COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ■ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at* gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ *OR* ■ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 2, 2024 Return: August 6, 2024
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ *OR* ■ None
4. Departure City: Chicago, IL Destination: Bogota, Colombia Return City: Chicago, IL
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center for Economic and Policy Research
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): See attached agenda.
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ■ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ■ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ■ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; ***and***
   d. ■ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ■ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: Jesús G García

Date: 08/16/2024

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ *Original* ☐ *Amendmen*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)
2. Travel Destination(s): Bogota, Colombia
3. Date of Departure: 8/2/2024 Date of Return: 8/6/2024
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Jesús García

   Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total **Transportation** Expenses	Total **Lodging** Expenses	Total **Meal** Expenses	Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	$2,548.00	$184.35	$106.11	Interpretation: $622.10 Photography: $39.22 Conference Rooms: $17.71
Accompanying Family Member				

6. ☒ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ **Date:** 8/12/2024

Name: Alexander Main **Title:** Director of International Policy

Organization: Center for Economic and Policy Research

☒ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

Address: 1611 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20009

Telephone: (202) 293-5380 **Email:** main@cepr.net

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center for Economic and Policy Research
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Bogotá, Colombia
4. a. Date of Departure: 08/02/2024 Date of Return: 08/06/2024

   b. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

   As a vocal advocate and key player in US-Latin American affairs, participation in this trip would strengthen ties to US partners in the region.
9. **Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ **Date:** _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   Center for Economic and Policy Research

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): See attached.

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 2, 2024 Date of Return: August 6, 2024
7. a. City of departure: Varies by participant
   b. Destination(s): Bogota, Colombia
   c. City of return: Varies by participant
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   See attached.

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☒ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☒ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☒ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☒ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): $90 per day
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: See attached.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Hilton Bogota City: Bogota Cost Per Night: $145
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Close to the city center and location of the Congress.
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$1400	$435	$270
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$1000	Interpretation, Photography
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: _____ Date: 7/29/2024

Name: Alexander Main Title: Director of International Policy

Organization: Center for Economic and Policy Research

Address: 1611 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20009

Email: main@cepr.net Telephone: (202) 293-5380

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

July 31, 2024

The Honorable Jesús G. "Chuy" García
U.S. House of Representatives
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Colombia,[1] scheduled for August 2 to 6, 2024, sponsored by Center for Economic and Policy Research.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently $480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

---

[1] Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at https://step.state.gov.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:kjf

Center for Economic and Policy Research
2024 Panamerican Congress
August 2, 2024 – August 6, 2024

Final Agenda

Friday, August 2 (Travel day + 3 hours)

7.00 am – 11.00 am, Departures
All delegates depart the US between 7:00 am and 11:00 am.

Rep. Casar

- Flight 1: 10.07am, IAH to PTY, CM1932
- Flight 2: 3.48pm, PTY to BOG, CM0411

Reps. García and Ramirez

- Flight 1: 7.56am, ORD to PTY, CM0236
- Flight 2: 3.48pm, PTY to BOG, CM0411

Renata Beca-Barragán

- Flight 1: 9.31am, IAD to PTY, CM0357
- Flight 2: 3.48pm, PTY to BOG, CM0411

5.30 pm, Arrivals
All delegates arrive in Bogota, Colombia via CM0411

6.30 pm – 7.30 pm, Briefing with CEPR (1 hour)
Hotel Tequendama

Delegates will meet with the CEPR team for a final pre-Congress briefing. Delegates will be briefed on the latest developments to the schedule, and discuss preparations for Congress activities and bilateral meetings.

8.00 pm – 10.00 pm, Welcome Meeting with Foreign and Culture Ministries (2 hours)
Casa de Nariño

Delegates will meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Gilberto Murillo, Minister of Culture Juan David Correa, and other representatives of the Colombian government, alongside other delegates to the Panamerican Congress. The meeting will allow Members to hear directly from the Petro administration on two years in office and the government's priorities during the remainder of his administration.

End of official activities

Saturday, August 3 (8 hours)

7.00 am – 8.00 am, Breakfast at the hotel

8.15 am, Leave the hotel

9.00 am – 11.00 am, Opening Session (2 hours)
Centro Nacional de las Artes Delia Zapata

- Opening Speech by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Luis Gilberto Murillo
- Country presentations
- Discussion

Foreign Affairs Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo will make introductory remarks regarding the Panamerican Congress and its themes, as well as the situation in Colombia. This session also provides an opportunity for all the delegations to present opening statements to the Panamerican Congress. During the discussion period, the delegates will have the opportunity to react to the other opening statements, as well as ask questions and respond to feedback from counterparts.

