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José Javier Rivera

Julio Vidal

Francisco José Dacoba

Miguel Verzbolovskis

Giovana del C. Miranda Garzola

Ivana Michelle Herrera

Rafael Fernández Lara

El Capital Financiero

Claudia Cubas

Rafael Fernández Anguizola

Ana Sofía Corrales

Mariela de Sanjur

José Javier Rivera J.
Giovana del C. Miranda G.

Design & Layout:
Gabriela Melgar

R♦B♦C
Rivera • Bolívar • Castañedas
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Rivera Bolívar y Castañedas



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José Javier Rivera - Partner
jj.rivera@rbc.com.pa

Editorial

It's time for political action

The Covid-19 pandemic has given us enough time to calmly analyze serious institutional, political, economic and social situation that the country is going through and has also generated a series of favorable conditions, so that initiatives that seek in each of these areas proposed and even solutions in short, medium and long term.

As a precedent, a few months before the pandemic, the country had already gathered enough information to address the problem of public and private education from children's environments to educational institutions at the post-university level. However, on the subject of dual training and technical training, post media, an update proposal is pending.

Regarding provision of health services, it was demonstrated that the State didn't have capacities to meet demand of an entire population, in the face of a virus that spreads so quickly and also with a

universal character, which made very vulnerable. As if this weren't enough, when measures were arbitrated to provide the State with monetary funds to pay for financial support for people with suspended contracts or their inability to generate income, and other measures such as medicines, hospital facilities, vehicles and others teams to transfer the sick, it was soon observed that the structures of accounting records and audits did not exist to determine the costs and expenses incurred and to avoid the appropriation of public funds.

This health crisis has coincided with a reduction in Social Security quotas and a collapse of the disability, old age and death program that the country must resolve.

It would be long to list each of the areas in which we have recognized as a society, the shortcomings of the institutional structure, to guarantee a transparent use of public resources. On the other hand, we have observed

how the intervention of the Assembly of Deputies has been characterized by breaking into private contracting in matters of banking, finance, education, retroactivity of laws that are not of public order or of social interest.

Faced with this state of affairs, representative groups of Panamanian society have initiated movements with the purpose of introducing reforms to the National Constitution on the basis that they can solve many of the inconveniences that the pandemic has revealed. Others have chosen to activate citizen audit mechanisms to uncover non-compliance with the restrictive measures ordered by the Ministry of Health. Other citizens have gone to the Supreme Court of Justice to present different measures such as constitutional guarantees and habeas data appeals to oppose arbitrary or exorbitant decisions and to discover the modus operandi of investments, contracts, and other costs that add to the public debt. All this has occurred in a period of 16 months and therefore, no person can claim partial or total ignorance about what is happening in the country.

In recent weeks, agreements such as "Panama Ports" have also been authorized, which violate the originally agreed contract and cause a huge injury to the Treasury.

What to do before this harsh reality?

Most citizens consider that political activity per se is toxic, and therefore, they refuse to venture into these environments to avoid contagion, loss of prestige, frustration, and even a sequel in their families.

Others decide to stay out of politics, but intervene in the areas of civic clubs, brotherhoods, unions, social or charitable assistance institutions to contribute their ideas, their efforts and act in an area that doesn't reach the political field.

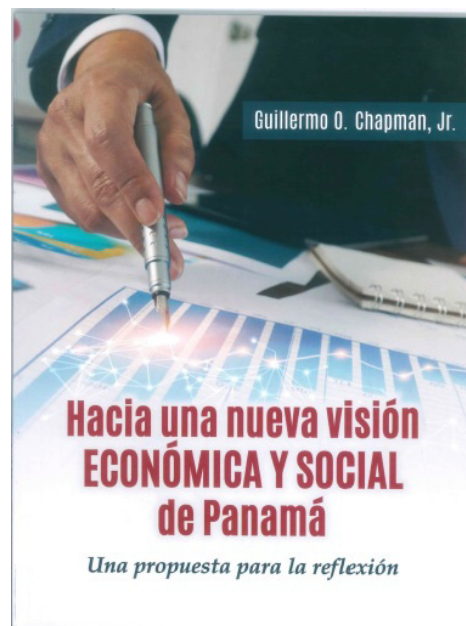
But the reality is not showing that, if we maintain this attitude and therefore in the political sphere there is no sanitation and new actors with other principles, don't enter the governmental work, very little will change or the change will be so late, that the damage can be irreparable, for us and our children and grandchildren.

It is a complex desideratum, because what it is about is to intervene to prevent the country from succumbing to the great inequalities that it drags, and corruption and disgrace prevail, in addition to institutional weakness.

Each one in their conscience knows what the current political offer is, and can make informed decisions and steer the country towards new directions.

In this sense, I want to close this reflection by inviting all our readers to read carefully the proposal of Dr. Guillermo O. Chapman Jr., entitled "Towards a new economic and social vision of Panama - A proposal for reflection." It is a document of incalculable value for the moment that the country lives and that shows once again that there are many Panamanians from all walks of life who have a sincere desire for better days for this terroir.

It is mandatory to wake up from our lethargy and our conformism to return to the Panamanian Nation the place it deserves, for the welfare and social advancement of the great majority.



It will dawn and we will see...L&E



Invited Writer

A LOOK AT THE TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN PANAMA

Julio Vidal
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

Panama is a country with great competitive advantages, attractive for investors and for all those who seek to start and develop business in this small and dynamic nation. I will not stop to list them, because they have always been prominent or observable with the naked eye.

Not all the tasks are solved, however, we cannot pretend that we will always sail in calm waters: we have to do a mea culpa because we are in arrears in Education.

One of the great challenges we face is education. We have many years trying to change through dialogues, without the expected results. Today we see with optimism and we bet on the consensus in the "National Commitment to Education", this last agreement reached with the participation of all the sectors involved such

as teachers' unions, students, parents, the Council of Rectors, SENACYT, CONATO, CONEP, MEDUCA and the EDUCATIONAL NGOs with the facilitation of the UNDP, whose main goal is to guarantee and promote the right to quality education, with equity for all Panamanians and that we form an integral citizen.

There is a sector of education that deserves our full attention and that, due to its relevance, should be considered a priority. It is about professional technical education and a methodology that generates value such as the Dual System.

Curiously, leaning towards a technical career in this and other nations is often not an option well seen by society. It seems that they are training options that have less recognition in contrast to those of higher

studies. We must try to minimize this distortion and promote campaigns to promote technical-professional studies in young people, which allows them to access the labor market more easily and develop confidence in their preparation and in the strength of their studies.

In the country, there are offers in professional technical careers through the Professional and Technical Institutes - IPTs, which under the management of MEDUCA operate at the national level. Since 2014, the Ministry has created seven higher technical institutes of post-secondary education, as a non-university higher education offer that would be offering careers in construction, electricity, maritime, refrigeration and industrial and agricultural maintenance. What this initiative seeks is that young people who don't enter university have the opportunity to access these programs that have taken into account the models of Brazil, France and Chile, that is, technical models that they execute and that receive training in English, technology and more opportunity with practical training.

There is the National Institute for Professional Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH) that was created in 2006. It is the governing body of the State in matters of professional training and training in business management in which a culture of training is promoted for the life and work. A significant number of courses are offered in multiple disciplines. INADEH has very robust alliances with different public and private institutions that allow it to expand its offer. It has room for improvement: its modernization and effectiveness is essential to guarantee appropriate results, especially in the case of people with limited resources who require a profession and a job quickly.

More recently, the Specialized Higher Technical Institute - ITSE- arises, which offers technical careers at a higher level.

With regard to the ITSE, this concept arises to respond to the growing demand for technical professionals, which has increased in recent years in the country, especially in those sectors with greater strength and development.

At the same time, it gives middle school graduates the opportunity to an academic offer that boosts their professional training and socioeconomic mobility.

Inspired by the Singapore model, the conception and development of this Institute began in 2014. The academic offer is defined as post-secondary education. The training strategy has a 40% theoretical-conceptual base in combination with a high orientation to practical experience (60%), and an emphasis on socio-emotional competencies. It is very relevant to note that the academic training offers were not improvised and were based on previous studies such as the report of the High Commission for Public Employment Policy (2014), led by the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development (MITRADEL), carried out with the assistance from the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Development Bank for Latin America (CAF).

These results in relation to the technical training and perspectives of the ITSE, were validated by the public and private productive sectors. The pandemic altered what was planned and today there are around 1,000 students accessing the programs via digital when it was expected that 5,000 would gravitate in person in the different schools and programs.

In any of the three alternatives described, the "knowledge of education" that is fundamental in the process of education must be considered: learning to be, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to learn.

Learning to be: it is necessary to ensure that people know their personality and how their emotional intelligence works to have self-control and behave in an acceptable way, recognize their autonomy and the critical sense to make their own judgments, that is, that education must contribute in what fundamental that is the integral development of each person, body and mind, intelligence, sensitivity, aesthetic sense, individual responsibility, spirituality.

Learn to do: acquire not only a professional

qualification, but rather skills that enable the individual to face the work situations they face, they must also work as a team and learn to do within the framework of social experiences.

