



Atlantic Basin Initiative
Eminent Persons Group Exploratory Meeting
Palácio dos Bandeirantes, São Paulo, Brazil
April 19-20, 2012

Eminent Persons from Africa, Europe, North and South America met in São Paulo to explore the effects of globalization in the Atlantic region. They considered how a new 'Atlantic Basin Initiative' could both address challenges and seize opportunities presented by growing interconnections among the four Atlantic continents. The Eminent Persons were hosted by Geraldo Alckmin, Governor of the state of São Paulo, and at the invitation of the Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR) at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, particularly CTR Distinguished Fellow and former President of the Government of Spain José Maria Aznar and CTR Executive Director Prof. Daniel Hamilton.

The Eminent Persons agreed to explore how the pan-Atlantic frame could be used to solve societal problems, and to focus their initial attention on three priority themes:

- **Shared Values.** A shared commitment to such basic principles as democracy, rule of law, transparency, and human rights offers a unifying basis upon which to tackle common challenges together, even as such principles may be interpreted differently by various actors. One question deserving further attention is whether a shared commitment to such principles also implies a responsibility to stand up for such principles when engaging others.
- **Energy.** Energy is a key driver connecting the people of the Atlantic Basin. New energy sources and energy players are emerging across the entire Atlantic space. The Eminent Persons intend to examine the dynamics behind this emerging Atlantic energy system.
- **Water.** The principals agreed that this broad theme deserved priority attention in three dimensions. The first relates to issues of the Atlantic Ocean itself, including the Law of the Sea, fisheries and maritime security. The second pertains to integrated water management issues being faced by municipal and regional authorities. best practice and common challenges of cities and regions along the Atlantic coast, including issues of clean water, coastal management and regional development. A third dimension is the critical relationship between availability of clean water, human health and human development.

The Eminent Persons asked for additional problem-oriented research in such areas as trade and investment; human migration and mobility; human security and human development. CTR will invite authors from the four continents to prepare substantive papers in each of these areas, to be discussed at a September 13-14 workshop. It will also continue its ongoing efforts to "map" Atlantic connections among the four continents in terms of flows of goods, services, money, energy, people and ideas.

The Eminent Persons agreed to meet again, in December 2012 in South Africa, to advance their cooperation, and also to facilitate stronger links among a pan-Atlantic network of institutions, private sector actors, experts and opinion leaders.