11.00 am – 11.30 am, Coffee break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm, Discussion #1: Democracy and Human Rights (2 hours)
Centro Nacional de las Artes Delia Zapata

- Country presentations
- Discussion

Over the past decade, democracy in the region has faced serious challenges including disinformation campaigns and efforts to overturn election results. In this session, country delegations will share experiences in such areas as countering disinformation and protecting democratic institutions. The goal is to share best practices for strong, resilient democratic governance in an era of deepening polarization, increasing authoritarianism, and high levels of distrust in democratic institutions.

In addition, this session will include space for discussion about advancing human rights, including the rights of women, indigenous and Afro-descendent communities and LGBTQI+ persons, and the social and economic rights of marginalized peoples.

1.30 pm – 3.30 pm, Lunch
Escuela Taller de Bogotá

3.30 pm – 5.30 pm, Discussion #2: Peace (2 hours)
Centro Nacional de las Artes Delia Zapata

- Country presentations
- Discussion

In this session delegations will discuss their priorities for addressing challenges that affect peace, security, and human rights in the region. The discussion will center around how to develop lasting and total peace in the hemisphere. Topics of discussion could include drug policy, risk of a new Cold War, and factors that contribute to migration.

6.00 pm – 8.00 pm, Bilateral meeting: Update on Petro's domestic and international agenda (2 hours)
Palacio de San Carlos

US delegates will meet with top cabinet ministers, including Economy/Finance Minister Ricardo Bonilla, Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo, and Trade Minister Luis Carlos Reyes, in order to learn more about the economic and foreign policy priorities of the Petro administration. The ministers may provide information on key government initiatives, including debt-for-climate swaps, a tax reform, and a labor reform. Other subjects may include bilateral cooperation with the US on counternarcotics, security and other issues, and relations with other countries in the region, such as Venezuela, Brazil, and Mexico.

End of official activities

Sunday, August 4 (6 hours)

7.00 am – 8.30 am, Breakfast at the hotel

8.30 am, Leave the hotel

9.00 am – 11.00 am, Discussion #3: Climate (2 hours)
Centro Nacional de las Artes Delia Zapata

- Country presentations
- Discussion

Since January 2024, more than 10,000 wildfires have burned through the Amazon. Climate scientists warn that record-high temperatures and extreme drought caused by climate change threaten to turn the Amazon rainforest into a savannah by 2050. The coming decades could see the displacement of millions of climate refugees. This session aims to share initiatives that countries and broad-based movements are undertaking to address climate change, such as the development of the Amazon Fund and the promotion of sustainable development policies.

11.00 am – 11.30 am, Coffee break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm, Planning the future of the Panamerican Congress (2 hours)
Centro Nacional de las Artes Delia Zapata

> In this session, delegates will discuss the future of the Panamerican Congress and how, in the interim, to keep the conversation going regarding issues of common concern and interest that emerged during the preceding sessions. Conversation will be limited to high-level discussions and feedback on the experience of the Congress.

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Lunch
Escuela Taller de Bogotá

3.30 pm – 5.30 pm, Bilateral Meeting: An Update on Colombia's "Total Peace" Effort (2 hours)
US Institute for Peace (Business casual or business attire)

> US delegates will meet with senior negotiators and experts involved in multiple peace efforts that aim to bring to an end all the internal armed conflicts in Colombia. The meeting will help delegates gain a better understanding of the current challenges and obstacles to achieving "total peace." They will also have the opportunity to hear more about the ongoing, complex implementation of the historic 2016 Peace Agreement with the FARC insurgency.

End of official activities

Monday, August 5 (Travel day + 3 hours)

7.30 am, Leave hotel

8.00 am - 9.30 am, Briefing with the US Embassy in Bogota, Light breakfast served (1.5 hours)
Residence of the US Charge d'Affaires in Bogota

> US delegates will meet with the US Charge d'Affaires Francisco "Paco" Palmieri and his team to be briefed about recent developments in the US-Colombia bilateral relationship. Colombia receives more US assistance than any other country in the Western Hemisphere. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about US programs in Colombia and the perspective of the US embassy on the current situation in the country. A light breakfast will be served.

