



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

10 July 2012

Press Release

on

**National Consultations on
India's Relations with Latin American and Caribbean**

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) convened a National Consultation to discuss India's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean on 10 July, 2012 at Sapru House, New Delhi. Heads of Missions and diplomats from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries represented in Delhi participated, along with officials of the Government of India, former Indian Ambassadors to LAC countries, academicians, researchers and representatives of business organisations.

The Director General, ICWA, Shri Rajiv Bhatia inaugurated the consultation, noting that ICWA has instituted a Latin American research programme to enhance awareness and investigation into India's relationship with this increasingly important region. He also expressed appreciation of the initiative of the Republic of Chile, which is currently President of the newly formed regional grouping – The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) - to commence a collective dialogue of CELAC with India in the near future.

The day-long consultation saw a vibrant and frank exchanges of views on the current situation in Latin America and India's growing efforts to increase political, economic and social interaction with the region. The event was also addressed by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Shri M. Ganapathy. The working sessions were chaired by Prof Varun Sahni, Professor, International Relations, JNU.

The conclusions drawn and issues identified by the consultation will be presented to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for consideration in evolving future dialogue of India with Latin America and the Caribbean.
