



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Venezuela: Economic Sanctions and Human Rights

Panel I



Jeffrey D. Sachs is a professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University. He has served as a senior UN advisor, and is a bestselling author and syndicated columnist whose monthly newspaper columns appear in media outlets in more than 100 countries. Professor Sachs' work on ending poverty, overcoming macroeconomic instability, promoting economic growth, fighting hunger and disease, and promoting sustainable environmental practices has taken him to more than 125 countries. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1978 and 1980 respectively.



Francisco Rodríguez is the Chief Economist at Torino Economics LLC. Prior to joining Torino, he was director and senior Andean economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BAML. Rodríguez has held numerous positions in academia and public policy. Between 2000 and 2004 he headed the Venezuelan Congressional Budget Office. Before joining BAML, Rodríguez was the head of research at the Human Development Report Office at the UN Development Program. He is the co-author of *Venezuela before Chávez* (Penn State University Press, 2012) He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.



Eric Schwartz became President of Refugees International in June 2017. Mr. Schwartz has had a three-decade career focused on humanitarian and human rights issues. Between 2009 and 2011, he served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration. As Assistant Secretary, he was credited with strengthening the State Department's humanitarian advocacy around the world, initiating and implementing critical enhancements to the U.S. refugee resettlement program and raising the profile of global migration issues in U.S. foreign policy. He holds a law degree from New York University School of Law and a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.



John Walsh is the Director for Drug Policy and the Andes at the Washington Office on Latin America. Mr. Walsh has testified before Congress and published extensively on the need to reassess drug policy goals, strategies, and indicators. His analyses have underscored the limits of supply-oriented drug policies and the extensive damage they cause. Mr. Walsh also follows broader political developments in the Andean region, with particular emphasis on Venezuela. He tracks democracy and human rights issues in the country and has helped establish WOLA as a leading voice advocating for reasoned, respectful U.S. hemispheric relations. He holds an M.A. in Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins University.

Moderator



Rhodie Margesson is a Specialist in International Humanitarian Policy in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). She conducts research and policy analysis on global humanitarian issues, disaster relief, displaced populations, migration, and some aspects of human rights. Rhodie has also served as an election observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union in Africa, the Balkans, and the Caucasus and travelled extensively. Previously, she was an Associate with the Program on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Harvard University and worked in the conflict resolution field on both domestic and international projects. She has also held research and teaching fellow positions at both the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Rhodie earned a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy and a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School.