10.00 am – 11.30 am, Press Conference (1.5 hours)
Hotel Tequendama, Salon Holísticos, Third Floor

US delegates will meet with Colombian members of Congress and labor leaders to discuss achievements and enduring challenges for organized labor and the Petro government's labor reforms.

End of official activities

1.30 pm, Departures
Delegates depart Bogota. Rep. Casar remains until August 6.

Reps. García and Ramirez

- Flight 1: 2.46pm, BOG to PTY, CM0244
- Flight 2: 6.45pm, PTY to ORD, CM0235

Renata Beca-Barragán

- Flight 1: 2.46pm, BOG to PTY, CM0244
- Flight 2: 6.40pm, PTY to IAD, CM0448

Tuesday, August 6 (Travel day)

Rep. Casar departs Bogota. All delegates arrive in the United States.

Rep. Casar
Note: Rep. Casar departs on August 6. The additional time is at his own expense.

- Flight 1: 2:10pm, BOG to MIA, AA916
- Flight 2: 9.28pm, MIA to AUS, AA1947

Arrivals
Reps. García and Ramirez arrive Chicago, 12:15 am
Renata Beca-Barragán arrives Washington, 12:31 am
Rep. Casar arrives Austin, 11:40 pm

Response to Question 12
The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) was established in 1999 to promote democratic debate on the most important economic and social issues that affect people's lives. In order for citizens to effectively exercise their voices in a democracy, they should be informed about the problems and choices that they face. CEPR is committed to presenting economic and foreign policy issues in an accurate and understandable manner, so that the public is better prepared to choose among the various policy options. Toward this end, CEPR conducts both professional research and public education.

The Congressional trip to Bogota, to participate in the Pan American Parliamentary Congress, fulfills this mission by providing members of the US Congress with an overview of, and a variety of perspectives on, the challenges that Latin American countries face in the areas of democracy and human rights, peace and climate. CEPR is the trip's sole organizer and sponsor.

Response to Question 15 b. (2)
CEPR determined that the Pan American Congress should be held outside of the United States given the goal for US Members to listen and learn from their parliamentary counterparts. Bogotá was selected as the concluding site of CEPR's August 2023 delegation and a convenient location for participants traveling from across the Americas. Subsequently, CEPR engaged with a range of local stakeholders and found there to be interest in participation in the Congress.

Invited House Members and Staff (Did Not Participate)

Representative Jonathan Jackson – As a legislator focused on Afro-descendent issues in Latin America; to strengthen his ties to key US partners in the region; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Summer Lee – As a freshman member of Congress with an emerging interest in US-Latin American relations; to facilitate education about the history of the region and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Jamaal Bowman – As a champion of working class families in the US and abroad; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Hank Johnson – As a legislator focused on Afro-descendent issues in Latin America; to strengthen his ties to key US partners in the region; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Maxwell Alejandro Frost – As a key legislator focused on Afro-latino diaspora issues in Congress; to provide education about the history of the region and its relationship to the United States; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Susan Wild – As a long-time champion of working class families in the US and abroad; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Participating House Members and Staff

Representative Jesus "Chuy" Garcia – As a veteran of US-Latin American affairs in the House of Representatives; to strengthen his ties to key US partners in the region; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Greg Casar – As a key legislator focused on US-Latin American policy in Congress; to provide education about the history of the region and its relationship to the United States; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Delia Ramirez – As a prominent voice of Latin American diaspora communities in the House of Representatives; to strengthen ties with key US partners regarding shared initiatives in the hemisphere; to support further learning regarding Latin American policy priorities.

Renata Beca Barragán – As the Legislative Director of Representative Nydiá Velazquez, a veteran of US-Latin American affairs and former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; to help maintain communication and relationships with key partners upon return to the United States.

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

April 22, 2024
Dear Representative Garcia,

The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) cordially invites you to join a high-level Congressional delegation (NODEL) that will participate in the inaugural PanAmerican Parliamentary Congress in Bogotá, Colombia from August 2 – 5, 2024.

Co-convened by the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, a consortium of regional universities across Colombia, and CEPR, the Congress will bring together leaders from across the hemisphere for three days of discussions and debate in the country's capital of Bogotá.