Learning to live together: it is learning to live together developing understanding of the other and the perception of forms of interdependence, carrying out common projects and preparing to deal with conflicts, respecting the values of pluralism and mutual understanding.

Learning to learn: It consists of learning to understand the world around us. It is necessary to recognize skills or strengths such as integral self-esteem, efficient learning strategy, assertiveness to resolve conflicts. Ability to organize their learning, manage time and information effectively.

Panama, due to its economic model, for many years has managed to develop the service economy, particularly in the financial, accounting, administrative and other areas. Efforts have been made to satisfy the demand for professionals in the disciplines that were required. However, today there is another completely different reality and the sectors with the greatest growth are linked to the world of logistics, the Panama Canal, the port sector, that is, maritime services. Before the pandemic, tourism services, especially hotels and cuisine (restaurants), were also growing. Today they are impacted and a positive change is expected in the medium term using and promoting the appropriate strategies in coordination between the public and private sectors.

With respect to the pandemic, this variable must be taken into account because everything in the productive world has changed and, even, the profile of the technicians and professionals of the future, who must handle digital more fluently and, preferably, dominate the except for a foreign language which, for our environment, should preferably be the English language.

Regarding the DUAL program, we know that one of the pioneer countries is Germany. By 1986 a German

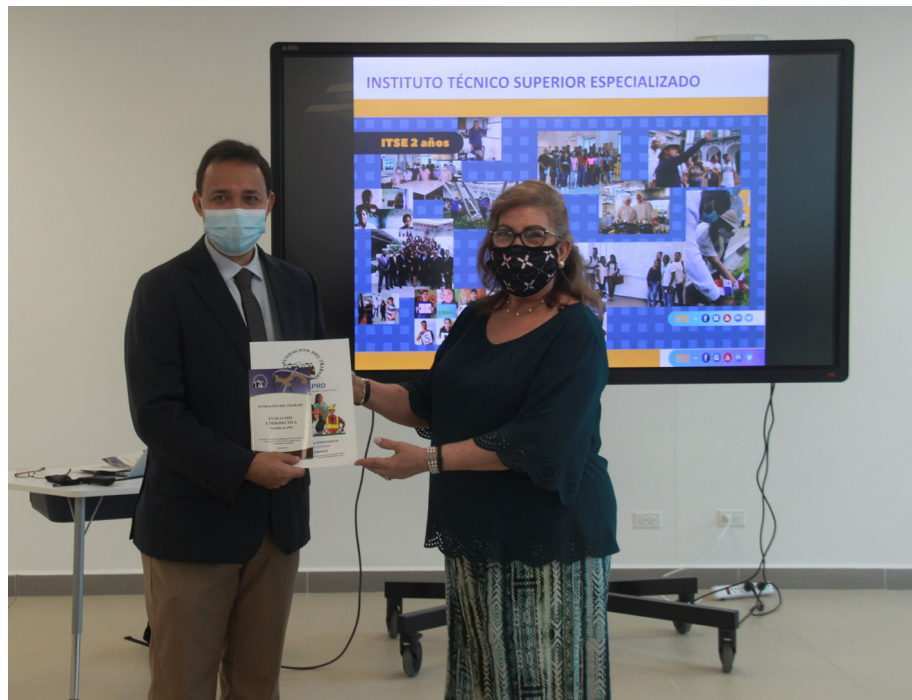
mission approached the Council of the Private Sector for Educational Assistance (COSPAE). The first steps are taken to know and use this methodology. At that time, Panama was facing a very strong political conflict that affected all sectors of national life. Starting in 1990, the GTZ, the German development agency, which had withdrawn in 1988, made efforts to preserve the dual system. A law was even created to protect it. Already in 2002, it was modified so that the private sector participated through two alternatives, the DUAL program and continuing education.

Today, through the Embassy of Panama in Berlin and the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama, efforts are being made to rescue the dual program in our country, so with the collaboration of other instances such as COSPAE, private companies supported by the system and by INADEH itself, it is possible that this methodology will be used again, in this case, in professional technical training.

The ideal world is one where young people who make a technical-professional career spend two or three days in the academy and, the rest, in the company that will organize the practice directed on site by their mentors. To achieve this, an agreement or contract is needed, in case of young people who are minors, between the academy, the company and the family. The dual system is an agile modality in which learning is done by doing and learning is fixed with greater strength, which guarantees that students demonstrate their abilities and skills more effectively.

The good news is that firm steps are being taken to modify the dual system law in Panama that dates back more than 20 years. Its modernization and adaptation to modern times is essential.

We have conviction and firm intention that together we can make Panama resume the path of dual education and achieve optimal results in the learning process, especially in professional technical careers that the country so badly needs. *L&T*



Visita a las instalaciones del Instituto Técnico Superior Especializado (ITSE)





Visita a las instalaciones del Instituto Técnico Superior Especializado (ITSE)



CONFLICTIVITY S. XXI: THE GREATEST RAISE THE BET

DACOBÁ CERVINO, Francisco José. Conflictivity s. Xxi: the greatest raise the bet. Analysis Document IEEE 30/2021. http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_analisis/2021/DIEEEA30_2021_FRADAC_Conflictividad.pdf y/o enlace bie3 (consulted 27/07/2021)

S ummary:

Francisco José Dacoba C. - IEEE
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

Globalization has narrowed distances, diluted borders and brought together peoples and societies that, just a few decades ago, barely recognized each other. This process, in addition to providing enormous opportunities for cooperation, also increases friction between the newly found neighbors. The appearance of new domains such as outer space and cyberspace, the generalized climate of the "Great Power Competition" and the multipolar order to which we are heading are, all of them, factors that generate tensions in all areas: trade, technology, research, geopolitical interests... and also wars.

The pax americana, if it existed during the brief period of US hegemony, was just as short-lived. Conflicts, not just armed ones, now drag on indefinitely, without the long list of conflicts being significantly

reduced. The arrival of Biden to the presidency, contrary to what many thought, will not radically change this panorama of generalized conflict.

Introduction.

These are not good times for Western democracies. The wave of optimism that in the 1990s gave birth to the happy idea of the "end of history" is behind us. Although, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world experienced a boom in the number of countries that, successively and uninterruptedly, were incorporated into the select group of regimes that responded to the parameters of liberal democracies, the euphoria didn't last long.

The moment of North American unipolar splendor,

unopposed by the initial weakness of the new Russian Federation and the discretion of the People's Republic of China, led to this democratizing boom across the globe. But the window of opportunity was closed a few years ago, when these powers emerged from their respective humiliations and presented their amendments to the entirety of the principles of North American-style multilateralism.

Authoritarian regimes have since proliferated under the protection of a global, multipolar and asymmetric governance model, with a clear decline in democracy in certain Western countries.

Figure 1. Global, multipolar and asymmetric world.

Unaware of limitations of international order based on respect for widely accepted norms, authoritarian leaders find in the "gray zone" the ideal playing field for the use of all kinds of hybrid confrontational procedures. In a kind of "anything goes", except crossing the threshold of open warfare, they systematically resort to diplomatic, commercial, technological or military pressure, to the use of which democracies are more reticent, subject as they are to compliance with the law and subject to



Figura 1. Mundo global, multipolar y asimétrico.

law. control of their respective public opinions. This produces an asymmetry that clearly tips the balance on the side of those who lack democratic controls.

A few months before elections that brought Joe Biden to presidency of United States, we published in this same rostrum a document in which, contrary to other

opinions, we ventured that a hypothetical election of the Democratic candidate would not radically change the climate of confrontation with the so-called revisionist powers, People's Republic of China and Russian Federation. The repeated statements of the then candidate and, later, of the already president were evidence, not indications, that the swords were still at

¹ En este sentido, ver un detallado estudio de la regresión de las democracias en el mundo en: LINDBERG, Steffan y KOLVANI, Palina. "El virus autocrático", Política Exterior, mayo de 2021. Disponible en: <https://www.politicaexterior.com/articulo/el-virus-autocratico/>

² DACOBA CERVIÑO, Francisco J. Después de la tempestad... tampoco vendrá la calma. Documento de Análisis IEEE 25/2020. http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_analisis/2020/DIEEA25_2020FRADAC_finales2020.pdf

the top with regard to both Russia and, above all, China.

New areas, more possibilities for (cooperation) conflict.

There are several factors that have brought us to this situation of generalized conflict. New, disruptive technologies are radically changing the face of the battlefield, as the recent confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan has shown. Globalization, the proliferation of non-state actors and the incorporation of new spaces for relationships only add more fog to the always diffuse aspect of war.

The traditional land, sea and air have lost their monopoly as domains in which relations between States were resolved, for better and for worse. The multilateral control mechanisms (institutions, treaties, forums, legislation...) designed to govern these relationships present ambiguities when the "global common spaces" expand. The progressive melting of the waters of the Arctic Glacier Ocean, a region until now passive for human activity, will open new trade routes, facilitate access to valuable raw materials on its seabed, as well as fishing grounds, and is already witnessing an evident militarization of its coasts.

