

L.U.L.A.C. INTERNATIONAL EMBASSY TO LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



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KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS** CONCERNING U.S. WESTERN HEMISPHERE'S PARTICIPATION AT THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN, LIMA PERU, COVERING **MEXICO, WOMEN, AND VENEZUELA**, April 13, 14, 2018.

HELLO Fellow LULAC Members and Friends:

As LULAC International Ambassador to Latin American and the Caribbean, I am subscribed to the Western Hemisphere for U.S. Department of State. Therefore, I am sharing the following information which I have recently received which has been updated and is available:

[Western Hemisphere: Acting Secretary Sullivan Meets With the Governments of Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras](#)

04/13/2018 06:21 PM EDT Readout Office of the Spokesperson
Washington, DC April 13, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Today, Acting Secretary of State John J. Sullivan and Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Videgaray co-hosted a meeting with President Juan Orlando Hernandez of Honduras, Vice President Jafeth Cabrera of Guatemala, and Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez of El Salvador on the margins of the Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru.

The leaders discussed ways to enhance cooperation to promote security and prosperity in Central America. The Acting Secretary underscored the U.S. commitment to work together to address common challenges, including transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking, and economic development.

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[Western Hemisphere: Remarks at Funding Initiative for Women's Empowerment Announcement](#)

04/13/2018 12:51 PM EDT

Remarks John J. Sullivan Acting Secretary of State Lima, Peru
April 13, 2018

ACTING SECRETARY SULLIVAN: Good morning. It's wonderful to be here in Lima and to participate in the Summit of the Americas. I'm especially honored to join one of the Trump administration's most passionate advocates for issues impacting women across the globe, Advisor to the President of the United States, Ivanka Trump.

In Latin America and around the world, the United States supports policy engagement, programs, and partnerships to empower and to advance women's participation in the economy. For almost a decade, the Department of State has launched initiatives in the region that provide training, mentoring and technology support to women entrepreneurs to help them start and grow their businesses. In 2012, we established a Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas initiative known as WEAmericas. Since that time, we have built over 40 WEAmericas partnerships and supported over 20,000 women in small and medium-sized enterprises across more than 20 Latin American countries.

Women entrepreneurs are an emerging market force serving as an invaluable source of innovation and job creation. From the United States Government's perspective, the case for advancing women's full participation in society and in business is critical. And further, advancing women's economic participation globally is key to achieving U.S. foreign policy objectives and is directly linked to our national security.

Last year, the President of the United States declared that, quote, "In order to create economic growth and lots of very good, well-paying jobs, we must ensure that our economy is a place where women can work and thrive," unquote. President Trump went on to say, "We need policies that help to keep women in the workforce and to address the unique barriers faced by female entrepreneurs."

Government agencies across the United States are working to heed the President's call to action to ensure that women are equipped with the necessary skillsets and provided equal access to the labor market, especially in those high-growth, high-wage sectors.

Now, I'm pleased to welcome my friend and colleague, the president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Ray Washburne, who will tell you more about OPIC's recent initiatives to empower women.

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Venezuela Humanitarian Aid: April 13, 2018

Acting Assistant Secretary Palmieri (Apr. 13): "The United States is providing nearly \$16 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help meet the basic needs of these men and women who have lost everything to escape the Maduro regime. **Remarks on Venezuela Humanitarian Aid by Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Francisco Palmieri**

Share Remarks Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Francisco Palmieri
Chief of Mission Residence
Lima, Peru
April 13, 2018

"Thank you, Mr. Vice President, and good afternoon to everyone. The Department of State is excited to be a part of the international support for Venezuelans who have fled to neighboring countries in search of safety, food, and the opportunity to live their lives in freedom. As Vice President Pence stated, the United States is providing nearly \$16 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help meet the basic needs of these men and women who have lost everything to escape the Maduro regime.

This funding supports the regional response by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, international organizations, and NGOs responding to the crisis. This funding will provide support for the most vulnerable, security from violence and exploitation, and work and education opportunities for Venezuelan people.

We have been committed since the early stages of the crisis. Last year, UNHCR allocated more than \$3 million provided by the United States to provide immediate humanitarian assistance. Recently, UNHCR issued a \$46 million emergency appeal for Venezuela, covering nine countries across the region. For example, with this U.S. funding, UNHCR will work with local governments to increase registration of Venezuelans and support their access to local services such as healthcare, education, food, and shelter.

The United States is impressed by the generosity and compassion of those countries throughout the hemisphere who lead by example, hosting and providing humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans. We also commend the humanitarian contributions from our partners in Asia and Europe, and encourage additional contributions to meet growing humanitarian needs. Unfortunately, the Maduro regime continues to reject offers of international assistance. President Maduro should welcome this international aid, including food and medicine, and we call on him to do so immediately.

The United States will continue to stand with the international community in support of the Venezuelan people and their right to have a voice in their government. Thank you."