The purpose of the Congress is to address the major challenges facing the western hemisphere, which require international cooperation and a robust platform to facilitate communication, deliberation and the implementation of common initiatives amongst political leaders throughout the Americas.

The 2024 Bogotá Congress intends to alleviate the challenge of intercontinental coordination by bringing together representatives from North, Central and South America to discuss three critical areas of hemispheric cooperation: democracy, peace and the climate crisis. The Congress will provide a space for delegates to address shared priorities and advance shared aims in the fight for justice, democracy and total peace throughout the Americas.

The 2024 Bogotá Congress will bring together regional leaders for the first time to forge lasting ties of trust and collaboration, establishing a precedent that allows for continuity and sustainability of intercontinental political relations.

CEPR is an independent think tank based in Washington, DC that specializes in economic and foreign policy issues. On behalf of CEPR, I want to express our keen interest in your participation in the delegation. We would be honored to have you be a part of this historic delegation.

The delegation complies fully with the ethics rules enacted by Congress regarding privately sponsored travel. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write to me at main@cepr.net.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon,

Alex Main
Director of International Policy
Center for Economic and Policy Research
1611 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 293-5380 | info@cepr.net

Center for Economic and Policy Research
2024 Pan American Parliamentary Congress
August 2, 2024 – August 5, 2024

Invited House Members and House Staff

Representative Jesus "Chuy" Garcia – As a veteran of US-Latin American affairs in the House of Representatives; to strengthen his ties to key US partners in the region; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Greg Casar – As a key legislator focused on US-Latin American policy in Congress; to provide education about the history of the region and its relationship to the United States; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Delia Ramirez – As a prominent voice of Latin American diaspora communities in the House of Representatives; to strengthen ties with key US partners regarding shared initiatives in the hemisphere; to support further learning regarding Latin American policy priorities.

Representative Summer Lee – As a freshman member of Congress with an emerging interest in US-Latin American relations; to facilitate education about the history of the region and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Susan Wild – As a long-time champion of working class families in the US and abroad; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Hank Johnson – As a legislator focused on Afro-descendent issues in Latin America; to strengthen his ties to key US partners in the region; to support greater learning and stronger engagement on shared initiatives in the region; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Representative Maxwell Alejandro Frost – As a key legislator focused on Afro-latino diaspora issues in Congress; to provide education about the history of the region and its relationship to the United States; and to make introductions to relevant US partners in areas such as climate, peace, and democracy.

Renata Beca Barragán – As the Legislative Director of Representative Nydiá Velazquez, a veteran of US-Latin American affairs and former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; to help maintain communication and relationships with key partners upon return to the United States.

Center for Economic and Policy Research
2024 Pan American Parliamentary Congress
August 2, 2024 – August 5, 2024

Preliminary Agenda

Friday, August 2

5.00 am – 12.00 pm, Departures
All delegates depart the US between 5:00 am and 12:00 pm.

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm, Arrivals
All delegates arrive in Bogota, Colombia.

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm, In Country Briefing with the US Embassy in Bogota
U.S. Embassy in Bogota

> Delegates will meet with the US Charge d'Affaires Francisco "Paco" Palmieri and his team to be briefed about recent developments in the US-Colombia bilateral relationship. Colombia receives more US assistance than any other country in the Western Hemisphere. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about US programs in Colombia and the perspective of the US embassy on the current situation in the country.

8.00 pm – 10.00 pm, Dinner with President Gustavo Petro
Restaurant TBD

> Colombian President Gustavo Petro will host a dinner with all the attending delegations. The dinner will allow Members to hear directly from President Petro about his first two years in office and the government's policy priorities during the remainder of his administration. His domestic agenda has included a series of legislative reforms, including tax and pension reforms, and the pursuit of "Total Peace" negotiations with all of the country's remaining irregular armed groups. On the international front Petro has called for regional and global action, including greater Latin American integration, a commitment to zero deforestation in the Amazon by 2030, a global Marshall Plan to address climate change, and the phasing out of fossil fuel extraction. Members will have the opportunity to converse with President Petro over dinner and learn more about his priorities and challenges during his time in office.

