COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☐ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. 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: Naomi Meria Lake
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 3/31/2024 Return: 4/4/2024
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Panama Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Met with Panamanian government officials, representatives of UN Agencies, NGOs, a journalist, and refugees. In these meetings, we discussed migration through Panama, Panama's response to the humanitarian crisis and its migration management, and what the US can do to better support the response.
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 employee; ***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 on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: _____ **Date:** 4/17/2024

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: JESÚS G "CHUY" GARCÍA **Date:** 4/17/2024

Signature of Supervising Member: _____ 4-17-24

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☐ *Original* ■ *Amendment*

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 Democracy in the Americas
2. Travel Destination(s): Panama City and Darien Province, Panama
3. Date of Departure: March 31, 2024 Date of Return: April 4, 2024
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Naomi Lake

   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	1,677.41	702.79	318.51	133.95
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: F. Vigaud-Walsh **Date:** 12/23/2024

Name: Francisca Vigaud-Walsh **Title:** Director, Advocacy

Organization: Center for Democracy in the Americas

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

Address: 700 K St NW, 3rd floor, Washington, DC 20001

Telephone: 202-914-9381 **Email:** francisca@democracyinamericas

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

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Naomi Meria Lake

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

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

Signature: _____

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Office Address: 1519 Longworth HOB

Telephone Number: (202) 225-8203

Email Address of Contact Person: naomi.lake@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

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

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Naomi Meria Lake
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Panama
4. a. Date of Departure: Sunday, March 31, 2024 Date of Return: Thursday, April 4, 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.**

   - Participation in the trip is directly connected to my responsibilities as a Legislative Director and foreign policy staffer. I am actively engaged in matters pertaining to U.S. immigration policy, access to asylum in the United States, and border security. Meeting with U.S. diplomats in Panama and Panamanian government officials, which will be an opportunity to examine regional migration patterns in the Western Hemisphere, will better inform my work to support my constituents and address issues in my district.
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:** 3/22/2024

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 Democracy in the Americas

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): Please see Annex 1

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Sunday, March 31, 2024 Date of Return: Thursday, April 4, 2024
7. a. City of departure: Chicago and Washington, D.C.
   b. Destination(s): Panama City. Panama; Darien Province, Panama
   c. City of return: Chicago and Washington, D.C.
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 Annex 2

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify: Helicopter)
   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): $99.00 /day.
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: See Annex 2

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name:	City:	Cost Per Night:
Bristol Panama	Panama City	$208.33

Reason(s) for Selecting: centrally located; close to meetings

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	$1,000.00 (average)	$833.32	$396.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a

	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	$150.00	Interpretation
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a

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: F. Vigaud-Walsh Date: 3/22/2024

Name: Francisca Vigaud-Walsh Title: Director, Advocacy

Organization: Center for Democracy in the Americas

Address: 700 K St NW, 3rd floor, Washington, DC 20001

Email: francisca@democracyinamericas.org Telephone: 202-779-6781

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

March 28, 2024

Ms. Naomi Lake
Office of the Honorable Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Lake:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Panama,[1] scheduled for March 31 to April 4, 2024, sponsored by Center for Democracy in the Americas. We note that the government of Panama will be providing in-country transportation.

Committee travel regulations require that you submit your complete pre-trip approval request to the Committee at least 30 days before the commencement of the trip or it will not be granted. Despite your failure to do so in this instance, we are approving your current request. However, any future requests must adhere to the 30-day requirement or they will be denied.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, 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 employees 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

[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.

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. Travel provided by a foreign government under the FGDA must also be disclosed on the same form within 30 days after you return from your travel.

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:amr

Addendum: House Invitees

Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
Representative Espaillat is invited to the delegation because of his activities as Deputy Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which deals with matters that deeply affect the Hispanic community in the United States, including U.S. immigration policy. He is an original co-sponsor of the bipartisan "Dignity Act" that addresses border security and infrastructure, creates legal status for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and establishes new pathways for asylum seekers, among other measures. Additionally, he serves as a member of the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations and is a ranking member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on the Committee.

Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37)
Representative Kamlager-Dove is invited to the delegation due to her membership on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in addition to the Central America Caucus, Congressional Caribbean Caucus, and the Congressional Haiti Caucus – all caucuses that contend with the issues that drive displacement from the Caribbean to the United States through Panama.

