

***NORTH AMERICAN FORUM
FORO DE AMÉRICA DEL NORTE
FORUM NORD-AMÉRICAIN***

The *North American Forum* is a private, non-partisan institution engaging senior leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The *Forum* meets annually and draws on representatives from business, government, academe, research organizations and the voluntary sector.

Presiding over the *Forum* are three Co-Chairs: Admiral Gary Roughead, 29th Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy; Thomas d'Aquino, Chief Executive, Intercounsel, Distinguished Lifetime Member and former Chief Executive, Canadian Council of Chief Executives; and Jaime Zabudovsky Kuper, President, Mexican Council on Foreign Relations.

The Founding Co-Chairs of the *Forum* were former United States Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, the Honorable George Shultz (2005-2010); former Premier of Alberta, the late Honourable Peter Lougheed (2005-2012); and former Finance Secretary of Mexico, Dr. Pedro Aspe (2005-2016). Secretary Shultz was succeeded by the Honorable William Perry, 19th United States Secretary of Defense (2010 to 2013).

Since its inception in 2005, the *Forum* has concentrated on ways of enhancing North American cooperation primarily in the areas of competitiveness, trade, finance, energy, and defence and security. Within these broad domains, *Forum* deliberations have included specific focus on trade policy, job creation, innovation, the digital economy, advanced manufacturing, tax policy, energy research and distribution, environmental regulation, border management, migratory patterns, continental defence, and anti-crime cooperation.

Country delegations to the *Forum* typically number 25 to 30 people. Each year, depending on the agenda, the identity of the participants varies. The *Forum's modus operandi* is to engage participants in open and frank discussion, to tackle issues, share ideas, and promote cooperation and understanding. The *Forum* does not generate positions or engage in public advocacy.

The *Forum* is led in an executive capacity by each of the country Co-Chairs. In the case of the United States, The Hoover Institution serves as the Secretariat; in the case of Mexico, the Mexican Council of Foreign Relations provides support; and in the case of Canada, the Chair is supported in a research capacity by the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

The first *Forum* was convened in Sonoma, California. Subsequent annual meetings have taken place in Banff (2006); Nuevo Vallarta (2007); Washington, D.C. (2008); Ottawa, (2009); San Miguel de Allende (2010); Washington, D.C. (2011); Ottawa (2012); Mexico City (2013); Washington, D.C. (2014); Toronto (2015); and Playa del Carmen (2016).

The 2017 *Forum* will take place in Washington, D.C. on October 16-18.