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**SYMPOSIUM WITH THE USIP, GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE IADC/CARTER CENTER  
& OAS IADC VOLUNTARY GROUP**

Maximizing the Impact of Existing Instruments for Enhancing Democratic Promotion and Strengthening: Joint Discussion on Shared Goals and Challenges, Exploration of Opportunities for Mutual Support

**Date:** May 30, 2024

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Location:** United States Institute of Peace, Room B2-41/Auditorium in Washington, D.C. (2301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20037)

**Agenda:**

[11:45] Arrival and Check-in at USIP

**PUBLIC SESSION: 75 minutes**

[12:00] Open Public Session organized by the U.S. Institute of Peace and The Carter Center, as Secretariat for the Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (hybrid):

1. Welcoming remarks by Keith Mines, Vice President of USIP (5 minutes)
2. Introduction of the Group of Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter by Jennie Lincoln, Senior Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, The Carter Center (5 minutes)
3. Remarks by Roberto Álvarez, Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic in context of the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Santo Domingo (7-8 minutes)
4. Speaker #1: Carlos Ayala, (*Venezuela*), Professor and Chair of Constitutional Law, “Andres Bello” Catholic University; former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the Group of Friends of the IADC (7-8 minutes)
  - a. Remarks on Democracy and Human Rights (Axis 1 of the Voluntary Group Work Plan)

5. Speaker #2: Eduardo Stein, (*Guatemala*), former Vice President of Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Friends of the IADC (7-8 minutes)
  - a. Remarks on Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty (Axis 2 of Voluntary Group Work Plan)
  
6. Speaker #3: Thomas Garrett, Secretary General of the Community of Democracies (7-8 minutes)
  - a. Remarks on Promotion of a Democratic Culture (Axis 3 of Voluntary Group Work Plan)
  
7. Speaker #4: Catalina Botero, (*Colombia*), Director of the UNESCO Chair on Freedom and Expression at the Universidad de Los Andes and Co-Chair of the Oversight Board of Facebook and Instagram on behalf of the Group of Friends of the IADC (7-8 minutes)
  - a. Remarks on Strengthening and Preservation of Democratic Institutions (Axis 4 of Voluntary Group Work Plan)
  
8. Remarks by Victor Verdún, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay in context of the upcoming General Assembly of the OAS in Asuncion (7-8 minutes)
  
9. Closing remarks by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro (6 minutes)

[1:15PM] Coffee Break and transition to private session of the Voluntary Group

**PRIVATE SESSION OF THE VOLUNTARY GROUP: 60 minutes**

[1:30PM] Closed-Door Working Session of the OAS Voluntary Group:

10. Presentation by Professor Max Cameron (The University of British Columbia)
  - a. Challenges to democracy and the contributions of the Voluntary Group to democratic strengthening (5-10 minutes)
  
11. Presentation by Professor Michael Coppedge, (The University of Notre Dame)
  - a. Using V-Dem Data to Monitor Democracy in the Americas (5-10 minutes)
  
12. Private discussion of the Voluntary Group, with the Friends of the Democratic Charter.
  
13. Adjournment of Private Meeting.

**Context Note: Maxwell A. Cameron** specializes in comparative politics (Latin America), constitutionalism, democracy, and political ethics. He is the author or editor of a dozen academic books as well as over sixty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. His books include: Democracy and Authoritarianism in Peru, The Peruvian Labyrinth, The Political Economy of North American Free Trade, To Walk Without Fear: The Global Movement to Ban Landmines, Latin America's Left Turns: Politics, Policies and Trajectories of Change, Democracia en la Region Andina, New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America, The Making of NAFTA, Strong Constitutions, Political Institutions and Practical Wisdom and Challenges to Democracy in the Andes: Strongmen, Broken Constitutions, and Regimes in Crisis.

Cameron has held visiting positions in the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame University (1996) and at Yale University, where he was the Canadian Bicentennial Professor in 2005. In 2006 he served as political advisor to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Peru. He founded the "Andean Democracy Research Network" to monitor and report on the state of democracy in the Andean region which received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Martha Piper Fund, SSHRC, IDRC and the Ford Foundation. He participated in a research excellence cluster on the "global challenges to democracy." He has served as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions, in which capacity he co-created the Institute for Future Legislators. He has also served as Acting Director of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and as a Trustee of the Board of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. In 2011-12 he was a Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, and in 2013 he was awarded a UBC Killam Teaching Prize. Cameron is a frequent commentator on politics in the media and has provided advice to policymakers on topics such as electoral reform, citizen engagement, and the defense of democracy in Latin America. In his spare time he enjoys kayaking in the Burrard Inlet, skiing on the local mountains, and diving in Howe Sound. He blogs about practical wisdom.

Professor Maxwell A. Cameron is jointly appointed with Political Science and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA). In 2020 Cameron was named a Distinguished Fellow by the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. He was the recipient of the 2022 Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship by the Latin American Studies Association for his work on democracy in Latin America.

**Context Note: Michael Coppedge**

Michael Coppedge is Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, where he is also a Faculty Fellow of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. He taught at Yale, Johns Hopkins-SAIS, and Princeton, before coming to Notre Dame.

He is one of the Principal Investigators for the [Varieties of Democracy](#) project (V-Dem), which has measured hundreds of attributes of democracy and governance for most countries since 1789 and won the APSA Comparative Politics Section's 2016 "Best Dataset" prize. He is co-editor of *Why Democracies Develop and Decline* (Cambridge, 2022), co-author of *Varieties of Democracy: Measuring Two Centuries of Political Change* (Cambridge, 2020), and author of *Democratization and Research Methods* (Cambridge, 2012) and *Strong Parties and Lame Ducks: Presidential Partyarchy and Factionalism in Venezuela* (Stanford, 1994). The 2022 book received Honorable Mention for the the 2023 Best Book prize from the Democracy and Autocracy Section of the APSA. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *European Journal of Political Research*, *Democratization*, *Party Politics*, other journals, and various books. Coppedge argues for the complementarity of large- and small-sample research and qualitative and quantitative methods and is now using V-Dem data to analyze dimensions of democracy and international influences on democracy.