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## The West continues to see a world without Latin America



Sources: CLAE

[On July 11, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\) discussed in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, the](#) new steps to be taken in support of Ukraine in its war against Russia. The result was summarized in a long document of 30 pages and 90 paragraphs, in which there is not a single reference to Latin America, and indicates its aspiration to ensure the collective defense of its members against all threats, in a 360-degree vision (of the whole world).

The document includes cases sensitive to the stability of Europe, such as the Western Balkans; peace between Bosnia and Herzegovina; relations with Serbia, with Kosovo, with Georgia (which they insist on joining the alliance), with Moldova, and recognizes that the role of its non-European allies is essential for the defense of Europe.

It also points to China as a threat to the interests, security and values of the Alliance and that the development of events in the Indo-Pacific region "may directly affect Euro-Atlantic security", noting the contribution of its allies Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

Reiterates its determination to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons; condemn North Korea's ballistic missile program. They refer to NATO's southern neighbors, particularly the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel. Reaffirm their intention to stabilise the situation in Iraq; the geopolitical importance of the Black Sea, the Middle East and Africa.

### **Don't we exist?**

It is difficult to understand the repeated absence of Latin America in recent documents of powers and international organizations. In NATO's it is completely ignored, while acknowledging its dependence on America's strategic nuclear forces.

But Latin America does not appear even in paragraph 68, where they claim that energy security plays an important role in global security, in the same days that the discovery in Bolivia of the largest lithium reserve in the world was confirmed.

In October of last year, the White House released a document on its *National Security Strategy*, where it would seem logical to find some definition (or citation) to our region. In the introduction to the document, Biden promises to continue defending democracy around the world and celebrates the renewal of a formidable network of alliances: with the European Union, with the Quad, in the Indo-Pacific region, with which he has also established a framework for economic cooperation.

Only in fourth place does it cite its initiative for the region, the *"Alliance for Economic Prosperity of the Americas"*, launched in June 2022. In just two of the 48 pages, he talks about promoting democracy and supposed *"shared prosperity," about "restoring faith in democracy" in the region*, promising to create good jobs and address economic inequality.

It says that *"no region impacts the country more directly than the Western Hemisphere."* With annual trade of \$1.9 trillion, *"with shared values and democratic traditions,"* the region has contributed decisively to the prosperity and resilience of the United States, whose security and prosperity are linked to that of its neighbors.

Among its objectives are also to *"protect ourselves from external interference, including those of the People's Republic of China, Russia or Iran"* and, allied with civil society and other governments, to support democratic self-determination for the peoples of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.

Translated into Latin American, the document thus recognizes the intervention in the political process of our countries, the permanent destabilization sustained by civic-military coups and, currently, by unilateral economic sanctions whose devastating effects, in the case of Cuba, are already more than 60 years old and are condemned every year by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Subjected to drastic economic sanctions and blockades, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, face enormous difficulties not only to keep their economy functioning, but to develop their political life with some normality, since the opposition has in its favor the economic deterioration caused by Washington's sanctions and with the political support of a vast network of NGOs that finances the opposition with resources. Advertising and professional training.

On July 20, the Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States, Victoria Nuland, asked in an interview in the Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*, that Brazil use its "*leadership*" and diplomatic skills to influence the elections in Venezuela, with a view to achieving a "*free and fair*" game in which "*all candidates can run.*"

President Nicolás Maduro had already referred to these US initiatives demanding elections free of the economic sanctions imposed on the country by Washington, whose intervention in favor of the opposition makes such "*free and fair*" elections completely impossible.

### **Change, does everything change?**

There have been changes in Latin America's role on the international stage. The reappearance of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in the presidency of Brazil is perhaps the most important factor in these changes, facilitating the resurgence of UNASUR, adding new proposals for dealing with the conflict between Russia, Ukraine and NATO, redefining the terms of relations with the European Union, or joining the BRICS again. which will meet in August in South Africa.

On May 30, Lula held a meeting in Brasilia with Latin American heads of state, with the presence of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, whose isolation is part of the policy promoted by Washington, with the support of conservative governments and regional political allies of the "*fifth column*".

The factors that unite the region *above ideologies*, Lula said, referring to a possible reactivation of Unasur. "*No country can face current threats in isolation*", an idea he reiterated at the meeting with the European Union Business Forum on July 19: "*Brazil will only grow sustainably with the integration of our regional environment*".

