May 5, 2022

**GLOBAL AMERICANS LAUNCHES RESEARCH PROJECT**

**FOCUSED ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Global Americans is proud to publicly launch a new research initiative evaluating climate change and its global effects, with a particular focus on climate change in the Caribbean. This independent project will bring together critical U.S. and Caribbean actors to produce a series of working papers and reports covering the most pressing climate change issues. In addition to the reports, Global Americans will convene a series of public and private events, designed to provide policymakers with an opportunity to engage on climate change issues, as well as build a foundation for further cooperation among government officials, civil society actors, and the private sector. At the end of this project, Global Americans will offer specific recommendations for policymakers across the hemisphere.

The fight against climate change is at a critical inflection point, and only concerted and coordinated efforts can adequately address the growing scale of the problem. As new climate-related events inevitably arise, international cooperation will be vital for disaster recovery and resilience.

Therefore, as part of this project, Global Americans is excited to announce the formation of a High-Level Working Group, comprised of seasoned policymakers, scholars, government officials, and civil society representatives. The High-Level Working Group will serve as a forum for nonpartisan and transregional discussion, providing expert analysis on a series of research-intensive reports.

In the coming months, Global Americans will present findings to policymakers and civil society leaders across the hemisphere. The reports will also be featured on the Global Americans website and across other relevant Global Americans social media and multimedia channels.

Global Americans would like to thank the Open Society Foundations for their generous support of this project. A special thanks to all of our project contributors for their commitment and dedication to this initiative. We look forward to sharing more on this project in the months ahead.

**About Global Americans**

Global Americans is a modern-day take on the traditional think tank. Through our website, [www.theglobalamericans.org](http://www.theglobalamericans.org/), we provide up-to-date research and analysis on key issues affecting the countries of the Americas—democracy, human rights, social inclusion, and international relations. Our goal is to provide policymakers, academics, civil society leaders, and Western Hemisphere enthusiasts with the tools needed to promote change and build more prosperous Inter-American relations.

**Media Contact**

Jackson Mihm | e-mail: jmihm@theglobalamericans.org

**Global Americans’ High-Level Working Group on Climate Change in the Caribbean**

Ine Apapoe, Suriname

Verónica Arias, Ecuador

Dr. Anthony T. Bryan, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Samantha Chaitram, Trinidad and Tobago

\*\*Georges Fauriol, United States

Allison Fedirka, United States

Richard Feinberg, United States

Shiloh Fetzek, United States

Amb. Carlos C. Fuller, Belize

John Goedschalk, Suriname

\*\*Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Guyana

Rasheed Griffith, Barbados

Dr. Legena Henry, Trinidad and Tobago

Amb. Riyad Insanally, Guyana

\*\*Scott B. MacDonald, United States

\*Dame Billie Miller, Barbados

\*Luis Gilberto Murillo, Colombia

Dr. Claire Nelson, Jamaica

Dr. Justin Ram, Barbados

\*\*\*Ivan C. Rebolledo, United States

Alex Rosaria, Curaçao

Sir Ronald Sanders, Antigua and Barbuda

Dr. Kalim Shah, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Lorraine Sobers, Trinidad and Tobago

\*Tulio Vera, Chile

Bruce Zagaris, United States

\* Each of these members also serves on the Global Americans International Advisory Council.

\*\* Each of these members also serves as a Fellow for Global Americans.

\*\*\* Ivan C. Rebolledo serves as the Chair of the Global Americans Board of Directors.

**Verónica Arias**

Executive Director of the Coalition of Capital Cities of the Americas on Climate Change

(CC35) and Former Secretary of Environment of the Metropolitan District of Quito. Ms.

Arias was the Representative for Ecuador at The Nature Conservancy, and in 1997 she

founded the Environmental Law Center of Ecuador. She has a J.D. from the Catholic

University of Ecuador and an LL.M. in International Environmental Law from American

University, Washington, D.C. She has a diploma in leadership and political science from

the Instituto Líderes de Gobernar, IDE and a diploma from Harvard Bloomberg Cities

Leadership Program. She currently teaches at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito and

is considered an environmental leader, recognized among the 100 most influential Latin

American leaders globally on climate change issues in 2020, and elected among Ecuador’s

top ten women of 2020. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the

Renewables in Cities Global Status Report of REN21. Ms. Arias has dedicated her

professional career to environmental conservation and sustainable development in Ecuador

and internationally, with experience working in national and international organizations,

public and private sectors, civil society, and academia.

**Luis Gilberto Murillo**

Former Governor of the predominantly Afro-Colombian State of Choco and former

Presidential Advisor and Director for the Todos Somos PAZcifico Development Plan. Mr.

Murillo-Urrutia later served as Colombia’s Minister of Environment and Sustainable

Development. He has also served as a senior consultant for the U.S. Agency for

International Development (USAID) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization

(FAO), among others. Currently, he is a Martin Luther King Fellow at the MIT

Environmental Solutions Initiative. He is a well-known national political figure in

Colombia, with more than 30 years of experience in public policy design, implementation,

and advocacy; particularly, in the areas of sustainable regional development,

environmental protection, social inclusion, and peace building. In 2022, he announced his presidential candidacy and later joined the Centro Esperanza ticket as Sergio Fajardo’s running mate.

**Richard Feinberg**

Professor of international political economy at the School of Global Policy and Strategy,

University of California, San Diego. Mr. Feinberg has over four decades of engagement

with inter-American relations that spans government service (in the White House,

Department of State, and U.S. Treasury, plus a stint as a staffer in the U.S. Congress),

numerous Washington, D.C.-based public policy institutes (Brookings Institution, Council

on Foreign Relations, The Wilson Center’s Latin American Program, Peterson Institute for

International Economics, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), the Peace

Corps (Chile), and now academia. As the book reviewer for the Western Hemisphere

section of Foreign Affairs magazine, he has contributed more than 300 capsule reviews

over 15 years.

**Tulio Vera**

Former Managing Director and the Chief Investment Strategist for the J.P. Morgan (JPM)

Latin America Private Bank and served as part of the JPM Private Bank’s Global

Investment Committee. Previously, he was a Portfolio Manager in global emerging markets

(EM) at the hedge fund Millennium Management and was a Founder/Partner and Chief

Investment Strategist at Bladex Asset Management (BAM), a Latin American macro hedge

fund. For ten years, Mr. Vera was the Chief EM Macro Strategist for Merrill Lynch. He

also ran research teams at ABN-Amro and Bear Stearns, and he served as a financial officer

at the World Bank and a senior sovereign analyst at Moody’s. Mr. Vera sat on the board of

the North American-Chilean Chamber of Commerce (NACCC).