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The meeting that took place on August 2-3, 2011 in

The fourth plenary meeting of the Forum aimed to cement the achievements to date, in strengthening personal relationships between participants and promoting mutual understanding. To achieve this, one Forum member from each country presented the current internal political situation of his or her respective country, followed by a brief period for questions and discussion with the other members. *It is worth mentioning that these reports reflect the viewpoint of individual members and are not necessarily shared by all Forum members.*

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The Forum member from Bolivia focused on the upcoming October elections as well as the decline in President Evo Morales' approval rating. The Bolivian leader's approval rating has dropped from December 2009, when he won 64% of the popular vote in the election, to 32-38% only a few months later in April 2010, when Morales' party, *Movimiento al Socialismo* (MAS), incurred substantial losses in the regional elections. The presenter pointed to Morales' unpopular proposal in 2010 to remove government subsidies on oil, raising gasoline prices by 82%. Ultimately, the government folded under popular discontent and withdrew the proposal, but the crisis had already initiated inflationary tendencies in Bolivian markets. After this crisis, in 2011, the Morales government was hit by several scandals. Most notably, the Sanabria scandal, in



reform political infrastructure, allocate funds to new social programs and continue to nurture







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During the course of the Forum, members have formed inter-country working groups to explore various priority issues, such as drug policy, organized crime, the role of the media in inter-country relationships, democracy, inclusive trade and development. As a result, members from the various countries have been working together on a variety of issues, ranging from bilateral



development in the Andean region. In order to promote the passage of the ATPDEA, a bipartisan letter was developed, signed by former President Jimmy Carter and former Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) that was sent to key actors in the U.S. government.

Forum members discussed the UNDP/OAS report '*Our Democracy*', together with one of the collaborators of the report, Mr. Juan Pablo Corlazzoli who participated via videoconference. Mr. Corlazzoli outlined the main points of the report while including some anecdotal support drawn from his experiences in the political realm and in civil society. He discussed the need to create a civic democracy where the citizens have full civic, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The participants had the opportunity to ask questions and debate the findings of the report with Mr. Corlazzoli. While participants generally endorsed the importance of the report, they also raised some questions: one participant pointed out that the report missed topics such as social discrimination and personal security issues (such as common delinquency) when examining democracy; another was concerned about the empowerment of the executive branch since it opens the opportunity of creating autocrats; another wondered whether it would be better to create parliamentary systems rather than presidential in Latin America; another participant asked about components such as corruption, distrust of the authorities and the significant informal sector that corrode democracy. Finally, one partici

conflicting views, another member noted that civil society must reach a compromise by identifying and pursuing those elements of democracy that are essential in the long term but are independent of the short term social dynamics and structural differences in practicing democracies that often hinder cooperation in the region.

Several members of the Forum noted the institutional fragility that plagues the Andean region and further complicates the exercise of democracy. As one member stated, this fragility has resulted in many countries lacking organized and effective political parties in which large sectors of the population can become directly involved. This lack of political participation has led to the inability of populations to express the pluralistic characteristics of their societies, further eroding democratic conditions. In such cases, the systems tend to lack an effective balance of power both institutionally and politically that further deteriorates the exercise of democracy. If an effective balance of power existed in such contexts, one member suggested, the potential risks of not





The members of the Forum explored possible future actions that the group could undertake without the involvement of the IDEA and The Carter Center Secretariat. Some of the recommendations given by the participants were:

- To continue to promulgate the values and approach of the Dialogue Forum by using the lessons learned from the Colombia-Venezuela-U.S. media dialogues to expand to others, for instance between Peru and its neighbors.
- To take action on the efforts undertaken by the working group on drug policy and organized crime, for instance by promoting and opening the debate on alternatives to the current approach to drug policy in each Andean country.
- To measure the long-term impact of the Forum in the next 2-3 years in order to show the effect that the Forum has had in the region through individual members.

## A A a h

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- 9:00 – 9:30am      Opening, review of agenda of the meeting and introduction of members that have previously not participated in plenary meetings. Short presentation of evaluation ideas.  
*[Kristen Sample, Jennifer McCoy, Graciela Tapia]*
- 9:30 – 9:45am      Review of the dissemination of the Report towards a Common Agenda for the Andean Countries and the Unites States in the six Forum countries. Overall overview and strategies employed in each country.  
*[Presenter: Santiago Mariani]*
- 9:45 – 10:15am      Open discussion between members on the Report towards a Common Agenda: focus on lessons learned regarding limitations, potential impact, and openings for promoting this type of exercise  
*[Moderator: Santiago Mariani]*
- 10:15 – 10:30am      Report and discussion on the activities and the impact of the development working group  
*[Presenter: Eduardo Egas]*



- 4:15 – 5:45pm Discussion: Differing perceptions of democracy as an impediment to better relationships  
*[Moderators: Ana María San Juan and Jennifer McCoy]*
- 5:45 – 6:00pm Conclusions of first day  
*[Karin Andersson]*
- 6:30 – 7:00pm Transportation to Foreign Ministry
- 7:30 – 8:30pm Reception with Peru’s Foreign Minister, Mr. Rafael Roncagliolo
- 8:30 – 10:00pm Dinner. Transportation to Hotel.

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- 9:00 – 9:30am Opening, re-cap of first day, review of agenda of second day  
*[Kristen Sample]*

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