

PANEL PRESENTATION

Friday, March, 12th, 2021

11:00 (ET)

LUIS ALMAGRO - OEA



Luis Almagro was re-elected for a second term as Secretary General of the OAS on March 20, 2020. A career diplomat, he has extensive regional and international experience. Almagro is a lawyer by profession. He was his country's foreign minister from March 1, 2010 to March 1, 2015. Upon taking up the leadership of the OAS, he announced that the central theme of his administration would be "more rights for more people" and that he would work "to be the voice of the voiceless." As Secretary General, Almagro has prioritized defense of democracy and human rights in his daily work. For instance, he reinvigorated and expanded the OAS electoral observation missions.

AMBASSADOR ANNE DE LA BLACHE - FRANCE

Ambassador Anne de La Blache took up her current position of Permanent Observer of France to the OAS in September 2018. A career diplomat, Ambassador de la Blache previously occupied several positions abroad and in Paris. Prior to her current position, she served as Ambassador of France to Botswana and SADC (2013-2017); Senior Counselor at the French Embassy of the United States (2008-2012), Director of Training and Recruitment (2004-2008); Political Counselor in Madrid, Spain (2000-2004) and in Brussels, Belgium (1996-2000); Deputy-director for West Africa and Special adviser for financial and economic Affairs in the African Department (1993-1996); Deputy-director for Central America and the Caribbean. Ambassador de la Blache also has an experience in the non-profit sector, as a volunteer for many years. She holds a diploma from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, specializing in political science administration and international relations. She is the mother of four children.



AMBASSADOR HUGH ADSETT- CANADA



Hugh Adsett is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States. He joined Canada's Foreign Ministry in 1995 and has spent much of his career in the Legal Affairs Bureau, including as Legal Adviser. In 2017, he served as director general of the Foreign Policy Bureau. Mr. Adsett has served abroad in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York, and worked in Rwanda in 1995 as a United Nations Human Rights field officer.

AMBASSADOR JACQUES PITTELOUD-SWITZERLAND

Jacques Pitteloud was appointed as Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States of America in 2019. He joined the Swiss Foreign Service in 1987, as an Advisor to the Foreign Minister and then served as a trade attaché at the Swiss Embassy in Riyadh. Prior to his current position, he served in the Swiss Strategic Intelligence Service, acted as a personal advisor (General Staff matters and Intelligence). Dr Pitteloud served as the first Intelligence Coordinator for the Swiss Government (2000-2005). He then became the Director, Arms Control, Disarmament, Security Policy and Intelligence at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bern. Jacques Pitteloud was Swiss Ambassador to Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and the Seychelles (2010-2015). Jacques Pitteloud was Director General of the Swiss FDFA from September 2015 prior to being appointed as Swiss Ambassador to the United States in September 2019.

Dr Pitteloud earned a Master's Degree and a Ph.D. from the Law School at the University of Zürich. He graduated from the International Training Course in Security Policy (ITC) at Geneva University. He is a retired lieutenant colonel (General Staff) in the Swiss Armed Forces. Ambassador Pitteloud is married and father of a daughter.



PEDRO VACA VILLARREAL - RFOE



Pedro Vaca Villarreal is the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). He is a Colombian lawyer with a Master's degree in Law and a Specialization in Constitutional Law. With more than 12 years of professional experience in the field of human rights, Mr. Vaca has led regional processes in the defense of freedom of expression from positions of responsibility. Prior to his appointment as Special Rapporteur, he served for seven years as Executive Director of the Foundation for Freedom of the Press (FLIP) in Colombia.

WINNIE HUGOT GABRIEL DUVIL - HAITI

Winnie Hugot Gabriel Duval is known as a Lawyer and a Journalist for Le Nouvelliste and Ticket Magazine in Haiti. She has just published: « Femmes Haïtiennes: 60 parcours d'exception », a book of portraits of different Haitian women working in various fields. Radio and TV host, in addition to her many articles, Winnie Hugot Gabriel has participated in the writing of the study « Relations between political parties and parliamentarians in Haiti, Perspectives of 18 political figures », published in 2015 by IDEA International. In 2016, She realized the document "Women in the media in Haiti: Small advances, big challenges" on behalf of Panos Caraïbes. Thanks to the Fulbright Scholarship, she is currently pursuing a Master degree that focuses on Intellectual Property law and Cybersecurity at the University of Maryland