Airspace grows vertically and already incorporates outer space beyond the Earth's atmosphere. If at first it seemed that this would be an area of exclusive interest to the great powers, the progressive cheapening of the technologies necessary to access it has opened its doors not only to other States, but also to private initiative. Thus the possibilities of progress and scientific advances for humanity grow... at the same time that a new scenario is opened for the clash of interests and competition between actors, state and non-state present in outer space.

But it is in cyberspace where all kinds of hostile activities are taking place most intensely between all kinds of actors. From intrusions in the computers of individuals to the denial of services to a public or private institution; or the massive attack on the

computer systems of a State that can paralyze the provision of essential services for society: transport, health system, energy distribution, education, finance... The difficulty of attribution of responsibility for such interference. Their low cost and the ease with which they can be carried out make the "cyber" field the ideal space for generalized and permanent conflict. Through here, true and false news that are difficult to discern circulate simultaneously that have made the minds of citizens the target of their cyberattacks. It is about influencing public opinion, one's own or that of others: reality is not what is relevant, but the perception that the target society has of it. As a consequence, to the land, the sea, the air, outer space and cyberspace, a sixth area of confrontation is added: the cognitive domain. And once again the possibilities of conflict multiply. The war is not what it used to be, and the worst thing is that the greats have decided to accept the ordeal, and even double the bet.

The big two (or three) on a collision course.

The change of president in the White House, last January 2021, occurred in a world stage of Great Power Competition. The arrival of Biden raised great hopes that the often criticized decisions of his predecessor in matters of international relations would be replaced by a more moderate attitude of the new Administration. His repeated allusions to multilateralism and his nods to the reunion with traditional allies were welcomed by many. But the undeniable advances in these aspects should not make us ignore that, as far as the great Chinese rival is concerned, little or nothing has changed with respect to the relations inherited from Trump.

Commercially, technologically and in the persistent geopolitical tensions in the waters of the Pacific, the collision course remains. The March 2021 meeting of both Chinese and North American delegations in Anchorage revealed, before the media sent to cover the event, a highly worrying tension and dialectical aggressiveness.

In the case of Russia, Biden has shown a significant

³ MARÍN DELGADO, José Alberto. Guerra de drones en el Cáucaso Sur: lecciones aprendidas de Nagorno-Karabaj. Documento de Opinión IEEE 21/2021. http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_opinion/2021/DIEEE021_2021_JOSMAR_DronesCau caso.pdf

change compared to Trump's previous ambiguity. Warnings about the Russian military deployment in the vicinity of the border with Ukraine or the case of the opposition Navalni have led to very serious accusations by the North American against his Russian counterpart, unusual in the diplomatic world no matter how icy relations may be. These growing tensions between the United States and Russia, barely stifled by the few agreements after the Geneva summit⁶, as is the case with China, represent a very uncomfortable situation for the European Union that can drag it, against its own interests, to a clash of giants from which Europeans can expect nothing good.

The People's Republic of China has outgrown the low-profile, low-key policy of Xi's predecessors. Aware of the country's undisputed commercial and technological power, the Chinese president has responded to US sanctions and vetoes on its technology companies, and has in turn launched his own geopolitical challenge. Added to the "new Silk Road" and the Made in China 2025 technology initiative is an undisguised assertiveness in the seas of China and military spending, enormous in its amount and sustained over time, which make the People's Liberation Army a fearsome military tool.

Russia too, especially since Putin's second presidential cycle at the head of the Federation, has presented its credentials as a great regional power, albeit with claims to be equal to the two world giants. Despite its weaknesses and shortcomings, Moscow has known how to become an arbiter of the evolution of the situation in its geographical environment, from Libya to Armenia and Azerbaijan; from the Black Sea to the Middle East, without forgetting its penetration into Africa and its interests in the republics of Central Asia and the Arctic. The income provided by its large hydrocarbon reserves has gone, to a large extent, to rebuilding an Armed Forces that had become obsolete after the collapse of the Soviet Union. To this must be added that it continues to be, along with the United

States, the world's other great nuclear power and its permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The «no-wars»

The word "war", in its traditional meaning, seems to be out of use, and instead it is preferred to speak indistinctly (and, therefore, wrongly) of confrontation, confrontation, tensions, conflict... But, on the other hand, it is resorted to to the same term, with the same lack of rigor to refer to presumed wars of varied physiognomy: commercial, technological, cultural war. In any case, the conflict, let us admit the term in its broadest meaning, including the warlike one, manifests itself in this XXI century with an unusual vigor.

Fearful of the global catastrophe that would mean a direct military confrontation between the great powers, they are looking for different ways of competing to avoid a head-on collision, and they are not lacking in options. Globalization has created, in practice, a single world market in which the emergence of China as a major exporter has shaken previous trade balances. In 2013, in Astana, President Xi presented the «new Silk Road», a gigantic investment program in land and sea infrastructure to give way to its enormous production of manufactures, each time of better quality. The United States, aware of the threat posed by Chinese penetration into markets previously held captive by North American producers, has reacted with a battery of dubiously effective tariffs. The Government of Beijing, for its part, responded with the same currency, thus creating an atmosphere of general distrust from which no international actor has been able to remain on the sidelines.

Even more worrying, from the Western point of view, is the Chinese intention to lead, already in the short term, the cutting-edge technologies that will shape the model of future societies: artificial intelligence, big data, 5G, robotics, nanotechnology, biomedicine, blockchain... The American reaction has consisted

⁴ "Washington y Pekín constatan sus divergencias en una tensa cumbre en Alaska", El Periódico, 20 de marzo, 2021. Disponible en: <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/internacional/20210320/china-estados-unidos-11592999>

⁵ "Biden llama asesino a Putin y dice que 'pagará un precio' por la injerencia rusa en sus elecciones", Euronews, 17 de marzo, 2021. Disponible en: <https://es.euronews.com/2021/03/17/biden-llama-asesino-a-putin-y-dice-que-pagara-un-precio-por-la-injerencia-rusa-en-sus-elec>

⁶ "Biden y Putin: 3 puntos de encuentro y 3 desacuerdos que quedaron claros en la primera reunión entre los dos mandatarios", BBC, 16 de junio, 2021. Disponible en: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-internacional-57504805>

of making it difficult or prohibiting the penetration of these new technologies from China, similarly, by the way, with what Beijing has been doing long before in relation to companies Westerners. These crossover technology vetoes are spreading to other regions. Europe has legislated to protect its technological know-how and its leading companies, and has limited presence of Chinese components in terms of 5G networks. India, for its part, has banned certain Chinese apps on the grounds of national security. If this trend towards mutual technological exclusion, together with aforementioned trade obstacles, is not reversed, we run the risk of heading, inexorably, towards an undesirable global disconnection in such an interconnected world.

Commercial and technological competition constitutes the battlefield of these generalized "no-wars" in which large and medium powers confront each other without coming to blows. But there are other disputes, of a geopolitical nature, that do bring us dangerously close to the edge of the abyss, not so much because a warlike confrontation is deliberately sought, but because, at a given moment, the accumulated tension leads to the loss of control of the situation.

The hottest spot in these "(yet) non-wars" is undoubtedly China's inland seas, which many analysts have described as the "Chinese Caribbean," and its surroundings. In tune with its interests, Beijing is equipping itself with a powerful naval force that has set off all the alarms in the riparian countries. Taiwan is the most worrying of the elements of contention between China and the United States in the region. The commitment to the security of the island of Formosa and the rest of neighboring countries, as well as the guarantee of free navigation through these inland seas, explain the usual presence of the North American Navy, and even those of some European countries. The key question is, in this case, if when the time comes to repel a military aggression by the People's Republic on its "rebel province," the commitment of the United States would be strong enough to wage war, nothing

more. and nothing less than with China. And Beijing does not hide its intentions: "Our Army will resolutely defeat anyone who tries to separate Taiwan from China and will defend national unity at all costs."

A little further north, two other allies of the United States, Japan and South Korea are facing, for different reasons, the challenge posed by North Korea. For Tokyo, in terms of the nuclear threat; for South Korea, in addition to the above, for all the connotations related to the hypothetical and desired reunification, a possibility that collides head-on with the interests of Beijing, the main supporter of the North Korean dictatorship. To the south, freedom of navigation through the Strait of Malacca is a matter of vital importance so that the flow of goods through it is not interrupted. The ease with which, at any given moment, this transit could be prevented through such a narrow and uncontrolled passage by China explains its search for direct exits to the Indian Ocean from the mainland, avoiding Malacca, via Myanmar or Pakistan.

The Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean, together with the border disputes in the Himalayas, add a new protagonist to the equation, not inconsiderable, such as India, which in turn maintains serious disputes with Pakistan, especially in relation to the disputed Kashmir. Pakistan is a border country with the chaos of Afghanistan, a nuclear power, a refuge for Islamic radicals and an advantageous partner of China.

As a result, New Delhi's traditional non-alignment stance is moving significantly towards greater understanding with the United States and other Pacific democracies, such as Japan and Australia, in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), a kind of Asian NATO. that doesn't satisfy China at all.

