

U.S.-Mexico Forum 2025

MAY 12-14, 2025 | LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

The U.S.-Mexico Forum aims to strengthen cooperation between both countries and across North America by identifying key challenges in their complex, asymmetric relationship and proposing constructive solutions. It also highlights opportunities for collaboration at both national and regional levels.

This year's Forum is especially timely, taking place as new presidential administrations take office in Mexico and the U.S. It offers a crucial space to reflect on the future of bilateral relations amid political transition.

Monday, May 12, 2025

GREAT HALL, UC SAN DIEGO

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Welcome Cocktail

Speakers:

Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor, UC San Diego

Caroline Freund, Dean, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

Rafael Fernández de Castro, Director, USMEX and Aaron Feldman Family
Chancellor's Endowed Chair in U.S.-Mexican Studies in Memory of David
Feldman

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

HILTON LA JOLLA TORREY PINES

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Opening Ceremony

Speakers:

Caroline Freund, Dean, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

Santiago García, Chancellor Mexico City, Universidad Panamericana

Fernando León, President, CETYS University

Rafael Fernández de Castro, Director, USMEX and Aaron Feldman Family Chancellor's Endowed Chair in U.S.-Mexican Studies in Memory of David Feldman

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

The Future of Democracy in Trump's U.S.

Moderator: **Javier Tello**, Journalist and Political Analyst

Speakers:

Barbara F. Walter, Professor, Rohr Chair in Pacific International Relations, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

Steve Levitsky, Professor of Government and Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University (virtual)

10:30 - 11:20 a.m.

Women's Leadership in North America

Moderator: **Amb. Alicia Kerber**, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego

Speakers:

Lorenza Martinez Trigueros, Chief Operating Officer, Intercam Mexico

Betsy Fischer Martin, Executive Director, Women & Politics Institute, American University

Anne McLellan, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada

11:20 - 11:30 a.m.

Coffee break

11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

USMCA at the Crossroads: Preparing for the Next Chapter

Moderator: **Claudia Ruiz Massieu**, Mexican Congresswoman and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Speakers:

Meredith Lilly, Associate Professor and Simon Reisman Chair in International Economic Policy, Carleton University

Caroline Freund, Dean, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

Antonio Ortiz Mena, Founder and CEO, AOM Advisors

Michael Camuñez, President and CEO of Monarch Global Strategies LLC

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Migration Crises: Where Are We Now?

Moderator: **Cristina Planter**, Coordinator for North American Political Affairs, Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers:

Dara Lind, Senior Fellow, American Immigration Council

Amb. Reyna Torres, Consul General of Mexico in Chicago

Andrew Selee, President, Migration Policy Institute

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

New Geopolitics in the Trump 2.0 Era

Moderator: **Ana Paula Ordorica**, Journalist

Speakers:

Jesse Discroll, Professor, Chair, Global Leadership Institute, UC San Diego Department of Political Science

Peter Cowhey, Board Chair, California Council on Science and Technology, Dean Emeritus, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

Tom Shannon, Senior International Policy Advisor, Arnold & Porter

Jose Antonio Meade Kuribreña, Chair, USMEX Board

4:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Break

4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Powering the Future: New Energy Tech Tackling Climate Change

Moderator: **Carlos Pascual**, Senior Vice President for Geopolitics & International Affairs S&P Global

Speakers:

Tania Ortiz Mena, President, Sempra Infrastructure

David Victor, Professor and Peter Cowhey Center on Global Transformation Chair in Innovation and Public Policy, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

Gerardo Cervantes, Chief Commercial Officer, Saavi Energia

5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Beyond Capitals: The Rise of State-Level Diplomacy in U.S.-Mexico Relations

Moderator: **Amb. Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez**, Consul General of Mexico in Los Angeles

Speakers:

Maria S. Salinas, President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Glenn Hamer, President and CEO, Texas Association of Business

Antonio Villaraigosa, Former Los Angeles Mayor

Kenia Zamarripa, Vice President, International and Public Affairs, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

6:30 p.m.

End of first day

– Private Event –

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

2025 Jeffrey Davidow Good Neighbor Award

Awardee: **Tania Ortiz Mena**, President, Sempra Infrastructure

Speakers:

Rafael Fernández de Castro, Director, USMEX and Aaron Feldman Family Chancellor's Endowed Chair in U.S.-Mexican Studies in Memory of David Feldman

Jose Antonio Meade Kuribreña, USMEX Board Chair

Jeffrey Davidow, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and USMEX Board Member

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

HILTON LA JOLLA TORREY PINES

8:30 - 9:20 a.m. **Sustainable Tourism: Creating Lasting Value for Local Ecosystems and Its Populations, sponsored by Fundación Coppel**

Moderator: **Alejandro Robles**, Director, NOS Noroeste Sustentable

Speakers:

Michelle Fridman, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism of Jalisco

Julia Carabias, former Mexico's Secretary of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries

Yana Garcia, California Secretary for Environmental Protection-invited

Carlos Guaipatin, Private Sector Senior Specialist, Inter American Development Bank

9:20 - 9:45 a.m. **Tribute to Roberto Salmon, former Mexican Commissioner of the Mexico-United States International Boundary and Water Commission**

Speakers:

Adriana Reséndez Maldonado, Mexico Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)

Maria-Elena Giner, former U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)

Cristina Planter, Coordinator for North American Political Affairs, Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

9:45 - 10:30 a.m. **Scientific Diplomacy: Building a Gulf of California Alliance, sponsored by Fundación Coppel**

Moderator: **Octavio Aburto**, Professor, UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Speakers:

Exequiel Ezcurra, Professor of Ecology, University of California, Riverside

Joaquin Ruiz, Dean, College of Science, University of Arizona

Catalina Stern Forgach, Director of UNAM Center for Mexican Studies - Tucson, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Zinny del Villar, Data and Technology Director, Data-Pop Alliance

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 - 11:30 a.m. **Checks and Balances in Practice: The Judicial Branch in the U.S.**

Moderator: **Catheryn Camacho**, Associate Director, UC San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

Speaker:

Judge Robert S. Lasnik, United States Courthouse, Western District of Washington

11:30 - 12:30 p.m. **Combating Cartels: A Binational Security Challenge**

Moderator: **Rafael Fernández de Castro**, Director, USMEX and Aaron Feldman Family Chancellor's Endowed Chair in U.S.-Mexican Studies in Memory of David Feldman

Speakers:

Celina Realuyo, Professor of Practice, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at the National Defense University

Alejandro Celorio, Senior International Counsel

Eduardo Guerrero, Partner, Lantia Consultores

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. **Light Lunch**

– End of the 2025 U.S.-Mexico Forum–