

**IX ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AMERICA, PANAMA AND
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Thursday, July 15, 2010

12:30–2:30 p.m.

Informal Lunch

2:20–3:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Maria Elena Mondragón de Villar, President, Central Bank of Honduras

Nicolás Eyzaguirre, Director, Western Hemisphere Department, IMF

Introductory Remarks

Porfirio Lobo Sosa, President of the Republic of Honduras

Begin Closed Session (media withdraws)

3:00–4:15 p.m.

SESSION 1

Economic Perspectives for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic

This session will analyze the short and medium-term outlook for global growth, including financial market conditions, and commodity prices. While stress in global financial markets has abated and many countries are leaving the recession behind, the recovery in Central America, Panama, and the DR has been uneven and slower than in other regions, reflecting strong linkages to the U.S. and their export-oriented growth model. What are the economic perspectives for 2010 and 2011 for the region?

Speaker

Nicolás Eyzaguirre, Director, Western Hemisphere Department, IMF

Moderator

Ramón Guzmán, Executive Director, IMF

Questions and Discussion

4:15–4:45 p.m.

Coffee Break

4:45–6:00 p.m.

SESSION 2

The Global Post-Crisis Fiscal Outlook and Strategies for Fiscal Consolidation

This session will discuss the daunting challenges that exist in the fiscal area at the global level. The recent crisis has had the largest and most pervasive negative impact on public finances since World War II, particularly in advanced economies. As the crisis winds down, policy makers need to unwind crisis-related fiscal policies and restore sustainability. What strategies should they follow? How would the required adjustment in advanced economies affect emerging markets? What are the policy implications for countries in Central America?

Speaker

Carlo Cottarelli, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF

Moderator

Nicolás Eyzaguirre, Director, Western Hemisphere Department, IMF

Questions and Discussion

7:00–8:00 p.m.

Reception

8:00–10:00 p.m.

*Dinner**

Introduction

Maria Elena Mondragón de Villar, President, Central Bank of Honduras

Keynote Speaker

Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

“The Role of the IMF in the Post-Crisis World”

Friday, July 16, 2010*

8:30–10:30 a.m.

SESSION 3

The Lessons and Challenges for the Region after the Global Crisis—Policies for Stability and Sustained Growth

The region has been adversely affected by the global recession but has avoided a major crisis. However, despite active policy responses in many countries, simulations suggest that the growth outcome was not much different from the performance that would have been expected based on historical relationships (Swiston 2010). Against the background of the evolving debate about a new macroeconomic policy framework for the post-crisis period (e.g., IMF Staff Position Notes 10/03 and 10/04), this session will seek to draw lessons from the crisis response and discuss steps to enhance the region’s resilience to future shocks. Topics include: the effectiveness of countercyclical fiscal policy and the case for re-building fiscal space; the weakness of the monetary transmission channel and its implications for the conduct of monetary and exchange rate policies (including the targeted level of inflation); and the scope for reviving sustainable credit growth after a global credit crunch.

Moderator

Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director, IMF Speaker

Speaker

Miguel Savastano, Senior Advisor, Western Hemisphere Department, IMF

Discussants

Maria Elena Mondragón de Villar, President, Central Bank of Honduras

Edgar Balsells, Minister of Finance, Guatemala

Francisco Lay Solano, General Superintendent of Financial Institutions, Costa Rica

Questions and Plenary Discussion

10:30-11:00 a.m.

*Closing Remarks***Antenor Rosales**, President, Central American Monetary Council**Murilo Portugal**, Deputy Managing Director, IMF

11:00–11:30 a.m.

Press Conference

12:00–3:00 p.m.

*Working Lunch CAPTAC-DR (by invitation only)***Second Steering Committee Meeting Regional Technical Assistance Center (CAPTAC-DR)**

12:00–2:00 p.m.

Informal Lunch (other participants)

7:30–9:30 p.m.

Farewell cocktail in Museum of National Identity

*Donors of CAPTAC-DR invited.