The Arabian peninsula and its surroundings constitute another source of instability to which an acceptable solution is not envisaged in a foreseeable time horizon. The Abraham accords sponsored by Trump,

⁷ PARRA PÉREZ, Águeda. ¿Retos pospandemia?: China pide paso. Documento de Opinión IEEE 80/2020. http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_opinion/2020/DIEEEO80_2020AGUPAR_China.pdf

⁸ "India prohíbe Tik Tok y otras 59 aplicaciones chinas 'por seguridad'", La Vanguardia. 1 de julio, 2021. Disponible en: <https://www.lavanguardia.com/internacional/20200701/482040668537/tik-tok-india-aplicacion-prohibiciones-seguridad.html>

⁹ "El Libro Blanco de la República Popular de China sobre la Defensa Nacional en la nueva era 2019", DSN. Disponible en: <https://www.dsn.gob.es/es/actualidad/sala-prensa/libro-blanco-rep%C3%BAblica-popular-china-sobre-defensa-nacional-nueva-era-2019>

and unanswered by Biden, draw Israel closer to its until recently irreconcilable Arab enemies to face together the threat of Iranian nuclear escalation. The sure losers, once again, will be the Palestinians. Russia, with its determined support for the Syrian regime, has earned a privileged position in the region, in which any possibility of agreement passes through the essential approval of Moscow, and the military presence in the Mediterranean from naval bases and bases is ensured. aerial in the Syrian east. Turkey, for its part, plays simultaneously two difficult games with two difficult interlocutors: Russia and her allies in NATO.

Africa, starting from a state of precariousness that dates back to colonial times, is once again a meeting point for the ambitions of the great foreign powers. China, in search of resources and raw materials; Russia, to open markets in which to sell its modern military equipment and, for various reasons, also the Gulf countries, Israel or Turkey. And they do it taking advantage of the limited interest of the United States, more busy and concerned about the Asian scene. The European Union, in turn, is torn between the evidence of its necessary involvement in the development and stability of the continent, especially the closest region of the Maghreb and the Sahel, and its own regulatory, budgetary and weak policy limitations. external subject to the paralyzing unanimity in decision-making and the strategic discrepancies of the member states. Consequently, jihadism is rampant in much of the continent. Organized crime networks, in symbiosis with terrorist groups, weak institutions, rampant demographics and the consequences of global warming leave millions of young people without hope of a better future, with no other alternative than to join. to jihad or look for his "El Dorado" in Europe.

The American continent has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, producing a considerable setback in the promising levels of progress and well-being that had been achieved, although not in a generalized way, in previous decades. The persistent difficulty of these countries in reaching regional integration agreements, so necessary in a globalized world, prevents them from

joining forces and competing adequately in global markets. In return, Chinese penetration threatens to deplete strategic mineral reserves and fishing grounds.

And, furthermore, the «yes-wars»

The multifaceted conflict that we have been describing does not exclude the abundance of warlike confrontations, of wars in its most traditional sense, to which the powers, large or medium, that settle their disputes through third parties, proxies, in the so-called proxy wars. Most of these hot spots are distributed precisely in the immediate environment of Europe: from the waters of the Atlantic in the Gulf of Guinea, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, a Middle East extended to incorporate Iran, the Caucasus and Afghanistan. Jihadist terrorism, far from having been eradicated, keeps the European periphery on fire and acts, it is necessary not to forget it, also within its borders.

The most worrying aspect of this long list of wars, some better known than others, but all equally destabilizing for the societies that suffer them, is that the prospects for a peaceful resolution of them are slim.

In the roulette of Brussels and Geneva, all to the red (dragon)!

President Biden's first international tour was undoubtedly profound. In an intense week, the North American president met with the British prime minister, attended two meetings of the G-7 and the European Union, and the summit of the Alliance in Brussels, to end with a highlight: their meeting, face to face , with Vladimir Putin. Several were the objectives of the president, all of them already announced prior to his trip. The most repeated was to insist over and over again that the United States has returned to multilateralism and understanding with the allies, in order to immediately make it clear to Russia that not everything is valid and China, on the contrary, that there will be more of the same.

The expectations prior to the Geneva meeting were not

¹⁰ A este respecto, se puede ampliar información en: DACOBA CERVINO, Francisco José. Autonomía Estratégica Europea: ni contigo, ni sin ti... Documento de Análisis IEEE 13/2021. http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_analisis/2021/DIEEEA13_2021_FRANDAC_Autonomi a.pdf

high and, therefore, the limited results of the meeting have not disappointed either. A principle of agreement to continue the path of control of the nuclear arsenal, the return of the ambassadors and some allusions to the fight against cybercrime; little more. Or nothing less. Since a broad agreement was not possible, the expressed wishes for better relationships, predictable and stable, as well as tense, can be described as a positive beginning; nobody expected more.

With the playing field established with Russia, the real challenge for the United States is posed by the strength, also military, of the People's Republic of China. Having identified this country as the main strategic adversary, the head of the Pentagon, General Austin has called in to concentrate all the efforts of his Department in the Pacific. With this claim, that of the threatening resurgence of red dragon, Biden intends that the European allies close ranks and thus emit a signal of unwavering unity to face the challenges posed by the Asian power. An overwhelming logic from the strictly American point of view, but one that the allies on this side of the Atlantic will have to rethink carefully. Without underestimating the importance of the Chinese challenge, European leaders are aware that a position of maximums, of black or white, without nuances, is not appropriate. Neither towards China, with whom Europeans have a wide range of commercial exchanges, nor towards Russia, an inevitable neighbor with whom it would be better not to get along altogether.

This unpleasant dilemma, or with one or the other, which is so unpleasant in the European Union, is also received with the same concern in other regions of the globe. Especially significant in the case of Asian countries, close to the Chinese giant, which they do not want to depend on and subordinate

themselves to, but which they cannot ignore or, much less, confront. Its economy and security inevitably depend, if not on staunchly aligning itself with Beijing, then at least on not earning its open hostility. To a greater or lesser extent, the dilemma is repeated in the Middle East, Africa or Latin America.

Another undesirable consequence of this bet of maximums, everything to the red, is the mutual rapprochement of those who feel so harshly questioned. The collaboration between Beijing and Moscow finds in the shared adversary good reasons to strengthen ties, despite the historical wrongs of the past, the divergent interests of the present and the certain frictions in the future. This explains the repeated efforts, mainly by France and Germany, to seek lines of understanding, at least in certain fields, with neighboring Russia. Efforts that are frontally rejected by some European partners.

Conclusions.

Figure 2. World chess board.

The main cause of this global conflict is the struggle for world hegemony between whoever had been holding it until now, the United States, and who has decided to contest it, China. It would be naive to pretend that the challenger and the challenger give up their respective ambitions. Moscow, in search of a seat at the table of the greats, aligns itself with Beijing and plays its cards with great skill. China welcomes this tuning and ensures an invaluable source of raw materials and hydrocarbons of which it is an avid consumer.

The result of this three-way game is a general instability, which multiplies the stimuli for confrontation, kinetic or not, from which the rest of

¹¹ “A Genève, Joe Biden et Vladimir Poutine entament un dialogue stratégique à pas comptés”, Le Monde. 17 de junio de 2021. Disponible en: https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2021/06/17/a-geneve-joe-biden-et-vladimir-poutine-initient-un-dialogue-strategique-a-pas-comptes_6084459_3210.html

¹² “‘Get to work’: US defence chief tells Pentagon to sharpen China focus”, The Guardian, 10 de junio de 2021. Disponible en: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jun/10/get-to-work-us-defence-chief-tells-pentagon-to-sharpen-china-focus>

¹³ “La UE rechaza la cumbre con Putin propuesta por Alemania y Francia”, La Voz de Galicia, 25 de junio, 2021. Disponible en: <https://www.lavozdeg Galicia.es/noticia/internacional/2021/06/25/ue-rechaza-cumbre-putin-propuesta-alemania-francia/00031624641199324941599.htm>

the countries find it very difficult to escape. When the challenges shared by all of humanity (climate change,



Figura 2. Tablero de ajedrez mundial.

cybercrime, terrorism, organized crime, nuclear proliferation, pandemics ...) require cooperation, at least in these fields, the road is full of obstacles. Realistically, the best that can be aspired to is coexistence, understood as a difficult balance between collaboration, when necessary, and acceptably regulated commercial and technological competition.

In this worrying and complex scenario, with new tools (technological and commercial) for confrontation

in old and new areas, especially in cyberspace, all international actors are affected by a "21st century" conflict unleashed. The two great powers, or three if we include Russia, as daring mus players, have not only 'seen' the ordeal, but have decided to go further and have chosen to up the ante. There is no change of course in the "Great Power Competition" and, thus, it will be difficult to reverse so many and such diverse conflicts: commercial, technological, geopolitical... and, also, wars.*L&E*

TOWARDS GLOBAL CONVERGENCE, WHAT SHOULD PANAMA DO?