Given the disinterest of Europeans and Americans, China has taken full advantage to expand its influence in the region, before which the European Union saw the need to schedule a summit with the states of Latin America and the Caribbean, which it kept forgotten since 2015.

At that summit in Brussels, Lula reiterated the need for an alliance that ends this division of labor that has only meant poverty for the majority of the region and encouraged to maintain its role as suppliers of raw materials and cheap migrant labor, despite the fact that in 2009 developed countries agreed to allocate 100 billion dollars a year for developing countries. commitment *"that was never fulfilled"*.

But one hundred billion dollars were earmarked in a few months to supply armaments to Ukraine, in an indication of the West's priorities. European leaders find it difficult to understand that it is imperative to reform global governance, and that – as Lula told them – *"dividing the world into antagonistic blocs is foolishness."*

Singaporean academic Kishore Mahbubani, in *The Asian 21st century*, reiterates his idea that the century of American dominance is over and that Washington's attempts to contain China will only end up isolating the US from the rest of the world.

The *"fifth column"* does not help us to think about that world in which Latin America does not finish finding its place, despite recent initiatives to strengthen its unity and play a role in peace efforts that renew global governance and put an end to a vision of the world based on antagonistic blocs.

### **Mannipulation of the climate crisis**

The four-day meeting between the representatives of the 20 largest economies in the world (G-20) concluded in the Indian city of Pragati Maidan, Delhi, without reaching a consensus on the progressive reduction in the production and use of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal), and without a joint communiqué due to divergences on the war in Ukraine.

[Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pointed to a lack of trust in financial institutions due to their slow ability to reform and called for the reconfiguration of the World Bank to support the needs of the developing world.](#)

Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, South Africa and Indonesia opposed the target proposed by the Group of Seven (G-7, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) to triple renewable energy generation capacity this decade. They talked about climate change and forgot or made invisible Latin America and the Caribbean.

It was another missed opportunity, because the differences have led to a climate of animosity and media beating against those who did not sign a proposal that was clearly

sensible and urgent in a context in which global warming has become a reality as dangerous as it is incontrovertible.

It is true that China burns huge amounts of coal, the most polluting fossil fuel, in its industrial activity to generate energy and also that giant exporters of gas and oil such as Saudi Arabia and Russia, or coal (South Africa and Indonesia), offer resistance to reduce an invaluable source of income for their economies.

But it is hypocritical to launch a narrative that focuses on these nations the responsibility for the lack of consensus and progress in the fight against climate change. What this is trying to do is hide the fact that the climate crisis is not the result of recent decades, but of the exponential accumulation of damage caused to the environment over centuries.

It is unserious to set an overall target when China has already deployed 40 percent of the world's wind capacity and 36 percent of installed solar, forgetting that the U.S. has expelled 20 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere since the nineteenth century.

As part of the Western strategy of strangulating the Russian economy, it is ignored that Germany reactivated its coal-fired power plants, or that for years Washington has pursued its energy sovereignty by aggressively promoting *fracking*, a method of extracting hydrocarbons banned in much of the world due to catastrophic effects on nature.

Moreover, this discourse that sells the idea of a committed West, but tied hands by external agents, pretends that the public ignores

The true origin of the climate emergency is the economic model imposed by the United States and the European powers on the rest of the nations, based on the delirious project of infinite economic growth on a planet with finite resources, whose conservation depends on a delicate balance that capitalism has destroyed with suicidal fervor.

The commitment to electrified mobility as a panacea for all air pollution problems is a marketing ploy that disguises the environmental costs of mass producing private cars, as well as the urban unfeasibility of individual motorized transport, whatever its energy source. In this way, the electric car scam delays the adoption of real solutions, such as high-quality collective transport and low or zero emissions.

While the hegemonic discourse in the West demonizes geopolitical rivals such as China and Russia, progress is being made on the path of self-destruction due to the unwillingness of the powerful to look beyond their immediate interests, trying to sell colored mirrors to the Latin American-Caribbeans, who, unfortunately, often continue to buy them (surrendering their natural and strategic resources).

And then maybe yes, Latin America and its Amazonian green lung appear, which they will also want to seize, for good, for bad ... or the worst too.

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