Representative Delia C. Ramirez (IL-03)
Representative Ramirez is invited to the delegation since she is a key player on border affairs as the Vice-Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security. She is working on comprehensive immigration reform and pathways to citizenship for Dreamers. She is also a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Ellen Ray
Chief of Staff, Congresswoman Delia Ramir Espaillat (IL-03)
Ms. Ray is invited to the delegation due to her role in support of Representative Ramirez and her activities as Vice-Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, among others that directly relate to U.S. immigration. In August 2023, Ellen began serving as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Congresswoman Delia Ramirez. Ellen Ray also worked in Chicago as a community organizer and nonprofit leader for two decades. Ms. Ray serves an important role in policymaking as it relates to immigration.

Arpi Karapetyan
Senior Legislative Assistant, Congressman Greg Casar (TX-35).
Ms. Karapetyan is invited as she advises the Congressman on foreign policy and immigration. Ms. Arpi is currently working on legislation to address the root causes of mass forced migration, including U.S. trade, sanctions, and aid policy. She previously worked for Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García and for the Progressive Caucus.

Naomi Lake
Legislative Director , Congressman Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-04).
Ms. Lake is invited given her role as the Congressman’s staffer on foreign affairs. She has helped advise the Congressman on strategy and positions on issues related to the root causes of migration since early 2019. As his Legislative Director, she works closely with the legislative team to develop and implement intersectional approaches to immigration, foreign policy, international economic policy, U.S. gun and drug policies, and much more.

Annex 2

Question #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*

CDA is a nonprofit institution that seeks to educate policymakers on U.S. migration policy towards the Americas and protection challenges people on the move face. We organize fact-finding trips to give participants first-hand experience with the migration phenomenon. CDA is responsible for all aspects of the trip, including participants selection and organizing the agenda.

Question #15: *Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip*

Panama, and in particular the Darien Province, is the bottleneck of migration in the Americas – the point through which people travel to move northward to the United States. Visiting Panama is critical to understanding the migratory phenomenon, where a record breaking 520,000 migrants, of whom 113,000 were children, crossed by the close of calendar year 2023. Figures recorded thus far in 2024 are already exceeding those for the same time period in early 2023.

Panama Fact-Finding Final Agenda
April 1- 4, 2024

CONFIDENTIAL

Sunday, March 31

9:25am	Arpi Karapetyan and Naomi Lake departed IAD
10:45am	Representative Ramirez and Ellen Ray departed ORD
1:28pm	Arpi Karapetyan and Naomi Lake arrived PTY
6:37pm	Representative Ramirez and Ellen Ray arrived PTY
7:30pm	Transferred to Hotel Bristol for check-in and personal time

Monday, April 01

9:00 – 10:30am	**Trip Briefing with CDA Team** *Maria José Espinosa and Francisca Vigaud-Walsh gave an overview of US-Panama bilateral relations as it relates to regional migration; recent developments in regional migration more broadly; and discussed the trip itinerary and objectives.* Location: Bristol Hotel, private salon on 5th floor
10:30 – 10:50am	Transferred to meeting
10:50-11:00	Brief meet and greet with U.S. Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte Location: MFA, Palacio Bolivar, C. 3a Este, Panama City. (Salón Los Próceres
11:00 – 12:30pm	**Meeting with Panamanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Janaina Tewaney Mencomo** *The delegation met with Panama's Foreign Ministry to discuss US- Panama bilateral relations; Panama's foreign affairs of interest to U.S. policymakers, including Panama's role on regional migration; and the state of bilateral cooperation with the U.S. on issues of mutual interest.* Location: MFA, Palacio Bolivar, C. 3a Este, Panama City. (Salón Los Próceres)

12:30 – 1:00pm	Transferred to U.S. Embassy for working lunch
1:00 – 3:00pm	Lunch **Meeting with U.S. Embassy** *In this meeting, the group met with U.S. Ambassador Aponte and a group of U.S. diplomats, who discussed recent developments in U.S.-Panama bilateral relations as it relates to regional migration.* Location: U.S. Embassy Building 783, Demetrio Basilio Lakas Avenue. Clayton
3:30-4:30pm	**Donor roundtable with U.S. Refugee Coordinator (PRM), Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).** *The delegation met with main donors working on the ground, and learned about humanitarian need and protection mechanisms for refugees and migrants in the country, and the current challenges arising from the increasing number of people arriving in and through Panama.* Location: U.S. Embassy in Panama City. Building 783, Demetrio Basilio Lakas Avenue. Clayton, Panama City
4:30 – 6:15pm	Transferred to Hotel Bristol and Executive Time
6:15 – 7:00pm	**Meeting with Doctors without Borders (MSF) Panama Country Representative Cristina Zugasti.** The delegation learned about new challenges affecting the organization's ability to operate and provide critical lifesaving services in the Darien. Location: Hotel Bristol, private salon on 5th floor
7:00 – 9:00pm	**Dinner Meeting with representatives of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) operational in the Darién Province: the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS); the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); Doctors without Borders (MSF); and the Red Cross.** *The delegation met with INGOs working with migrants and asylum seekers in Panama and migrants themselves. This conversation gave the delegation an overview of the current services offered for migrants and protection mechanisms in place, and introduced the delegation to some challenges and opportunities for national and regional humanitarian coordination efforts.* Location: Hotel Bristol, private salon on 5th floor

