

# Alexander Mejía will Keynote Atlanta Latino Forum April 15

The Atlanta Latino Forum is pleased to announce that its keynote speaker for the April 15 Forum at Georgia State University will be Alexander A. Mejía, executive director of CIFAL in Atlanta and Senior Special Fellow with UNITAR, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

As head of CIFAL, a U.N. international training center for leaders at the local level, Mr. Mejía, heads Atlanta-based programs supporting best practices for decentralized cooperation and sustainable development.

Mr. Mejía, who welcomes Georgia State University's increasing involvement with Atlanta's Latino community, will speak about the urgency and importance of bridging cultural differences and building social cooperation.

"I believe our community needs an academic organization to help the conversation taking place about the present and future of the Latino population," Mr. Mejía, stated. "Like no other institution, Georgia State University is needed to legitimately become an actor in the high level dialogue that the community is having."

"CIFA Atlanta, as part of the United Nations system and with links to all the countries of the Americas, will be pleased to join as a partner in this research, education and service project." We heartily endorse the project's vision and program as timely and crucial."

The Atlanta Latino Forum is part of the Atlanta Latino Project sponsored by Georgia State University's Center for International Media Education together with its Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, in cooperation with numerous research faculty, Atlanta community nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and media.

The Forum, which will help guide the coming year's programming, will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday April 15 in the suite of the Center and Department of Communication at One Park Place, South, on the university's downtown campus. A luncheon will follow group discussions.

"There is a compelling need for the University to facilitate with the dynamics within the society here," Mr. Mejía said. "The Project's elements for better communication are needed to present the community's case as it deserves to be presented."

Mr. Mejía has an extensive professional background in banking, diplomacy, public office, and academia. After a successful career in corporate banking in Latin America, he joined the Foreign Service as the Diplomatic Counselor and Commercial Director of the Ecuadorian Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia. In 2001, he was named Vice Minister of Economy for his native Ecuador. He has also been a Governor to the World Bank and Alternate Governor to the Inter-American Development Bank. He subsequently served as Executive Vice President of Guayaquil's Chamber of Industries and was the Director of the Andean Program at the Inter-American Council in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Mejía served under the Governor of Georgia as the Vice President for Government Relations for Hemisphere, Inc., a non-for-profit organization created to strengthen ties with Latin America, in Atlanta. He has held professorships in strategic planning, international marketing, and international studies in Ecuador and the United States. He earned a Masters in Finance from INCAE University in Costa Rica and a Bachelors degree from Zamorano University in Honduras. He also holds a Diploma in Political Leadership from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also graduated from the Political and Electoral Marketing Program of Universidad de La Sabana in Colombia.