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September 9-10, 2021

Background:

On April 11, Guillermo Lasso won the presidency of Ecuador with the promise to revive the economy battered by COVID-19, pledging to eliminate the country's fiscal deficit, promote job creation and expand in-bound trade and investment including in the oil sector where doubling production and reduced state ownership are key objectives. Indeed, in early July, President Lasso issued a decree and clear roadmap for the country's energy sector.

Since his inauguration on May 24, President Lasso has set forth additional priorities, notably forging free trade agreements with both the United States and China. A recent visit by a delegation of United States senators underscored the desire for closer US-Ecuadorian trade ties.

President Lasso's ambitious political and economic agenda is not without hurdles. With his administration having just completed its first 100 days, President Lasso faces political challenges in implementing his plans. In particular, there is opposition in the Ecuadorian Congress on a variety of issues including approval of strategic energy projects located in environmental sensitive tropical rainforests.

Further, President Lasso's agenda for expanded trade and inward investment must overcome the impediment of investor confidence given the country's below-investment-grade status that has historically limited opportunities for equity and debt financing for many Ecuadorian companies. Largely due to this constraint, since 2008 the Ecuador's level of indebtedness to China has steadily grown to 77.7% of its total bilateral debt.

In order to help catalyze expanded U.S-Ecuadorian private sector engagement and investment, the Institute of Americas invites you to participate in our upcoming forum.

Agenda

DAY ONE: Thursday, September 9, 2021

8:00am (**Pacific Time**)

Welcome and Introduction

- Richard Kiy, President & CEO, Institute of the Americas

8:10am

U.S-Ecuador Bilateral Relations: Build Back Better Together

- Ivonne Baki, Ecuadorian Ambassador to the United States
- Michael J. Fitzpatrick, United States Ambassador to Ecuador

Chaired by Ambassador Thomas Shannon, Board Member, Institute of the Americas

8:50am - Break

9:00am

Lasso Administration's Economic & Trade Agenda

- Luis Alberto Fierro, Vice Minister of Economy, Ministry of Economy & Finance, Ecuador

Chaired by Richard Kiy, President & CEO, Institute of the Americas

9:50am - Break

10:00-11:00am

COVID-19 Impacts and Economic Outlook under President Lasso

- Ramiro Crespo, President, Analytica Securities
- Juan Carlos de la Hoz Vinas, Ecuador Representative, Inter-American Development Bank
- Felipe Espinosa, Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce, Ecuador

Moderated by Jorge Rosenblut, Chairman, Institute of the Americas

11:00am - Day One Closing

DAY TWO: Friday, September 10, 2021

Ecuador-US Bilateral Relations on Energy & Climate Change

8:00am (**Pacific Time**)

Day Two Opening Remarks

- Richard Kiy, President & CEO, Institute of the Americas

8:10am

Lasso Administration's Energy Agenda

- Juan Carlos Bermeo Calderón, Minister of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources

Chaired by José Luis Manzano, Chairman, Integra Capital & Board Member, Institute of the Americas

8:50am - Break

9:00am

Ecuador's Environment & Climate Change Agenda

- Karina Barrera, Under Secretary for Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Water & Ecological Transition, Ecuador

Chaired by Tania Miranda, Director of Policy & Stakeholder Engagement, Environment & Climate Change Program, Institute of the Americas

9:40am - Break

9:45am

COVID-19 Impacts on Education in Ecuador

- Cinthya Game, Vice Minister of Education, Ecuador

Chaired by Richard Kiy, President & CEO, Institute of the Americas

10:20am - Break

10:30am

Concluding Remarks - The Strategic Importance of Expanded U.S.-Ecuador Bilateral Relations

- Guy, D. Mentel, Executive Director, Global Americans

Recommended reading:

- ***Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Trade Relations: A Historical Perspective***", High-Level Working Group on U.S.-Ecuador Bilateral Relations, Global Americans, August 2021.
- <https://theglobalamericans.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Indigenous-Rights-and-Trade-Relations-Global-Americans.pdf>