CONFIDENTIAL

Tuesday, April 2

Due to the length of time it would have taken the delegation to arrive in the Darien by road, especially considering road conditions, CDA made last minute arrangements to charter a private flight to take the delegation to and from the Darien

7:15am	Departed Hotel for Albrook Airport
8:30am	Departed Panama City for Nicanor, Metetí, Darien Province
9:30am	Arrived at Major Salvador Córdoba Airbase, Nicanor, Darién Province
9:30–9:40am	Departed for San Vicente ETRM
9:40 – 0:15am	**Visited San Vicente ETRM** (Temporary Migrant Reception Center) *Delegation participants toured the San Vicente ETRM, learning about the Government of Panama's and humanitarian agencies' services that are provide to migrants there.*
10:15–10:50am	Transferred to Lajas Blancas ETRM
10:50am–12:30pm	**Visited Lajas Blancas ETRM (Temporary Migrant Reception Center)** *Delegation participants toured the migrant reception facility, and walked down to the river where migrants and refugees were arriving, coming out of the Darien jungle. They dialogued with refugees and migrants about their journey, and authorities and humanitarian organizations providing services. They were able to learn about the center's operations and challenges. The visit gave them firsthand insight into understanding the protection and migration challenges faced by Panama.* Location: Lajas Blancas, Darién Province
12:30–1pm	Transferred to SENAFRONT Primera Brigada Oriental office
1:00–2:20pm	**Lunch, Briefing, Q&A with National Migration Service (SNM) and SENAFRONT (National Border Service) officials** *Delegation participants were given a presentation that was an overview of SNM and SENAFRONT operations in the Darién Province, current migratory routes, and recent trends in regional migration. Delegation participants asked questions of how authorities register migrants arriving in the country, what biometric data they take, how and when they decide to remove/deport migrants, howthey coordinate with asylum authorities to access international protection in Panama, and how they facilitate onward travel to Costa Rica.* Location: SENAFRONT Primera Brigada Oriental office
2:20 – 2:30pm	Transferred to Major Salvador Córdoba Airbase, Nicanor, Darién Province
2:30pm	Departed Nicanor for Panama City
3:30pm	Arrived in Panama City, transferred to hotel

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5:30–6:30pm	**Meeting with Santina Bacal**, executive producer and lead anchor of the news television program Radar; political analyst on the radio program Infoanálisis; syndicated columnist and senior editor at La Prensa; and member of Panama´s CONAREX, an entity that provides advice and counsel to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on international policy matters (2014-2019). *Delegation participants learned about the various presidential candidates and their positions on migration and regional cooperation on migration.* Location: Bristol Hotel Bar
6:30pm	Executive Evening and Dinner time

<u>Wednesday, April 3</u>

8:45 – 9:30am	**Morning Briefing with CDA team.** *In this meeting, the delegation debriefed on the previous day's activities and discussed the day's agenda,* Location: Bristol Hotel, 5th floor Salon
9:30 – 10:00am	Transferred to meeting
10:00 – 11:00am	**Meeting with UNICEF Representative Sandie Blanchet** *The delegation met with UNICEF representatives to discuss their programming portfolios, reach, and gaps in services. This meeting helped participants learn about the humanitarian and protection needs of children.* Location: Calle Alberto Tejada, Ed. 102, Ciudad del Saber
11:00– 11:15am	Transferred to Lunch
11:15 – 12:15pm	**Lunch** Location: La Plaza, C. Alberto Tejada 300, Ciudad del Saber
12:15 - 12:30pm	Transferred to Meeting
12:30 - 1:15pm	**Meeting with R4V Coordinators** *In this meeting, the delegation gained deeper insights into current trends around human rights and migration, existing protection gaps, and the legal rights and opportunities available for migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in Panama.* Location: Calle Luis Bonilla, Ed. 115, Ciudad del Saber
1:15 – 2:00pm	Transfer to Meeting
2:00 – 3:00pm	**Meeting with the Minister of Government Roger Tejada and the National Office for the Attention of Refugees (ONPAR) Director Lorenzo Hincapie** *The delegation met with officials from ONPAR and learned about Panama's asylum system.*