Miguel Verzbolovskis - Former Panamanian Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

This year could well be remembered as a watershed for multilateralism. In a matter of a few months between April and July, based on an initiative promoted by the US government and subsequently welcomed by the G7, the G20 finance ministers agreed to implement a global minimum tax for multinational companies of 15%. Shortly after the approval of the G20, the vast majority of the member states and jurisdictions of the Inclusive Framework - as the OECD mechanism in charge of designing measures to correct corporate tax avoidance is known - voted in favor of a package that includes the referred to a minimum rate of 15%, as well as the power to tax the profits of companies not according to their place of domicile or their physical presence, but according to the place, or places, where they make their sales. The idea is to mitigate the problem frequently pointed out by organizations such as the Tax Justice Network and Oxfam, and by governments such as the European Commission, that the wealthiest groups use the legal resources at their disposal to avoid paying "their fair

share" in taxes, generating a "race to the bottom" where the big losers are the national coffers and the ability of governments to finance their programs. The OECD estimates that tax avoidance generates annual losses of approximately US \$ 200 billion.

Of the 139 members of the OECD Inclusive Framework, 132 voted in favor of the proposal, including Panama. So did Singapore, Switzerland, Uruguay, and the Bahamas. Of the tiny minority that opposed or abstained, at least temporarily, Ireland has been the most vocal about its reasons, not because of the principle of setting a flat rate, but because of the minimum threshold established: its income tax. The current corporate rate is 12.5% (in Panama it is 25%), and low taxation has been one of the pillars of Irish economic policy for more than twenty years. Therefore, his government has linked its final decision to a citizen consultation on the policy that will close in September 2021.

The initiative will begin to apply in 2023, but before that some details of greater or lesser importance will have to be clarified. One in particular, perhaps the most important, has to do with the existence of preferential regimes, those tributary islands that governments organize to attract foreign investment. In Panama the most prominent is the Multinational Companies Headquarters (SEM), with more than 160 companies that since 2007 have chosen to establish themselves in our country to manage their Latin American and Caribbean operations. But preferential regimes are far from being a phenomenon unique to Panamanian or other small economies focused on services. Mainland China, which also supports global tax reform, has used the figure of the special economic zone to boost development in coastal and inland areas. Given the adversity of the relationship between China and the two other major blocs - the United States and the European Union - the next few months will be decisive in defining the details of the initiative and envisioning with greater precision the impact it will have on countries like ours.

What should Panama do? In the absence of concrete recipes, and of a well-formulated, explained and applied foreign policy, it is convenient to realize the following: we are navigating in geopolitical waters with very deep roots and, consequently, that will affect us for decades to come.

The summary story is like this: it all began in 2007 with the metastasis of a crisis in the mortgage sector in the United States. The so-called sub-prime debacle, which quickly got out of hand, spreading within the North American financial system and subsequently internationally, leading to the bankruptcy of Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers, led to the worst economic contraction since the 1930s. The fall of the USSR in 1989-1990-1991 constituted the "end of history", establishing forever 1) the market, and not the state, as the definitive arbiter of resources and 2) protectionism as the main anchor of the economic progress, then the Great Recession of 2007-2008-2009 proved to be the "return of history", when verifying that what many observers believed definitive was only transitory. Indeed, that economic crisis was not only an economic crisis, but it opened and widened other types of cleavages, demographic, migratory, labor,

educational, cultural and psychological. The proof of it? Everything that happened in subsequent years in international politics, including Brexit and the rise of populist demagogues like Donald Trump and Viktor Orbán. In fact, the G20 itself (the group of 19 countries plus the European Union that represents 90% of world GDP) gained strength as a direct consequence of the Great Recession. The communiqué from their April 2009 meeting in London announces the "end of bank secrecy". The tax initiative proposed and approved this year, whose final contours have not finished being drawn, should be seen as an antidote to the havoc caused by the worst of those economic forces.

In recent years, a minority but very vocal sector has denounced the convergence of Panama with the tax policies discussed in the OECD, as if this body had a particular cruelty against Panama. It is not like that at all. Panama participates in these discussion forums as a full member, in which it has a voice and vote. The source of our bad reputation in these areas abroad has more to do with something that Panamanians know very well and that we regret on a daily basis: the delayed, inconsistent and sometimes non-existent application of the regulations we adopt. That is the origin of our presence on a variety of discriminatory lists.

Against this background, we can then ask ourselves how we want Panama to be five, ten, twenty-five or fifty years from now. Personally, I am inclined towards a country that doesn't need to rely on particular regimes to attract investment, on tax or legal islands that provide legal security different from that offered in the rest of the territory. I would prefer to live in a country with a liberal orientation, open not only to the free movement of goods and services, but also to people who can settle here to exercise their professions without facing protectionist walls, complementing and transferring their knowledge to the rest of the world. Panamanian population. In this country there would be no need for excessive banking regulations because there would be certainty of punishment in the judicial system, and its added value would come from an educated, educated and enterprising population that takes advantage of its geographical location. Also one whose political forces are focused not on politicking but on policy-making. Why not set

goals - for example, a roadmap to join the OECD - that oblige successive governments to work around goals, not party goals, but state goals? Better so react to external challenges with palliatives or patches.

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Norms of INTEREST

IMPLEMENT TRACEABILITY OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

Giovana del C. Miranda G. - Attorney
giovana.miranda@rbc.com.pa

With the issuance of Executive Decree No. 11 of July 5, 2021, the traceability for fishing, related activities and activities related to fishing is regulated throughout the national territory, in continental waters and in marine areas under sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama.

The Decree in question provides that traceability of products from fishing will be implemented at national level, progressively through the official traceability system, with the aim that said products are traceable and their status can be confirmed. legality, in all the links of the chain, in the process of extraction, import, re-export, collection, transport, storage, processing, export, commercialization and distribution.

Likewise, any natural or legal person, legally responsible for the ownership or possession of one or more establishments on land and fishing vessels involved in one or more of the stages of extraction, import, re-export, collection, transport, storage, processing, , export, commercialization and distribution of aquatic organisms, products

and by-products derived from fishing, must be registered in the official traceability system.

On the other hand, it is indicated that any natural or legal person, national or foreign, engaged in fishing, related or fishing-related activities, throughout the national territory, in continental waters, marine areas under sovereignty and jurisdiction of Panama or beyond national jurisdiction, will have its respective identification code which will be unique and unrepeatable and must provide the Authority with all the information required by the official traceability system..

It is worth mentioning that six months after the entry into force of Decree in question, that is, as of January 5, 2022, the traceability system will begin in its initial stage.:

1. Any establishment on land involved in one or more of the stages of extraction, import, re-export, collection, transport, storage, processing, export, commercialization and distribution of aquatic organisms, products and by-products

derived from fishing.

2. Vessels of national flag of international service that carry out fishing or related activities beyond national jurisdiction.

3. Foreign-flagged vessels that carry out fishing or fishing-related activities that introduce their fishing products to the national territory.

4. Inland service national flag vessels, with a fishing license for the extraction of the anchovy, herring and orqueta, shrimp or maiden and bow tie resources.

5. Vessels of the national flag, inland service, cataloged as deep sea vessels with a longline fishing license.

Regarding the land mobilization of organisms from fishing and in order to guarantee traceability, it has been established that they must have a safe conduit issued by the ARAP through the Official Traceability System and will be called the Single Guide of mobilization and sanitary control.

The ARAP shall be responsible for conducting audits and inspections of establishments on land to verify compliance with the provisions of the Decree, as well as any other national or international regulations that apply to them, including the resolutions and recommendations of regional fisheries management bodies.

We can conclude by pointing out that the regulation of the traceability of fishing, related and fishing-related activities, was made with the purpose of ending illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and thus equip the competent authorities to have the necessary adequate tools and controls at all stages of the fish production chain.^{L&E}



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REGULATIONS OF SPECIAL REGIME FOR THE PROCESSES OF CONCILIATED REORGANIZATION

Giovana del C. Miranda G. - Attorney
giovana.miranda@rbc.com.pa

Through Executive Decree No. 90 of July 9, 2021, Law 212 of 2021 is regulated, which establishes a special regime for processes carried out due to the national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It contemplates Executive Decree No. 90 that regulates the rules and procedures applicable to the reconciled reorganization process that can be used by those companies that seek their conservation, recovery and obtaining resources to face their obligations in the event of insolvency in which they are due to the national state of emergency declared as a result of COVID-19.

The concept of debugged debt is developed, which is the one that results from segregating from the total liabilities of the company the obligations pending payment of shareholders, those contracted with related companies and with the public sector.

Based on this, it has been established that the will of the parties will prevail in the reconciled reorganization process, so the appointment of the conciliator must be made, by mutual agreement,

between the debtor and the creditors who represent the holding of more than 51% of the company's total liabilities, which must also agree on the place where the conciliation sessions will be held. In the event that the conciliator is proposed by the debtor, his appointment must be ratified by the creditors' meeting.

In this vein, we see that for the determination of the reorganization process the approval of 51% of the debited debt is required and that once the creditors interested in the reorganization process appear, it will be understood that the regulatory quorum for gathering them validly is made up of the absolute majority of those that make up the entire labor liability of the debtor.

It has been provided that all interested creditors, national or foreign, will have a period of 10 business days to appear in the process after the publication of the notice of intention in the written communication media for five calendar days.

