

THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CUBA

Bellagio Conference Center, Italy
May 26-29, 2008

Monday, 26 May, 2008

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Cocktails/Welcome

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Dinner

Tuesday, 27 May, 2008

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast

Challenges and Possibilities for Social Justice in Cuba: National and International Experiences

9:00 am – 9:15 am

Introduction

Damián Fernández, Director, Cuban Research Institute, and Vice Provost,
Biscayne Bay Campus, Florida International University, USA

Katrin Hansing, Associate Director, Cuban Research Institute, Florida International
University, USA

9:15 am – 11:00 am

Session 1: Social Justice in Cuba: Assessment of Current Situation

This session will examine the current state of Cuba's social justice and welfare system in order to assess which areas need strengthening, reform, and change. Specific sectors and indicators to be examined include: poverty, health care, education, housing, employment, and pensions.

Moderator:

Katrin Hansing, Associate Director, Cuban Research Institute, Florida International
University, USA

Speakers:

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh, USA

Mayra Espina, Researcher, Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociológicas, and Professor of Sociology of Inequality, University of Havana, Cuba

Haroldo Dilla, Coordinator, Ciudades y Fronteras, Dominican Republic

11:00 am – 11:15 am: Break

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Session 2: Bi/Multi-Lateral and Non-State Actors: Initiatives and Challenges

The panel will explore past and present bi/multi-lateral relationships between foreign governments and Cuba, as well as initiatives by local and international non-state actors that currently work on the island. Panelists will highlight cases of both failed and successful methods of negotiation, policies, and programs that have addressed social justice and welfare concerns in Cuba.

Moderator:

Cristina Eguizábal, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International University, USA

Speakers:

Rita Petrireña, Director of Social Services, Council of Catholic Bishops, Cuba

Jesús Gracia Aldaz, former Executive Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development and Spanish ambassador to Cuba, Spain

Miriam Kornblith, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, National Endowment for Democracy, USA

Susan Bird, Director of the Office for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Oxfam America, El Salvador

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch

2:15 pm – 4:00 pm

Plenary and Discussion: The Politics of Social Justice in Post-Fidel Cuba

Chair:

Damián Fernández, Director, Cuban Research Institute, and Vice Provost,
Biscayne Bay Campus, Florida International University, USA

Speakers:

Jorge Domínguez, Antonio Madero Professor of Mexican and Latin American
Politics and Economics, and Vice Provost for International Affairs, Harvard
University, USA

Damián Fernández, Director, Cuban Research Institute, and Vice Provost,
Biscayne Bay Campus, Florida International University, USA

José Miguel Vivanco, Executive Director, Americas Division, Human Rights
Watch, USA

Velia Cecilia Bobes, Professor, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales,
Mexico

Katrin Hansing, Associate Director, Cuban Research Institute, Florida International
University, USA

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Cocktails

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Dinner

9:00 pm – 10:30 pm: Film screening of *Suite Habana* (optional)

Wednesday, 28 May, 2008

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast

**Challenges and Possibilities for Social Justice in Cuba:
Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Societies in Transition**

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Session 1: Lessons Learned and Best Practices: Case Studies from Societies in Transition

This panel will examine the experiences of several societies that have undergone or are currently in transition. Speakers will focus on the domestic policies, reforms, and programs -- successful and unsuccessful -- designed to support social justice, welfare, and development during these countries' transition periods.

Moderator:

Carlo Dade, Executive Director, Canadian Foundation for the Americas, Canada

Speakers:

Claus Offe, Professor, Hertie School of Governance, Germany

Pieter Vanhuysse, Lecturer, School of Political Sciences, University of Haifa, Israel

Ana Sojo, Social Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile

Raj Desai, Visiting Fellow, The Wolfensohn Center for Development, Brookings Institution, and Associate Professor of International Development, Georgetown University, USA

10:30 am – 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Session 2: The International Community's Impact on Societies in Transition

Panelists will explore past and present bi/multi-lateral relationships, as well as initiatives of foreign, non-state actors that address social justice, welfare, and development concerns in societies in transition.

Moderator:

Velia Cecilia Bobes, Professor, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Mexico

Speakers:

Francisco Ferreira, Lead Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank, USA

Cristina Eguizábal, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International University, USA

Carlo Dade, Executive Director, Canadian Foundation for the Americas, Canada

Carlos Saladrigas, Co-Chairman, Cuba Study Group, and Vice Chair, Premier American Bank, USA

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm:

Breakout Session

Conference participants will be divided into small groups to discuss the following questions in greater depth (group leaders will be identified in Bellagio):

- What are the main opportunities and constraints for social justice/welfare in societies in transition?
- Which domestic policies and programs (state and non-state) addressing social justice and development issues have been most effective in societies in transition? What pitfalls need to be avoided?
- Which international initiatives have been most successful and unsuccessful in supporting social justice in societies in transition?
- What lessons and best practices can be identified for their optimal current and future role in Cuba?

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm:

Plenary Session

Break out session leaders will briefly report on the results of each group, and lead a discussion focused on which domestic and international policies could most effectively support social justice in Cuba, now and in the future.

Moderator:

Carlos Saladrigas, Co-Chairman, Cuba Study Group, and Vice Chair, Premier American Bank, USA

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Cocktails

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Dinner

Thursday, 29 May 2008

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast

Social Justice in Cuba: The Road Ahead

9:00 am – 10:45 am

Session 1: Synthesis: Social Justice in Cuba

The panel will recap and synthesize the main points made during previous sessions. Discussants will reflect on key issues raised, lessons learned, and realistic recommendations for the future of social justice in Cuba, especially in light of Cuba's current socio-economic and political situation.

Moderator:

Katrin Hansing, Associate Director, Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, USA

Discussants:

Haroldo Dilla, Coordinator, Ciudades y Fronteras, Dominican Republic

Claus Offe, Professor, Hertie School of Governance, Germany

Velia Cecilia Bobes, Professor, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Mexico

Francisco Ferreira, Lead Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank, USA

Mayra Espina, Researcher, Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociológicas, and Professor of Sociology of Inequality, University of Havana, Cuba

10:45 am – 11:00 am: Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Session 2: Recommendations and Policy Report

Participants will engage in a discussion about the key policy-relevant issues and recommendations to be detailed in the policy report.

Discussion leaders:

Damián Fernández, Director, Cuban Research Institute, and Vice Provost, Biscayne Bay Campus, Florida International University, USA

Jorge Domínguez, Antonio Madero Professor of Mexican and Latin American Politics and Economics, and Vice Provost for International Affairs, Harvard University, USA

Discussion questions:

- What are the main issues and key lessons we have learned? How can these be synthesized in the policy report?
- What practical recommendations can be made to support social justice in Cuba, now and in the future?
- Which social justice/welfare issues in Cuba require further research?
- What is the most effective means to disseminate the policy report?

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Cocktails

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Farewell Dinner