

January 16, 2025

MANIFESTO

Any observer can easily recognize that we are witnessing the collapse of the international order. The normative consensus and the principles that have regulated relations between nations since the horrors of World War II, including the sacred principle of non-aggression, are being dismantled and replaced by power blocs built around the law of the strongest.

That is not the world in which we Latin Americans want to live. And that is why we call on Latin America to regain its voice and leadership in defense of the principles it has always stood for. At the San Francisco Conference in 1945 and the earlier Chapultepec Conference, Latin America laid the foundation for the United Nations Charter, especially Article 2.4 and its prohibition on the use and threat of force against the territorial integrity of a country, with its emphasis on principles such as *“the proscription of territorial conquest,” “the adoption of reconciliation, broad arbitration, or international justice to resolve any difference or dispute,”* and *“the acknowledgment that respecting the personality, sovereignty, and independence of each American State constitutes the essence of the international order.”*

We denounce the attack being carried out against these principles and, in general, the foundations of international law. Firstly, we denounce the attack on the principle of territorial inviolability, such as the one launched by Vladimir Putin with his devastating invasion of Ukraine. It is unacceptable for a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to embark on the conquest of a neighboring country in a colonial war. Ukraine is fighting for its independence and must count on the resolute support of Latin America. We hope that the United States will maintain its assistance to Ukraine, regardless of its efforts to end the war. We also express our solidarity with the President of Panama, José Raúl Mulino, and reject President-elect Donald Trump's recent remarks regarding the Panama Canal.

Secondly, we denounce the attack on human rights and International Humanitarian Law, the indispensable legal framework for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. This has been evident in Russia's campaign of deliberate attacks against civilians throughout Ukraine, in the destruction, starvation, and death—especially of innocent women and children—caused by Benjamin Netanyahu's government in Gaza, in Hamas' terrorist attacks on defenseless civilians, and in the displacement and sexual violence unleashed by warring forces in Sudan. All these actions must be strongly condemned without exception. We reject double standards, on all sides.

Third, we denounce the attacks on free trade and the attempt to impose greater barriers on our exports and use tariffs as a tool for political pressure, violating the rules agreed upon in the WTO. The flow of goods is essential not only for the growth of our economies but also for the fight against poverty and inequality on our continent. It is also essential for the development of intelligent and fair policies to address migratory phenomena, in alignment with the accepted principles of international law.

And fourthly, we denounce the attacks on the commitments made in the existential fight against climate change. The year 2024 was the warmest in history and the first to exceed the 1.5-degree limit agreed upon at COP21. Yet, few countries are meeting their emission reduction targets, and some are even threatening to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. No one has more to lose than Latin America, the continent of biodiversity.

We call on the countries of the region to reclaim spaces for dialogue, to identify shared interests beyond their differences, and, in the midst of the assault on international law that we are witnessing, to build—with the same audacity and determination as eighty years ago—a vision of renewed multilateralism where everyone has a place and Latin America regains its voice.

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Soledad Alvear

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2000-2004

Carolina Barco

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, 2002-2006

Santiago Cafiero

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, 2021-2023

Norman Caldera

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, 2002-2007

Jorge Castañeda

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, 2000-2003

René Castro

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, 2010-2011

Gustavo Fernández

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia 1979, 1984-1985,
2001-2002

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2009-2010

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Ambassador of Colombia to the UN, 2018-2022

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2000, 2012-2013

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2006-2009

José Antonio García Belaunde

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, 2006-2011

Diego García Sayán

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, 2001-2002
President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, 2010-
2014

Manuel González

Minister of Foreign Affairs Costa Rica, 2014-2018

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2022-2023

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, 2001-2002

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Ambassador of Paraguay to the UN, 2001-2009

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, 1986-1990
Ambassador of Colombia to the UN, 1994-1998

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, 2015-2017

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Ambassador of Colombia to the UN, 2014-2018

Heraldo Muñoz

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2014-2018
Ambassador of Chile to the UN, 2003-2010

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, 2015-2020

Aloysio Nunes Ferreira

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, 2017-2018

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, 1998-2005

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, 2021-2022

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, 2013-2014

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, 2006-2008
Ambassador of Guatemala to the UN, 2008-2014

Claudia Ruíz Massieu

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, 2015-2017

Noemí Sanín

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, 1991-1994

Bernardo Sepúlveda

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President of the International Court of Justice 2012-2015

Eduardo Stein

Vice President of Guatemala, 2004-2008
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, 1996-2000

January 16, 2025

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President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2021

Allan Wagner

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, 1985-1988, 2002-2003, 2021

Rubens Ricupero

Minister of Finance of Brazil, 1994

Secretary-General of UNCTAD, 1995-2004

Sergio Jaramillo

High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia, 2012-2017 National

Security Advisor of Colombia, 2010-2012

Claudio Grossman

Chair of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 1996-1997, 2001

Chair of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, 2008-2015

Juan E. Méndez

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, 2010-2016

José Miguel Vivanco

Director of the Americas Division of Human Rights Watch, 1994-2022