On the other hand, we see that during the period of insolvency protection the debtor will have a maximum

period of six months of protection that will be counted from the publication of the notice of intention and will be suspended fully by law, for the term of the validity of the bankruptcy financial protection the terms of prescription of the credits that the creditors maintain.

Regarding figure of conciliator, it has been established that provisional fees of conciliator may be agreed and covered on behalf of the party that initiates reconciled reorganization process, according to the complexity of the matter and the financial capacity of the debtor. However, the Board of Creditors may modify the fees at the first conciliation meeting, where the parties will agree whether the costs generated by the process will be covered by the debtor or will be prorated between the parties.

Finally, non-compliance with the conciliation agreement signed in a reconciled reorganization process will result in res judicata and will give executive merit before the ordinary courts.

It is worth remembering that Law 212 of 2021 was created in order to promote the recovery and conservation of companies, as sources of employment, through a conciliatory process and to agree on a continuity plan to face the commitments in the situation of insolvency as a consequence of the state of emergency. *L&E*

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REGULATE THE DESIGN AND BUILDING RULES

Giovana del C. Miranda G.- Attorney
giovana.miranda@rbc.com.pa

In recent days, Executive Decree No. 142 of July 9, 2021 was issued that regulates Law 226 of June 8, 2021, which regulates design and building standards. In this regard, we consider it appropriate to comment that said Law establishes that all regulations related to buildings emanating from regulations or any official legal instrument must be complied with by designers, builders and any authority responsible for the review and registration of the corresponding plans or documents. and consequently, non-compliance with the regulations will entail for the person responsible, once the application of the corresponding civil, criminal or administrative sanctions has been verified.

The purpose of Executive Decree No. 142 is to:

1. Regulate the responsibilities derived from the process of review, registration and permits or certifications regarding design, buildings and constructions.
2. Establish the framework for the responsibilities applicable to all those involved in construction works, including officials or authorities

who review, register and grant building, design and construction permits or certifications.

3. Establish responsibilities for maintenance of building works.

Under these parameters, Decree in question is aimed at designers, builders, all officials of the entities that are part of single window of the Municipalities and Meritorious Fire Department of the country, who participate in review process, registration and permit or certifications related to design, buildings and constructions. It is worth mentioning that Decree No. 142, develops responsibilities for the design, responsibilities for construction, responsibilities for the design review, responsibilities for the review of permits or certifications, responsibilities for the registration of construction plans, responsibilities for the registration of construction permits or certifications, responsibilities for the registration of occupancy permits or certifications and responsibilities for the maintenance of the works. Regarding responsibilities for maintenance of works,

the Decree provides that it will be the responsibility of the boards of directors of the horizontal properties, owners and / or inhabitants of real estate to carry out the adequate periodic maintenance of their buildings, which must include, the state of the structure, windows, ceilings, access ramps, evacuation routes, stairs and railings among others. As well as electrical and mechanical systems and equipment, such as elevators or escalators, electrical generators, swimming pool equipment, fire detection and alarm systems, fire systems, lightning rod system, gas, air conditioning equipment and extractions and any other is in use within the building. *L&E*



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PERU JOINS THE LIST OF SPECIFIC COUNTRIES THAT HAVE LABOR, FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL, ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Giovana del C. Miranda G. - Attorney
giovana.miranda@rbc.com.pa

Executive Decree No. 226 of July 21, 2021 was recently sanctioned, which modifies the requirements contained in Executive Decree No. 416 of June 13, 2012, which creates the immigration category of permanent resident as national foreigners. of specific countries that maintain friendly, professional, economic and investment relations with Panama.

For the purposes of this migratory category, the changes focus on:

1. The Republic of Peru is included in the list of friendly countries, so its nationals may opt for this type of migratory category, as long as they meet the required requirements.

2. A provisional residence will be granted for a term of 2 years and after this period, permanent residence is granted.

3. Resident permits under this category may be requested, protected in any of the following situations:

- For work reasons.

- **For investment reasons in real estate, for which they must provide the certificate from the Public Registry of Panama that proves the ownership of the real estate in a personal capacity of the applicant with a minimum value of B/. 200,000.00, operation that can be financed through a local bank.**

- Due to a fixed-term deposit, in which case, applicant must present a bank certification that shows that the existence of the deposit, the value, the holder, the term and that it is free of encumbrances with a validity of three (3) years and for a value not less than B /. 200,000.00. It may be carried out in a personal capacity, through a public limited company where it is shown that the applicant is the final beneficiary of the shares, contributions or social quotas of the company or founder or final beneficiary of a private interest foundation.

4. The Decree will take effect on August 7, 2021.*L&E*



JURISPRUDENCIA

JUDGMENT OF THE PLENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE OF APRIL 6, 2021 THAT DECLARES UNCONSTITUTIONAL ART. 4 OF THE PROJECT OF LAW NO. 308 OF 2020 WHICH ADDS PROVISIONS TO THE DECREE LAW 9 OF 1998, ON THE BANKING REGIME

Ivana Michelle Herrera - Attorney
yinnelle.smart@rbc.com.pa

The Bill No. 308 of 2020, was approved in the third debate in the National Assembly, it aims to add provisions to Decree Law 9 of 1998, on the Banking Regime, the bill was sent to the Executive Branch for its sanction and promulgation, however, it was partially objected by the president of the Republic of Panama, Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, since he himself considered article 4 of the decree law was unconstitutional.

The Bill was returned to the National Assembly who, on their insistence, approved it, thus being the President of the Republic, presented it to the Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice for it to be submitted to a decision on the Unconstitutionality of Article 4 of the Draft Law No. 308 of 2020.

Once business is admitted, it is transferred to the Procurator of the Administration, who issues his opinion on the objection of unconstitutionality presented.

The article of the discrepancy in question is article 4 of Bill No. 308 of 2020 which dictates the following:

"This law of public order and social interest and

will have retroactive effects up to two years before its entry into force."

The president of the Republic of Panama considers that this article violates articles 32 and 46 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama, which establish the following:

Article 32:

"No one will be tried except by competent authority and in accordance with the legal procedures and not more than once for the same criminal, administrative, police or disciplinary cause."

Article 46:

"Laws don't have retroactive effect, except those of public order or social interest when it is so stated in them. In criminal matters, the Law favorable to the defendant always has preference and retroactivity, even when there is an enforceable sentence." The president explains that, directly by omission, article 4 of Bill 308 of 2020 contradicts the

aforementioned articles of the Constitution, firstly, it establishes article 32 of the constitution that guarantees due legal process and which is It derives, as one of its three principles, which is the prohibition of being subjected to a process except through the legal procedures already established.

It also indicates that by granting retroactive effects to bank liquidation processes that have not concluded within the two years prior to the entry into force of Bill 308, the consequence is none other than that of entering into contradiction to the constitutional regulations whose violation alleges, by trying to introduce new rules to the process that have been in place for a long time.

The proposed rule would affect the rules already applied in bank liquidation processes, where he considers that due legal process is violated, which could even lead to criminal and civil consequences for those involved.

He also considers that art. 4 of Bill 308 goes against art. 46 of the Constitution since it directly violates by commission, by qualifying the rules contained as public order and social interest, in order to grant retroactive effects, it does not consider that they are about security and proper functioning of the State, but of measures that benefit a small number of account holders, the same being only detrimental to customers of a bank in the process of liquidation; The regulation would not have a national scope, since it is not aimed at all the depositors of the banking system, which would also serve to reduce the possibility of classifying it as of social interest.

After the support of the president of the Republic of Panama, attorney for the administration expressed his opinion regarding concerns and arguments presented and requested the Supreme Court of Justice to declare art. 4 of Bill 308 of 2020.

The attorney for the administration argues that in these cases great care must be taken, since this retroactivity may affect the decisions adopted by the liquidator or the liquidation board, citing judgments which recall that the general rule is that

the laws do not are retroactive, since this maintains the principle of legal certainty; of the doctrines that were introduced as examples; the Judgment of May 30, 2020, in plenary session and the aforementioned judgment of June 16, 1955 by Dr. Cesar Quintero, the attorney concludes that art. 4 of Bill 308 of 2020 violates the provisions of art. 46 of the constitution, for having granted it the devolutive character.

In these cases, what is at stake are the decisions to be made in a liquidation process by the administrators of the bank liquidation, since in the case of "up to two years before" the payment of primary deposits and other obligations, the appearance of depositors and other creditors to the liquidation and taking decisions regarding the mass of the liquidation of the debts of the mass and the order of priority; In other words, everything that has been done in a bank liquidation process could be affected.

It also points out that article 4 of Bill 308 of 2020 is a violation of article 163 of the National Constitution, which says the following:

"It is prohibited to the National Assembly:

1. Issue laws that contradict the letter or spirit of this constitution..."

Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice announces the genesis of law and promptly indicates the laws that regulate the powers of the liquidator and the liquidation Board, given that the legislative body did not take into account that the Decree was systematically ordered Law 9 of February 26, 1998, article 127-A, is now article 168 of the sole text that regulates the powers of the liquidator and the liquidation Board, this article in turn is part of Chapter XVII, relative to Forced Liquidation.

