



¡Bienvenidas y bienvenidos to El CC, CCLATAM's newsletter!. Every other week you'll find the main events shaking up Latin America, from Ushuaia in the south to Los Algodones in the north. Sign up [here](#) to stay updated on the region. Get [in touch](#) with us, we may feature an excerpt of your response in the next newsletter.

Canada mon.....



Canadian voters have returned Mark Carney to power, giving his [Liberals](#) 169 of 343 seats—three short of a majority—and toppling [Conservative](#) leader [Pierre Poilievre](#), who even lost the seat he'd held for twenty years. Nearly 70 percent of Canadians voted, many angered by [U.S. President Donald Trump](#)'s new tariffs on steel, aluminum and autos and his quip about turning [Canada](#) into America's 51st state. In his victory speech Carney declared that no one is going to "own" Canada.

He will test that pledge almost immediately. On Tuesday, 6 May, Carney makes his first foreign trip as prime minister, fitting an Oval Office meeting, a working lunch and sessions with trade and treasury officials into a single day in [Washington](#). His first objective is tariff relief: [Ottawa](#) is offering temporary steel quotas and pledging to spend every dollar of its own counter-tariffs on paycheques for laid-off workers.

Carney's election turned on sovereignty, fatigue and pocketbooks. Swing voters in suburban [Ontario](#) and British Columbiasaid the 51st-state talk felt like a personal insult, and Poilievre's own "Canada First" rhetoric suddenly sounded like an echo of Trump, not a shield against him. With inflation high and crisis politics wearying, Carney's banker-calm persona offered a steadier hand.

Latin American capitals have already taken note. Brazil's Lula has revived trade talks with Ottawa, sensing a Canada eager for new markets, while [Mexico](#) is studying how a Canada-Brazil-Mexico climate bloc might buffer further U.S. pressure. If Carney can convert Tuesday's showdown into tariff relief and a critical-minerals pact, he will not only shore up his minority government but also offer a blueprint for mid-sized economies looking to push back—firmly, but without burning every bridge—against America's heavier foot on the scale

CCLATAM Editorial Board

A new era at [OAS](#)



[Albert Ramdin](#) hasn't even warmed the chair yet—he officially moves into the OAS's corner office on May 5—but he's already talking and acting like the hemisphere's chief convener. Ramdin's election on March 10 broke a decades-long pattern of South American and North American leadership at the OAS and instantly raised expectations that smaller states will get a louder voice. [Washington](#) welcomed the move, calling it "a chance to reset the tone of inter-American diplomacy." But goodwill alone won't patch the holes in an organization whose regular fund has shrunk about twelve percent in real terms since 2016 and is spread thin across democracy monitoring, human rights advocacy, and disaster relief.

Ramdin announced a three-part game plan: make the OAS nimbler, bring in fresh money, and prove the institution can still deliver concrete results for ordinary people. His transition team is sketching out an [OAS-Business Roundtable](#) meant to channel private investment toward near-shoring supply chains, digital inclusion, and

climate-resilient infrastructure, drawing on models [IDB Invest](#) has already piloted around the region. Early April consultations at OAS headquarters included bankers, fintech founders, and Caribbean insurers brainstorming how to pair policy reforms with blended-finance instruments.

Skeptics point to the OAS's empty coffers and fractious membership; Ramdin counters with something simpler: coalition-building muscle. As [Suriname's](#) foreign minister he coaxed bilateral debt swaps and green-bond financing out of far larger partners. Inside the OAS he spent a decade as deputy secretary general, so he knows where the organizational fat—and the latent talent—are buried.

If he succeeds, the payoff is bigger than institutional survival. A re-energized OAS could help guide a hemisphere now gripped by migration pressures, contested elections, and climate shocks toward something more collaborative: seamlessly observed ballots, cross-border fintech for small firms, and parametric insurance that wires cash to hurricane-hit islands within days. That's the future Ramdin is selling—one that sounds less like a dusty multilateral body and more like a start-up with 34 shareholders and a billion stakeholders. We will watch progress and stand ready to support the process.

La Charla



This week, Piero Bonadeo talks with Ambassador [Ivonne A-Baki](#).

From conflict-zone galleries to high-stakes negotiating rooms, Ambassador [Ivonne A-Baki](#) has spent three decades turning art and diplomacy into tools for peacebuilding and sustainable development. A [Harvard Arts for Peace](#) fellow and founder of the [Beyond Boundaries](#) and [Galápagos Conservancy](#) foundations, she has used cultural dialogue to advance public health and environmental protection in [Ecuador](#) and beyond. Her résumé spans postings from [Washington](#) to [Doha](#) and a pivotal role in the

[1998 Ecuador-Peru peace accord](#), while her tenure as Ecuador's first female [Minister of Foreign Trade](#) underscored her commitment to economic inclusion. We sit down with this artist-stateswoman to explore how creative vision, negotiation acumen, and unwavering humanism can shape global agendas—and what lessons her multifaceted journey offers a world in search of common ground.

