the better, it can be deployed to provide information about violence risks or to prevent gender-based violence. It can represent a significant opportunity for the Latin American technology sector or to improve justice and the quality health care and of education in the region.”
5. “Foreign affairs officials of China and Russia have been actively engaging in South America. Recent rounds of political consultations between these countries and their South American counterparts, along with Vladimir Putin's special attention to Cuba and the resurgence of Cold War dynamics, indicate a growing interest in the region. China's influence in countries from Argentina in the south to Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, as well as in Mexico and Central America, is a cause for concern. There is a lack of knowledge and understanding, even of economic and contractual implications.”

6. "In the field of social development, Latin America and the Caribbean have a unique opportunity ahead, based on the significant progress made in terms of gender equality. The region has an ambitious agenda to promote comprehensive care systems, advance towards a more inclusive society, and increase women's participation in the workforce, which is currently 24% lower than male participation."

7. "In Latin America, the confluence of organized crime in elections and the escalating migration crisis paints a stark picture of democratic vulnerabilities. As weak governance, democratic backsliding, and the surge of populism loom large, the region grapples with profound challenges that need to be addressed through regional cooperation."