In relation to article 32, the Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice indicates that, on various occasions and different rulings, that it must be interpreted as "due process includes the set of guarantees that seek to ensure the parties that make up a Process, a correct and fulfilled decision on their claims", as well as the

guarantee of due process includes three rights, which are:

1. **The right to be tried by the competent authority.**
2. **The right to be tried in accordance with the pertinent legal procedures.**
3. **The right not to be tried more than once for the same criminal, police or disciplinary case.**

Therefore, the guarantee of due process that the Constitution incorporates in art. 32, has a justified recognition in our State of Law, constituting a true constitutional guarantee, they mention the Argentine author Roland Arazi, who says that the following of due process:

"The right to due process seeks to confirm the legality and correct application of the laws within a framework of minimal respect for human dignity within any type of process, understood as "that complex, progressive and methodical activity, which is carried out in accordance with the pre-established rules, the result of which will be dictated by the individual norm of conduct (sentence), in order to declare the material law applicable to the specific case."

After what is indicated and after the analysis, the plenary session of the Supreme Court of Justice considers article 4 of Bill 308 of 2020, by introducing retroactivity, it violates article 32 of the Panamanian constitution, since it would disrupt its second element as to legal procedures.

The plenary session agreed with the administration attorney that such retroactivity could affect the decisions made by the liquidator and the liquidation board, and at the same time violates the procedure already established for Forced Liquidation.

The conclusion of the Plenary is that in effect there was a violation of art. 32 of the Panamanian Constitution.

Now, on the alleged violation of article 46 of the constitution by article 4 of Bill 308 of 2020, in the opinion of the plenary session there has also been

a violation; who cite the judgment of December 2, 2004, which functions as a precedent and also cite Doctor César Quintero in his work on Constitutional Law who mentions the following:

"Two problems arise around this exception: The first is to determine what is understood by law of public order and what is understood by law of social interest. The second is to establish whether all laws of public order or social interest, by the mere fact of being, have necessarily and necessarily retroactive application."

For a law to qualify as "public order and social interest" it must be based on reasoned motivations and nature of respective rule and not only on what the legislator says.

Given that this rule would only affect a group of people and not the entire population and only reaches a minority or a small number of account holders, and is not aimed at all depositors in the banking system, the same rule does not qualify as of social interest, which would go against article 46 of the national constitution.

Only those rules that are of public order and of social interest will be retroactive.

The plenary also agreed with the attorney for the administration of the infraction of numeral 1 of art. 163 of the Political Constitution, which provides that the national assembly is prohibited from issuing laws that contradict the letter and spirit of the Constitution, the contested norm does not agree with the text or the spirit of the aforementioned constitutional norm.

Finally, the Supreme Court of Justice, Plenary, declares that article 4 of Bill 308 of 2020 is unconstitutional, since it violates articles 32, 46 and numeral 1 of article 163 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama. *L&E*

Politics

A FEW MONTHS AFTER THE ELECTIONS IN NICARAGUA

Rafael Fernández Lara - Independent Lawyer
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

Through a resolution approved by the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua and the confirmation of the government of the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, it is presumed that the general elections of the Central American country will be held on November 7, 2021. An extension of the term has also been announced for the legalization of the political groups that will participate in said electoral event. The opposition opposes this determination because it considers that this mandate entails a de facto reform of the Electoral Law, which is an exclusive power of the National Assembly of Deputies.

According to the opposition, this reform seeks individual registrations in order to divide the anti-government vote. Those who register individually, in fact leave the national opposition coalition that was formed on June 25 of this year and is made up of seven organizations that hope to face President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on November 7, 2021.

A few months before the elections, everything seems to indicate that President Ortega will register once

again as the only candidate for the presidency of the republic, supported as before by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). President Ortega is one of the most important leaders of the FSLN and is currently the leader of the FSLN Party. After the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza Debayle in July 1979, he was part of the Directory that assumed power after the triumph of the Sandinista revolution. He served as coordinator of the Government Board of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua between 1981 and 1984.

On November 4, 1984, the first free elections of the Sandinista revolution were held and Daniel Ortega Saavedra was elected President of the Republic of Nicaragua by a wide margin and

with the support of the FSLN with 735,967 presidential votes and with 61 deputies and 66.97 of the suffrages. It was followed by the Conservative



Democratic Party of Nicaragua (PCDN) that supported Clemente Guido Chávez with 154,327 votes for president, obtained 14 deputies and 14.04% of the votes. Third place was obtained by Virgilio Godoy Reyes with 105,560 presidential votes, 9 deputies and 09.66% of the votes cast. Mauricio Díaz Dávila, from the Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC) followed in fourth with 61,199 presidential votes, six deputies and 05.56% of the votes. In fifth position was Allan Zambrana Salmeron, supported by the Nicaraguan Communist Party (PCdN) with 16,034 presidential votes, two deputies and 01.45% of the votes.

The sixth position was occupied by Domingo Sánchez Salgado with 14,494 presidential votes, two deputies and 01.31% of the votes and the seventh and last position was obtained by Isidro Téllez Toruño of the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Movement (MAPML) with 11,352 votes, two deputies and 01.03% of the votes cast.

Daniel Ortega Saavedra assumed the position of president on January 10, 1985 for the period 1985 - 1991. In these general elections, impartial organizations such as the European Economic Community and other democratic states such as Canada and Ireland declared that the elections were fair and democratic. However, the US government of President Ronald Reagan refused to acknowledge the election results. Voter turnout in these elections was 75.43%.

The next presidential elections were originally announced for November 1990. In 1989 a coalition of Nicaraguan parties organized the National Opposition Union (UNO), led by Violeta Barrios Viuda de Chamorro, with the purpose of defeating President Ortega and the FSLN. President Ortega finally agreed to advance the electoral elections for February 25, 1990. Ortega, despite being convinced that he would win those elections, was defeated by UNO, of a conservative and right-wing tendency. His candidate, Violeta Chamorro, won 54.74% of the presidential

votes and 51 deputies against President Ortega and the FSLN with 40.85% of the presidential votes and 39 deputies. Eight more parties also participated in those elections, all with their own presidential candidate. Together they represented only 4.44% of the presidential votes, obtaining only two deputy seats in the National Assembly. In these general elections turnout was 86.23% of the registered voters.

The next elections in Nicaragua were held on October 20, 1996 to choose the successor to President Violeta Chamorro, who didn't aspire to reelection. Faced with the dissolution of the National Opposition Union (UNO), the Liberal Alliance was formed which led to the electoral victory of Arnoldo Alemán, who defeated Daniel Ortega of the FSLN by a wide margin. Arnoldo Alemán achieved 50.99% of the presidential votes and 42 deputies; Daniel Ortega Saavedra obtained 37.83% of the presidential votes and 36 deputies. Incredibly, another 21 presidential candidates attended, who together obtained less than 12% of the presidential votes and 16 deputies in total. The electoral turnout in these elections was 76.39%.

The elections that followed were held on November 4, 2001, when the candidate of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party Enrique Bolaños achieved a conclusive victory, with 56.31% of the votes and an absolute majority of the National Assembly with 49 seats. On his side, Daniel Ortega Saavedra lost for the third time with 42.28% of the votes and 39 deputies of the National Assembly. There was only a third presidential candidate, Alberto Saborio Morales of the



Pictures:

Violeta Chamorro / <https://ruizhealytimes.com>

Enrique Bolaños (q.e.p.d.) / <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com>

Conservative Party, who represented only 1.41% of the votes and got four deputies. Voter turnout was 73.19%.

In 2006, on Sunday, November 5, the following general elections were held, and on this occasion Daniel Ortega Saavedra of the FSLN was elected with 37.59% and 38 deputies of the assembly. Second was Eduardo Montealegre of the Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance, with 29.00% of the votes, managing to capture 23 seats of deputies. Third was José Rizo Castellón of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party with 26.21% of the votes and 25 deputies. In fourth position was Edmundo Jarquín Calderón of the Sandinista Renovation Movement, who obtained 6.44% of the votes and only five deputies. In fifth and last place went to Edén Atanacio Pastora Gómez of Alternativa por el Cambio, with 0.27% of the votes and no seats in the assembly. The electoral turnout in this contest was only 61.23%.

Nicaragua's next general election was held on Sunday, November 6, 2011. The electoral process was supervised by observers from the OAS, the European Union, and a group of Latin American experts and national observers. The elections were won in a resounding reelection by Daniel Ortega Saavedra of the FSLN (Unida Nicaragua Triunfa) with 62.46% of votes and obtained 63 deputies. In the second was Fabio Gadea Mantilla of Independent Liberal Party with 31.00% of votes and obtained 27 seats of deputies. The third position was Arnoldo Alemán, with 5.91% of votes and only two deputies. In fourth place was Enrique Quiñones of ALN with 0.4% of votes and no deputy. And finally, Miguel Angel García of the APRE obtained 0.23% of the votes and no deputy. The electoral turnout this time was 73.9%.