How do you see [Latin America](#) today? What are the main challenges and opportunities?

Latin America is incredibly rich in every sense. Precisely because we have everything, we often fail to appreciate our wealth—we focus on the negative instead of the positive. What we need are leaders who can see that positive side and never forget their people.

Looking ahead, the world will need water, not oil—and Latin America has it in abundance. Minerals? We have them too. Climate, biodiversity, human talent? All here. Our challenge is to stop obsessing over the negatives—left, right, center—and focus on the greatness we already possess. If we unite, we'll be unstoppable.

So what's missing? Culturally we still stumble. Many [Brazilians](#), for instance, say, "We're not Latino," yet Brazil is the region's largest country. I remember the [FTAA](#) talks: every president and trade minister was at the table except [Chávez](#), who opposed the deal. The real fight was between Brazil and the [United States](#); Chávez loved that clash and famously shouted, "¡Al carajo el ALCA!" We needed a free-trade area not just for goods but for people too.

[Europe](#) managed to unite despite different religions, languages, cultures, and currencies because the stronger countries helped the weaker ones. It's not perfect, but it works. Latin America shares almost everything—except Portuguese in Brazil—yet still feels "less than." In Ecuador we even needed a [Colombian](#) coach to believe we could reach the [World Cup](#). Of course we can!

The real obstacle isn't nationality; it's ideology. "[Socialism of the 21st century](#)" rose, fell, and the political pendulum kept swinging. People don't care about ideology anymore; they care about well-being—jobs, quality of life for their families. Ideologies and even religion often serve to control through fear. Humans act from love or fear, and most live in fear. What we lack is the political will to say: "Let's unite around our strengths and drop the labels." When that happens, nothing will stop Latin America.

Latin America is a powerhouse of tech creativity. Brazil and [Argentina](#) are minting unicorns and top-tier AI talent. If politics can't unite the region, could technology?

Argentina is already changing; the conversation is no longer "mine versus yours." Everything now runs on [artificial intelligence](#). Whoever masters the best tech will lead, and that could be our common ground. Connectivity alone can tear down borders without building walls.

Presidents who want to reach their people should focus here, not on stale ideological battles. Everyone has a phone: you pay without a bank, do paperwork without an office, and soon robots will be in our homes. Education must change now—kids

demand it. With AI you don't memorize sums; you learn to use tools and think. Investment is still scarce. [U.S.](#) and other funds eye the region but worry about legal uncertainty, corruption, administrations that erase everything every four years. Without clear rules, capital flees. Yet technology exposes wrongdoing—money and misdeeds can't hide; one social-media post reveals all. This is the perfect moment to clean out the cancer we've carried for years.

A new threat, though, is that mafias—[drug trafficking](#), [human trafficking](#)—also use this tech. How do we compete and clean house? Through international cooperation. If demand exists, supply survives. We have to fight on both fronts together; tech alone isn't enough.

Where do you see the biggest investment and development hubs for Latin America—from the United States and from the [Middle East](#)?

Opportunities are everywhere, but we keep losing them for lack of clear rules. Everyone wants to invest here. Tourism: every hotel chain dreams of Latin America. Minerals—the real future—are all here; everything that powers a phone or an electric car comes from our ground. Renewable energy? We overflow with [wind](#), [sun](#), [geothermal](#), and the [Amazon](#) is a colossal hub shared by eight countries. Water, soon the world's scarcest resource, is plentiful; funds want to invest in its management because water is also energy. Infrastructure? We have endless work ahead. Our problem is self-inflicted: no long-term vision and rules that change every electoral cycle. Fix that, and investment will flow.

Let's talk about art—both visual art and the art of diplomacy. You're an artist yourself; what's the secret to keeping that art alive in any field?

Live the moment intensely. Don't dwell on what's gone or what might come; be present and enjoy people. Folks ask, "Where do you like living most—[Paris](#), [Washington](#), [Beirut](#), [Quito](#)?" My answer: anywhere, as long as I'm with people I love. People turn a place into paradise—or into hell if there's no connection.

I adore connecting, talking, anticipating problems, finding solutions. My favorite years were the ten at [Harvard](#), surrounded by students from everywhere. Different backgrounds, different worlds, yet one thing in common: we're human and want the best for this little planet. For me, that's the art—keeping curiosity, dialogue, and human connection alive.

In twenty years, describe Latin America in just three words.

Light, passion, love. Latin America illuminates—people once called it "the light of America," and that glow still shines in our music, our creations. We live with passion; you feel it in our art and in how fiercely we defend what we cherish. Above all, we give limitless love. The people—more than landscapes or resources—make the region unique. If I had to choose one single word, it would be energy, because light, passion, and love are pure Latin American energy.

Finally, let's talk food. What are your favorite cuisines and go-to restaurants?


I love each country's traditional food; fusion often loses identity. I adore [Mediterranean](#)


cuisine—especially [Lebanese](#)—and of course Latin American dishes, particularly seafood and [ceviches](#). I'm not vegetarian, but I prefer meals without much meat.