LAURENCE DEBRAY - FRANCE

Laurence Debray graduated from the Sorbonne in History and from HEC (Hautes études commerciales). She first worked in finance in New York and Paris for ten years. In 2013, she published a biography of the King of Spain, Juan Carlos, in France and Spain. She is the author of the documentary "Moi, Juan Carlos, roi d'Espagne" (Me, Juan Carlos, King of Spain) broadcast in 2016 in prime time in which the King gives her his last interview. She publishes in 2017 in French and Spanish " Fille de révolutionnaires " which receives the political book prize, the deputies' prize and the student prize of the political book France Culture. She participates, with a biography of Fidel Castro, in the collective book "Le siècle des dictateurs" in 2019. She directs the documentary "Venezuela, l'ombre de Chavez", broadcast in 2019, which receives the Laurier de l'audiovisuel award in the first work category. She is a regular contributor to Paris Match, Le Point, Le Figaro Magazine. She is married, has two teenagers and a cat.



NICOLE ANLIKER - SWITZERLAND

Nicole Anliker is the foreign correspondent for the swiss newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung for Latin America and is based in Rio de Janeiro. The 37 old attained her Bachelors degree in history at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and a masters-degree in international history and politics at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

Besides covering major breaking news in the field, like the migration flux from Central America to the US, presidential elections and political upheavels in countries like Venezuela, Bolivia or Chile, she carries out background research on specific topics of interest by NZZ. One of her main concerns is to give visibility to people, an inside view to issues that do not appear in common news stories. The experiences of female activists, politicians and entrepreneur but also as victims are a important part of it. In this context Nicole has written amongst other things about a region in Mexico where a high concentration of mexican women have been left behind by their husbands migrating to the US and are having to organize their lives on their own, also women being in leadership positions within organized crime and the rise of bolivias indigenous women.



MARIANGELA URBINA - COLOMBIA

Mariangela Urbina is a Colombian feminist writer, Youtuber essayist and journalist (27). Her first novel, the self-fiction “Mi Navidad en un psiquiátrico” (“Christmas at the Psychiatric yard”) was published in 2018 by the publishing house Planeta, who will also release her second book in 2021. Mariángela co-created and hosts Las Igualadas, a digital platform with over 400,000 subscribers, and has given young Colombian women and teenagers a space to talk candidly about gender. Las Igualadas has been recognized with the Leon Zuleta Award for making journalism against gender-violence and discrimination towards women and the LGBT community. They were also recognized with the Idea Award, given by Planned Parenthood organization, for their creative work in communications around sexual and reproductive rights. Currently, Las Igualadas has not only local reach, but has also increased and strengthened its audience in neighboring Latin American countries such as Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Perú, among others. Mariángela is a journalist graduated from the Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá) and has published texts about culture, international affairs and gender issues in different magazines and newspapers in Colombia and Latin America.



JENNIFER CLEMENT - PEN INTERNATIONAL

Jennifer Clement is the President of PEN International and the first woman to be elected since the organization was founded in 1921. Under her leadership the groundbreaking PEN International Women’s Manifesto and The Democracy of the Imagination Manifesto were created. Clement is the author the novels A True Story Based on Lies, The Poison That Fascinates, Prayers for the Stolen and Gun Love as well as several poetry books. Clement also wrote the acclaimed memoir Widow Basquiat on New York City in the early 1980’s and the painter Jean-Michel Basquiat. Clement recipient of many awards including the Canongate Prize, Sara Curry Humanitarian Award, the Gran Prix des Lectrices Lyceenes de ELLE, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEA Fellowship and her books have twice been a New York Times Editor’s Choice Book. Prayers for the Stolen was both a PEN/Faulkner Prize and Femina Prize finalist and a New Statesman Book of the Year, picked by Kazuo Ishiguro. Her recent novel Gun Love is an Oprah Book Club Selection as well as being a National Book Award, Aspen Words Literary Prize finalist, and a New York Times Editor’s Choice Book. Time magazine, among other publications, named it one of the top 10 books of 2018. Clement’s books have been translated into more than 35 languages.



JOEL HERNANDEZ - CIDH

Commissioner Joel Hernández García is President of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. Commissioner Joel Hernández García was elected on June 21, 2017 by the OAS General Assembly for a four-year term that began on January 1, 2018 and ends on December 31, 2021. He holds a law degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a master's degree in international law from New York University School of Law. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and was a member of the Inter-American Juridical Committee for the period 2015-2018. He is President of the Mexican Branch of the International Law Association. In the Mexican Foreign Service he rose to the rank of ambassador and served in various positions. From 2011 to 2013, he served as Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS. In that capacity he chaired the working group for reflection on the functioning of the IACHR for the strengthening of the IAHRs. He has been a guest professor in the subjects of international law and international organizations in various institutions. He is a citizen of Mexico.

