

Invitation to Participate in the new DACOR/ Latin America Discussion Group Events

In early 2024, two USAID alumni and UAA members, Frank Almaguer and Lynn Vega, spearheaded the revival of the DACOR Latin America and Caribbean Discussion and Luncheon Group, previously called the FORD LAC Group. The revived group has been exceptionally successful and has attracted prominent, high-level panelists and an audience eager to remain deeply engaged and informed on the issues affecting the region.

Five sessions took place between January and June of this year. Participation grew with each session as the events attracted well-respected LAC experts from government, the private sector, the NGO community, and academia.

The group is about to inaugurate its 2024-2025 events cycle with presentations by Ambassador Brian Nichols, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Daniel Erikson, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the NSC. They will offer a "state of the region" overview, highlighting recent achievements and the many challenges that remain ahead. The session will take place on Friday, October 18, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the DACOR Bacon House.

Daniel P. Erikson serves as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council. Prior to this role, he was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Brian A. Nichols has been Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs since 2021. Previously, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe and Peru, as well as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

We urge UAA members to register with DACOR and plan to attend the upcoming October 18 LAC Discussion Group luncheon session. LAC luncheons are hybrid events. Participants have the option to attend in person or virtually. Registration is required for all attendees. More information on the session and how to register can be found [here](#):

For those who may be interested in a historical perspective on the LAC Discussion Group, please see the article prepared by Frank Almaguer and Lynn Vega, "DACOR's New Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Luncheon Group Looks to the Future by Reflecting on the Past" which is listed on the "Articles" page of the UAA website.