

Date Change: DACOR/ LAC Discussion Group Luncheon with OAS Secretary General Ramdin

The DACOR/Latin America and Caribbean Discussion Group Session with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States rescheduled for Friday, October 10, 2025.

With apologies to all who already have confirmed their participation for earlier dates, the OAS Secretary General, Albert Ramdin, had an unforeseen travel requirement that necessitates a re-scheduling of this event. SG Ramdin apologizes for the inconvenience and looks forward to participating later that same week. The event will now take place on **Friday, October 10.**

You are cordially invited to this special event. **Secretary General Ramdin** will share with us his priorities and discuss the critical issues that the OAS will need to address during his 5-year term. **Former US ambassadors to the OAS John Maisto, Roger Noriega and Frank Mora**, who served under different US presidential administrations, will provide their insights based on their OAS experience immediately after the SG's presentation.

The event will take place at the DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, NW. In order to have sufficient time for this discussion, the event will begin earlier than usual. Cocktails will be available at 11:45 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

This will be a hybrid event. Participants will have the option to attend in person or virtually. Registrations are required for all attendees. The live stream will begin at approximately 12:45 p.m. (virtual attendees will be sent a link for the event via email) and end at 2 PM. You will find more information and a link to register for this event here:

<https://www.memberleap.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=58166>

Albert Ramdin

Albert Ramdin was elected Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) in March 2025. His election marked a historic milestone, as he became the first Secretary General in the history of the OAS from a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member state. His five-year term began on May 26, 2025.

A staunch advocate for multilateralism and principled diplomacy, Mr. Ramdin brings to the role more than three decades of service in high-level positions,

including as Assistant Secretary General of the OAS from 2005 to 2015, during which time he played a key role in advancing dialogue, conflict resolution, and hemispheric cooperation. In 2020, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation of Suriname, a position he held until his election as Secretary General. In that role, he deepened Suriname's engagement with regional and global partners and promoted policies for sustainable development and democratic strengthening.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Ramdin held senior positions at CARICOM, including as Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, and served as Suriname's Permanent Representative to the OAS. He was born in Suriname in 1958. He holds a BSc in Human Geography from the University of Amsterdam and an MSc in Development Geography from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He is fluent in Dutch, English, and Spanish.

John F. Maisto

Ambassador (Ret.) John F. Maisto is a thirty-eight year former career member of the U.S. Foreign Service. He was Ambassador to Nicaragua (1993-96), Venezuela (1997-2000), and the Organization of American States (2003-2006). He was Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere at the National Security Council and, concurrently, Special Assistant to the President, 2001-2003. He was Foreign Affairs Adviser at U.S. Southern Command, 2000-2001. He served at the State Department as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America, 1992-93, and Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative at the U.S. Mission to the OAS, 1989-92. He was deputy Chief of Mission in Panama, 1986-89, in the build-up to the transition to an elected government. Previously, at the State Department he was Deputy Director and then Director of Philippine Affairs, 1982-1986, during the People Power transition to democracy. His additional assignments included Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and the Philippines.

He currently is a Director of the Miami-based U.S. Education Finance Group. He also serves as a Director of ECI, a Central America-based resort and retirement company, and Senior Consultant on International Development at Arizona State University. Since 2012, he has been President of the Washington-based US-Philippines Society. He writes and speaks on U.S. foreign policy; trade, investment and growth; democratic transitions; Western Hemisphere and East Asia-Pacific regional issues; security and defense matters; and international education.

Roger Noriega

Ambassador (Ret.) Roger F. Noriega has more than three decades of public policy experience focusing on U.S. interests in the Western Hemisphere. After a 10-year career on Capitol Hill, he was appointed by President George W. Bush (and confirmed by the Senate) to senior State Department posts. Ambassador Noriega's breadth and depth of experience and contacts offer strategic vision and practical insight for clients with interests in the Americas. He is the founder and managing director of the consultant firm, Vision Americas LLC, which has teams in Washington and Bogotá.

As Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs (2003 to 2005), Noriega managed a 3,000-person team in Washington and 50 diplomatic posts to design and implement political and economic strategies in Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He also helped design and execute an annual plan for the effective use of \$1.7 billion in U.S. economic assistance in two-dozen countries.

As U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States (August 2001 to July 2003), Noriega coordinated complex and sensitive multilateral diplomacy in a 34-member international organization to bolster trade, fight illicit drugs, and defend democracy. Noriega served as a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research from 2005-2020. Noriega is a frequent commentator in U.S. and international publications and broadcasts.

Frank Mora

Frank O. Mora is the former Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) and Professor of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University (FIU), Miami, FL. Prior to arriving at FIU, Dr. Mora served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Western Hemisphere from 2009-2013. He has held several teaching positions, including Professor of National Security Strategy and Latin American Studies at the National War College, National Defense University (2004-2009) and Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of International Studies, Rhodes College (2000-2004).

During the last twenty years, Dr. Mora has worked as a consultant to the Library of Congress, the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), the National Democratic Institute, the U.S. State Department, the Organization of American States, and U.S. Southern Command. He has spoken at numerous conferences in the United States, Latin America and Europe. His opinion pieces and other commentaries have appeared in US and Latin American media outlets.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Frank Almaguer
Ambassador (Retired)
Co-Host, DACOR/LAC Discussion Group

Lynn Northcutt Vega
Career Foreign Service Officer (Retired)
Co-Host DACOR LAC Discussion