Saturday, August 3

7.00 am – 8.00 am, Breakfast at the hotel

8.15 am, Leave the hotel

9.00 am – 11.00 am, Opening Session
Colombia National Congress

- Keynote Speech by President Petro
- Country presentations
- Discussion

President Petro will make introductory remarks regarding the Pan American Parliamentary Congress and its themes, as well as the situation in Colombia. This session also provides an opportunity for all the delegations to present opening statements to the Pan American Parliamentary Congress. During the discussion period, the delegates will have the opportunity to react to the other opening statements, as well as ask questions and respond to feedback from counterparts.

11.00 am – 11.30 am, Coffee break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm, Discussion #1: Democracy and Human Rights
Colombia National Congress

- Country presentations
- Discussion

Over the past decade, democracy in the region has faced serious challenges including disinformation campaigns and efforts to overturn election results. In this session, country delegations will share experiences in such areas as countering disinformation and protecting democratic institutions. The goal is to share best practices for strong, resilient democratic governance in an era of deepening polarization, increasing authoritarianism, and high levels of distrust in democratic institutions.

In addition, this session will include space for discussion about advancing human rights, including the rights of women, indigenous and Afro-descendent communities and LGBTQI+ persons, and the social and economic rights of marginalized peoples.

1.30 pm – 3.30 pm, Lunch

3.30 pm – 5.30 pm, Discussion #2: Peace
Colombia National Congress

- Country presentations
- Discussion

In this session delegations will discuss their priorities for rethinking policies and addressing challenges that affect peace, security, and human rights in the region. The discussion will center around how to develop lasting and total peace in the hemisphere. Topics of discussion could include drug policy, risk of a new Cold War, and factors that contribute to migration.

5.30 pm, Transportation back to hotel

6.00 pm – 7.45 pm, Bilateral meetings
Hilton Bogota

Members of Congress will be able to meet and engage with counterparts attending the Pan American Parliamentary Congress on a bilateral basis. This is an important opportunity for members to put forward their priorities, share experiences, exchange best practices, and learn about the state of affairs in other countries in the hemisphere relating to the Pan American Parliamentary Congress' main themes.

7.45 pm, Transportation to dinner

8.00 pm – 10.00 pm, Dinner with Vice President Francia Márquez Mina
Restaurant TBD

Members will have the opportunity to have dinner with Francia Márquez Mina to learn about Indigenous and Afro-Colombian involvement in the ongoing peace processes, the defense of ancestral lands, food sovereignty, and her recent calls for climate action, including proposals for debt swaps and reforms to international financial institutions. Before becoming Colombia's first Afro-Colombian Vice President, Márquez led a black, feminist political movement called *Soy Porque Somos* (I Am Because We Are).

Sunday, August 4

7.00 am – 8.30 am, Breakfast at the hotel

8.45 am, Leave the hotel

9.00 am – 11.00 am, Discussion #3: Climate
Colombia National Congress

- Country presentations
- Discussion

Since January 2024, more than 10,000 wildfires have burned through the Amazon. Climate scientists warn that record-high temperatures and extreme drought caused by climate change threaten to turn the Amazon rainforest into a savannah by 2050. The coming decades could see millions of climate refugees being displaced. This session aims to share initiatives that countries and broad-based movements are undertaking to address climate change, such as the development of the Amazon Fund and the promotion of green development policies.

11.00 am – 11.30 am, Coffee break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm, Planning the future of the Pan American Parliamentary Congress
Colombia National Congress

> In this session delegates will discuss the future of the Pan American Parliamentary Congress and how, in the interim, to keep the conversation going regarding issues of common concern and interest that emerged during the preceding sessions.

1.30 pm – 2.30 pm, Lunch

2.30 pm, Transportation back to hotel

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Bilateral Meetings
Hilton Bogota

Members of Congress will be able to meet and engage with counterparts attending the Pan American Parliamentary Congress on a bilateral basis. This is an important opportunity for members to put forward their priorities, share experiences, exchange best practices, and learn about the state of affairs in other countries in the hemisphere relating to the Pan American Parliamentary Congress' themes.