Wherever I go, I end up with two or three favorite spots. In Washington I have Georgetown's [Ristorante Piccolo](#), which I've known since 1987. [Café Milano](#) is a favorite, and the newly opened Lebanese place [Albi](#) is spectacular. There's also a terrific Ecuadorian spot by [Mauricio Fraga](#) that blends Peruvian touches with a more casual menu—I visit often.

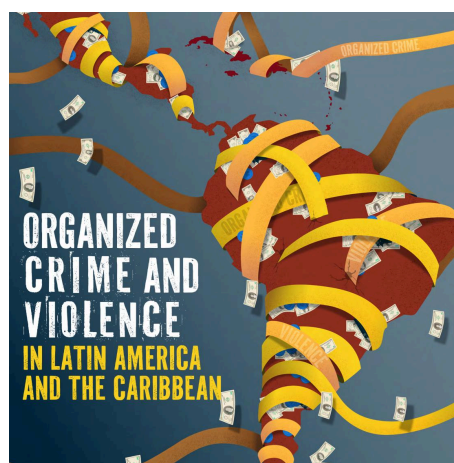
I enjoy [Le Diplomate](#) for classic French. In Paris I have my haunts: [Chez L'Ami Jean](#) for true French fare, a delicious Italian place, and a fantastic pizzeria. Beirut? Almost every restaurant is wonderful—I often host meetings there. And in Ecuador, what can I say? Our cuisine is fabulous, simply perfect.

Elsewhere in LATAM

 A massive new data-center campus, **Rio AI City**, was unveiled during the opening ceremony of Web Summit Rio on 27 April. The campus will rise inside Rio's Olympic Park with an initial 1.8 GW of IT power scheduled for 2027 and a planned expansion to 3 GW by 2032—enough to make it the largest data-center development in Latin America and among the biggest anywhere in the world. Rio is no stranger to digital infrastructure: the metro already hosts **21 operational data centers**.

 Mexico's government plans to gradually reduce the standard work week to 40 hours by January 2030, as announced by Labor and Social Security Minister Marath Bolanos during a Labor Day event. To facilitate this transition, the ministry will conduct forums across the country from June to July to gather input for the proposal. Currently, Mexico operates on a 48-hour work week, but efforts to shorten this have encountered hurdles, including resistance in Congress where a bill to implement the change was delayed in both 2023 and 2024. This initiative aligns with the broader labor reform agenda under President Claudia Sheinbaum.

El Estudio



Organized crime and violence are increasingly hindering development across Latin America and the Caribbean, as highlighted in the World Bank's latest Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review ([LACER](#)). The report, titled "[Organized Crime and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)," reveals that the region is expected to grow by only **2.1 percent in 2025** and **2.4 percent in 2026**, making it the slowest-growing region globally. Victimization and homicide rates in the area are alarmingly high, three and eight times greater than the global averages, respectively. [Carlos Felipe Jaramillo](#), Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank, emphasized the urgent need for a regional and global dialogue on this issue, stating, "Organized crime is rapidly proliferating across the region, transcending domestic borders and becoming a pervasive threat." The report advocates for enhanced state capacity to combat organized crime through police reform, improved judicial processes, and economic policies that promote growth and job creation, all essential to fostering development in the region.

La Invitación



Brazil Summit

14 May 2025

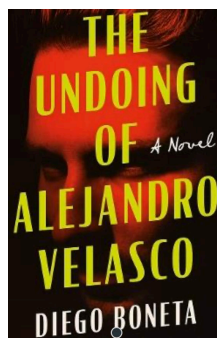
In-Person | Convene One Liberty, New York

As a supporting partner, CCLATAM invites you to join Brazilian and International leaders on 14 May 2025 in New York to examine Brazil's economic outlook, policy priorities, and investment opportunities, while showcasing how its rich cultural heritage, sports, and tourism bolster global influence and create business opportunities.

Speakers include, Simone Tebet, Minister of Planning and Budget of Brazil, Fabricio Bloisi, Group CEO and Executive Director of Prosus, Ricardo Alban, President of Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI), Martín Escobari, Head of Global Growth Equity, Co-President, and Managing Director of General Atlantic, plus many more

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La Lectura



Actor-producer Diego Boneta's first novel is a glossy psychological thriller set against the sun-splashed courtyards of San Miguel de Allende.

Tennis star Julián Villareal arrives to mourn—and perhaps avenge—his friend and rival Alejandro Velasco, only to be pulled into the gilded intrigues of the powerful Velasco clan. Boneta steers Mexican storytelling away from narco clichés toward art galleries, rooftop cantinas, and corporate boardrooms, making the colonial city itself a living co-conspirator.

Some supporting characters drift toward luxury-brand mannequin territory, and the steamy thriller flourishes can verge on melodrama, but Boneta's bilingual dialogue crackles and his insistence on multidimensional Mexican representation lends heft beneath the beach-read sheen. For a taste of the atmosphere and knotty family dynamics, read this [exclusive excerpt](#).



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