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

Pre-Event Press Release

International Conference

on

Latin America and Caribbean

(October 24-25, 2016)

India's interface with the Latin America and the Caribbean countries has been through multilateral and regional mechanisms as well as through bilateral exchanges. The first Meeting of the India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministers was held in New Delhi on August 7, 2012. The meeting discussed issues related to trade and investment, energy, minerals, agriculture, science and technology, culture, education and people-to-people contacts, and as well as enhance participation in the regional multilateral institutions. In 2007 India held its first India-LAC Investment Conclave followed by annual conclaves in 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2015 to tap the economic potential of the Latin America region. The Investment Conclave in 2015 was attended by 23 countries of the region. Subsequently, Indian Foreign Minister hosted India - CELAC Quartet Ministerial Meeting in 2015 with the Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Barbados.

ICWA under its initiative to engage with Latin America and the Caribbean undertook the task to host an International Conference titled **Focus Latin America: the Need for an Effective Programme**, a track II initiative, which will be held on 24-25 October 2016 at Sapru House, New Delhi. The one and half day Conference would deliberate upon five major themes namely Building Economic and Trade Complementarities,

Regional Groupings: Towards Convergence, Environment and Climate Change, Soft power: Cultural & Social Interactions and Diaspora & Interlined Identities, and Challenges of Growth And Development. The five technical sessions would be preceded by an Inaugural Session, and the Conference will end with a Concluding session which would summarise the recommendations made during the Conference. Besides the members of the diplomatic corps from the region, 12 scholars/experts from different Latin American and Caribbean countries will participate in the Conference which will also see 14 Indian participants.

Attendance to the Conference is by invitation only.