5.30 pm, Transportation to cultural activity

6.00 pm – 7.30 pm, Cultural activity at the Delia Zapata Theatre in Bogotá

7.30 pm, Transportation to dinner

8.00 pm – 10.00 pm, Closing Dinner
Restaurant TBD

Monday, August 4

7.00 am – 8.30 am, Breakfast at the hotel

8.45 am, Leave the hotel

9.00 am – 11.00 am, Preparation for the Pan American Parliamentary Congress' Declaration
Colombia National Congress

> The Declaration of Bogotá will be a summary of the outcomes of the participants' discussions and the shared principles. This Declaration will be finalized during the Pan American Parliamentary Congress and released to the public in a following press conference.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm, Press Conference
Colombia National Congress

Delegates will attend a press conference in which the Declaration of Bogotá will be shared with the media. They will answer questions about the themes and shared principles discussed during the Pan American Parliamentary Congress.

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm, Lunch

1.30, Departures
All delegates depart Bogota between 1:30 pm and 5:00 pm.

Arrivals
All delegates arrive in the US between 9:00 pm and 11:30 pm.

2024 Pan American Parliamentary Congress Participants (Non-US Delegates)

Mr. Gustavo Petro - President of Colombia
Ms. Francia Márquez Mina - Vice President of Colombia
Mr. Luis Gilberto Murillo - Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. David Racero - Member of the Colombian House of Representatives, Colombia Humana
Ms. Maria Jose Pizarro - Member of the Colombian Senate, Colombia Humana
Mr. Andres Calle - Member of the Colombian House of Representatives, Liberal Party
Ms. Dorina Hernandez - Member of the Colombian House of Representatives, *Soy Porque Somos* (I Am Because We Are Party)
Mr. Gonzalo Winter - Member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, Broad Front
Ms. Daniella Cicardini - Member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, Socialist Party
Mr. Vlado Mirosevic - Member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, Liberal Party
Ms. Carolina Marzan - Member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, Party for Democracy
Ms. Ericka Ñanco - Member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, Broad Front
Ms. Erika Hilton - Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, Socialism and Liberty Party
Mr. Orlando Silva - Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, Communist Party of Brazil
Mr. Henrique Vieira - Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, Socialism and Liberty Party
Mr. Samuel Perez - Member of the Guatemalan Congress, Semilla
Ms. Sonia Gutierrez - Member of the Guatemalan Congress, Winaq
Ms. Andrea Reyes - Member of the Guatemalan Congress, Semilla
Ms. Andrea Villagran - Member of the Guatemalan Congress, Semilla
Mr. Luis Redondo - President of the Honduran National Congress, Salvador Party
Mr. Rafael Sarmiento - Member of the Honduran National Congress, Liberty and Refoundation Party (LIBRE)

Ms. Scherly Arriaga - Member of the Honduran National Congress, LIBRE
Mr. Hugo Noe Pino - Member of the Honduran National Congress, LIBRE
Ms. Leah Gazan - Member of the Canadian House of Commons, New Democratic Party (NDP)
Mr. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith - Member of the Canadian House of Commons, NDP
Ms. Celeste Ascencio - Member of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, National Regeneration Movement (MORENA Party)
Mr. Vidal Llerenas - Member of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, MORENA
Ms. Citlalli Hernandez - Member of the Mexican Senate, MORENA
Mr. Waldo Fernandez - Member-elect of the Mexican Senate, MORENA
Ms. Beatriz Mojica - Member-elect of the Mexican Senate, MORENA

12. The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) was established in 1999 to promote democratic debate on the most important economic and social issues that affect people's lives. In order for citizens to effectively exercise their voices in a democracy, they should be informed about the problems and choices that they face. CEPR is committed to presenting economic and foreign policy issues in an accurate and understandable manner, so that the public is better prepared to choose among the various policy options. Toward this end, CEPR conducts both professional research and public education.

The Pan American Parliamentary Congress fulfills this mission by providing members of the US Congress with an overview of the challenges that Latin American countries face in the areas of democracy and human rights, peace and climate. The Congress provides a space for country delegations to share experiences and perspectives related to common policy issues.

The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) is a co-sponsor of the Pan American Parliamentary Congress and is responsible for the organization and logistics of the US delegation. Organizational tasks include (i) selecting delegates from the US House of Representatives to join the Pan American Parliamentary Congress (ii) briefing US House of Representatives and providing them with background materials, (iii) and coordinating bi-lateral meetings for US Members of Congress and country delegations during the Pan American Parliamentary Congress. Logistics refers to contracting local transportation, photography, interpretation, and coordinating the panel sessions of the Pan American Parliamentary Congress.