



THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF REFORMS IN LATIN AMERICA

World Economic Forum on Latin America
Press Conference Room, Hilton Cancun Golf & Spa Resort
15 April 2008
11.00-12.00

Extending the benefits of modest but nevertheless continuous growth to the majority of citizens is a major challenge for economic policy in Latin American countries. Indeed, this challenge is critical not only for economic well-being, but also for strengthening democracy in the region.

Drawing on its technical expertise and members' best practices, the OECD is increasingly looking at the opportunities for development in Latin America. The first *Latin American Economic Outlook*, published by the OECD Development Centre, analyses the test the region faces in four key areas: fiscal policy, pension funds, investments in telecommunications and growing trade with Asia.

This session, chaired by OECD Development Centre Director, Javier Santiso, will comment on the challenges Latin American policymakers confront in carrying out necessary reforms. Discussants will not only discuss the four topics covered by the report, but they will also share their experience in terms of implementing reform and moving from theory into practice. The session will pay special attention to fiscal policy, the topic of the forthcoming *Latin American Economic Outlook 2009*.

Speakers

Chair:

Javier Santiso, Director and Chief Development Economist, OECD Development Centre

Panelists:

Ricardo Hausmann, Director, Harvard's Center for International Development

Moisés Naim, Editor-in-chief, Foreign Policy magazine