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Location: San Felipe, Ave. Central, entre Calle 2nda y 3ra

3:00 –3:30pm Transferred to Meeting

3:30– 5:00pm **Meeting with UN Resident Coordinator Ana Patricia Graça; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)** *The delegation learned about the UN system's efforts to support the Panamanian government in managing migration flows, and how partners in the region, especially a destination country such as the U.S. should contribute. The delegation also met with officials from UNHCR and the IOM to learn more about the protection of asylum seekers and refugees in the region, as well as the legal rights and opportunities for migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in Panama. This meeting also informed participants on the process of implementation of the L.A. Declaration on Migration and Protection, as well as potential opportunities for countries to engage in alternative pathways.*

Location: Edificio 102 de Ciudad del Saber (Edificio de UNICEF), Salón de reuniones del Piso 4.

5:00 – 7:15pm Transferred to Hotel Bristol, Executive Time

7:15–7:30pm Transfer to Restaurant

7:30 - 9:45pm **Closing Debrief Group Diner at Hotel La Compañia**. The group debriefed on the trip, discussed the meetings, lessons learned, and possible action items going forward.

Location: Av. A Calle 8

9:45pm Returned to hotel; prepared for early morning departure.

<u>Thursday, April 4</u> *(departure times from hotel are estimated)*

6:00am Representative Ramirez and Ellen Ray transferred to airport

6:30am Arpi Karapetyan and Naomi Lake transferred to airport

9:19am Arpi Karapetyan and Naomi Lake departed PTY

10:00am Representative Ramirez and Ellen Ray departed PTY

3:10pm Arpi Karapetyan and Naomi Lake arrived IAD

7:07pm Representative Ramirez and Ellen Ray arrived ORD

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COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

FORM FOR DISCLOSING GIFTS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PURSUANT TO 5 U.S.C. § 7342 (FGDA)

1. **NAME OF RECIPIENT:** Naomi Meria Lake

2. **POSITION OF RECIPIENT:** Legislative Director

3. **NAME AND POSITION OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM** (if different from recipient):

   Name: _____ Position: _____

4. **DONOR GOVERNMENT OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION** (use a separate form for each government or organization):

   The Government of Panama

5. **NAME AND POSITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO PRESENTED THE GIFT, AWARD, OR TRAVEL:**

   Name: María Isabel Saravia Position: deputy Director General, National Migration Service, Panama

6. **WHAT WAS RECEIVED** (check and complete appropriate subsection or subsections)

   a. ☐ **Tangible gifts, decorations, or awards** of more than minimal value (describe):
   Note: *For the years 2023-2025, "minimal value" is defined as $480.*

   Estimated value in U.S. at time of acceptance: _____

   Disposition or current location: _____

   Note: *If you wish to retain an item of more than minimal value for official use, you must separately write to the Committee with that request.*

   b. ■ **Travel or travel expenses paid for or provided directly by the foreign government or international organization, *regardless of value*** (including transportation, food, lodging, and entertainment) (describe):

   A van was provided to transport us from the SENAN airbase at Nicanor, Darien to the Migrant Reception Centers of San Vicente and Lajas Blancas, and then to the SENAFRONT office, where we had a small lunch, also courtesy of the authorities, and then back to the SENAN airbase.

c. ☐ **Travel or travel expenses for which you were reimbursed** by the foreign government or international organization, ***regardless of value*** (including transportation, food, lodging, and entertainment) (describe):

_____

_____

_____

7. CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH GIFTS OR TRAVEL WERE ACCEPTED
(*e.g.*, that refusal of tangible gift would cause donor embarrassment or travel was consistent with interests of the U.S.):

Migration authorities provided us transport and accompanied us to the reception centers to ensure our smooth arrival and security.

_____

_____

8. DATE(S) OF ACCEPTANCE (for travel, give inclusive dates travel occurred):

April 2, 2024

Signature: _____

Office Address: 1519 Longworth HOB

Date: 4/17/2024

This form may be submitted to 1015 Longworth House Office Building or EthicsCommittee@mail.house.gov.