On Sunday, November 6, 2016, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, with his wife María Murillo Zambrano, were elected as President and Vice President respectively, supported by FSLN. His reelection of him this time achieved 68.20% of votes and a total of 71 deputies. The second position was achieved by Maximino Rodríguez Martínez of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party with only 15.03% of

the votes and 14 deputies. In third place was José del Carmen Alvarado of the PLI with 4.51% of the votes and only two deputies. The fourth position was occupied by Saturnino Cerrato of ALN with 4.31% of votes and two deputies. In fifth place was Erick Cabezas from PC with 2.30% of the votes and a single deputy. And finally, in sixth position, Carlos Canales from APRE, with 1.40% of the votes and a single deputy.

After this synthesis of all results of the different electoral processes carried out after the fall of the Somocista dictatorship in 1979, the political panorama heats up due to the possible holding of the presidential elections on Sunday, November 7, 2021.

At the moment, the only well-known candidate is the current president and eternal presidential candidate, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, who has participated as a presidential candidate in seven continuous presidential elections, of which he has won four (4) and lost three (3). Since his last defeat on November 4, 2001 against Enrique Bolaños of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, in the three following general elections and the last one, he has been favored by the popular vote.

With less than four months to go until the probable electoral event in November, the outlook for the Nicaraguan opposition does not look flattering. There are several supposed presidential candidates who so far don't represent true cohesion, with an electoral force with little intention to vote, which is one of the most important necessary requirements to win against Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega. That intention to vote was present in November 1990 when a coalition of important Nicaraguan parties organized the National Opposition Union (UNO) and led Violeta Barrios Viuda de Chamorro as President and Virgilio Godoy as Vice President.

After three consecutive presidential periods in power, the Sandinista leader has consolidated, maintaining, according to some, control of the Supreme Electoral Council, which he has used to remove the authentic opponents of the regime from legality, practically

choosing who suits him best. compete and indirectly intervene in the internal affairs of other parties such as the Independent Liberal Party, where a known opponent of Ortega, Don Eduardo Montealegre, was derailed.

The situation a few months before the elections is that some, instead of promoting their candidates, dedicate themselves to calling for abstention and describing the next electoral appointment as an "electoral farce". On the other hand, the FSLN, in the exercise of power, has known how to infiltrate other parties, such as the Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC), which entered into an alleged pact with FSLN in exchange for impunity for its leader and former president of the republic. , Arnoldo Alemán, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for corruption. The Supreme Court of Justice, which is also said to be controlled by the FSLN, reversed the sentence and for years it is said that the PLC has acted more as an ally of President Ortega than as an opponent in the Legislative Branch. As if this were not enough, the Ortega government and his FSLN have recently passed several punitive laws to prevent any important candidacy that could prevent a victory for President Ortega.

The arrests of possible presidential candidates and government opponents by the Sandinista regime tarnish the transparency and legality of the upcoming elections and the intention of the

Ortega-Murillo presidential couple to perpetuate themselves in power at all costs is evident. It gives the impression that the Sandinista caudillo seeks with all kinds of tricks to get opponents out of participation in 2021 elections.

On the other hand, not a few believe that the elections announced for November are instrumented to invalidate the participation of the forces that represent a real risk of political change, distance the candidates who really challenge the permanence of Daniel Ortega and make the right impossible. of citizens to free and secret suffrage. This is partly confirmed by her accusations against possible candidate Cristiana Chamorro Barrios, which tend to disqualify her and other aspiring opposition leaders, who are kept under house arrest by the regime. In addition to this, highly questioned decisions have been made against political parties such as the Democratic Restoration Party and the Conservative Party, both stripped of their legal status.

The advance of oppression that is observed is an indication of what is coming in short time that remains to carry out these elections. Human rights organizations target regime for perpetrating crimes against humanity and methodically violating public freedoms. It is assured that more than 100 political prisoners opposed to the Ortega-Murillo government will continue in their dungeons, some of them incommunicado, thus creating an atmosphere of "tiger fight with tied donkey" for opposition.

This is also the case because there was no type of negotiation with the opposition forces to collaborate and elaborate the organizational structures and preparation for the next elections, including the reform of the electoral law. In our opinion, President Ortega and his supporters will seek to prevail in the November elections in any way



Pictures:

Arnoldo Alemán / <https://www.laprensa.com.ni>

Pareja presidencial / <https://news.culturacolectiva.com>

At this point, some opposition political groups don't seem to understand, either through complicity or foolishness, that at the moment they are wasting the opportunity to achieve real change. The priority now is to get organized; for tomorrow it is late. A polarization of the consolidated opposition forces that supports the claims of the 2018 uprising, which brought a balance of at least 328 murders, is also very important to take into account.

The union of the opposition force must be based solely on the conviction that only united and consolidated will be able to win, with the support of the democratic countries that will have the duty to be aware of Nicaragua so that its electoral process is transparent and respectful of the sovereign will. of his people, as expected by the international community.^{ℒ&T}



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Panamanian ECONOMY

CONSUMER'S PRICE INDEX

Source: GCRP

Monthly variation of National Urban CPI (June 2021 compared to May 2021):

The National Urban CPI presented an increase of 0.2%. The groups that registered increases were: Transportation in 0.7%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, both at 0.3%; Housing, water, electricity and gas in 0.2%, and Health in 0.1%.

Transportation group reflected growth in one of its seven classes: "Fuels and lubricants for personal transportation equipment" in 2.2%, due to the rise in the price of automobile fuel. The increase observed in the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group was due to the increase in eight of its eleven classes.

The greatest variations were in the "Fruits" classes at 0.9%; "Oils and fats" in 0.8%, due to the increase in the price of oil, margarine and butter; and "Meat" in 0.6%, due to the growth in the price of chicken and beef.

The rise registered in Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group was due to increase in three of its four classes. The greatest variation was in the "Wine" class at 2.9%.

The group Housing, water, electricity and gas showed

an increase in two of its eight classes, "Gas" by 1.8%, due to the increase in the price of the 100-pound gas tank, and "Materials for the conservation and repair of housing" by 1.5%, as a result of the growth in the price of materials for home repair.

Health group presented an increase in four of its seven classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Hospital services" at 0.9%. The groups Clothing and footwear, Education, and Miscellaneous goods and services remained unchanged.

The groups that showed reductions were: Furniture, articles for the home and for the ordinary maintenance of the home, Communications, Recreation and culture, and Restaurants and hotels all in 0.1%.

The decrease observed in the Furniture, household articles and ordinary household maintenance group was due to the drop in three of its eleven classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Tools and large equipment" in 0.7%, due to the reduction in the price of tools for the home.

Communications group registered a 1.0% decrease in one of its two classes "Telephone equipment". The drop reflected in the Recreation and culture group was

due to the reduction in four of its sixteen classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Equipment for the reception, recording and reproduction of sounds and images" in 1.3%, due to the decrease in the price of television sets and DVD players, and sound equipment.

The Restaurants and hotels group presented a 0.1% drop in one of its two classes "Restaurants, cafes and similar establishments", due to the reduction in the price of take-away meals, and non-alcoholic foods and beverages outside the home.

• **Interannual variation of National Urban CPI (June 2021 compared to June 2020):**

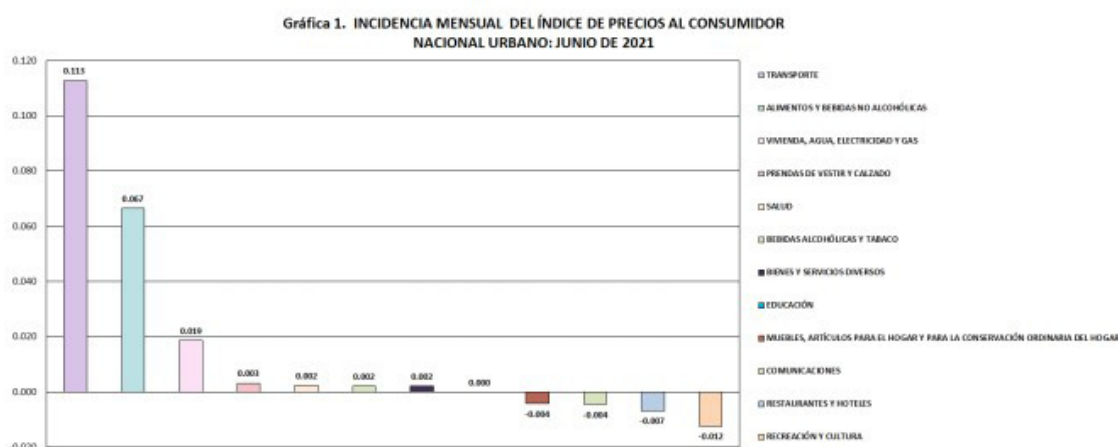
National Urban CPI presented an interannual variation of 1.6%. In the groups that observed increases were:

Transportation in 12.1%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages at 1.5%; Health, and Restaurants and hotels both in 0.6%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco at 0.5%; Furniture, articles for the home and for the ordinary maintenance of the home in 0.4%, and Miscellaneous goods and services in 0.3%.

The Education group remained unchanged.

The groups that registered decreases were: Housing, water, electricity and gas in 8.7%; Clothing and footwear in 0.4%; Communications at 0.2%; and Recreation and culture in 0.1%.

Next, the graph with the monthly incidence by group of the National Urban CPI for June 2021:



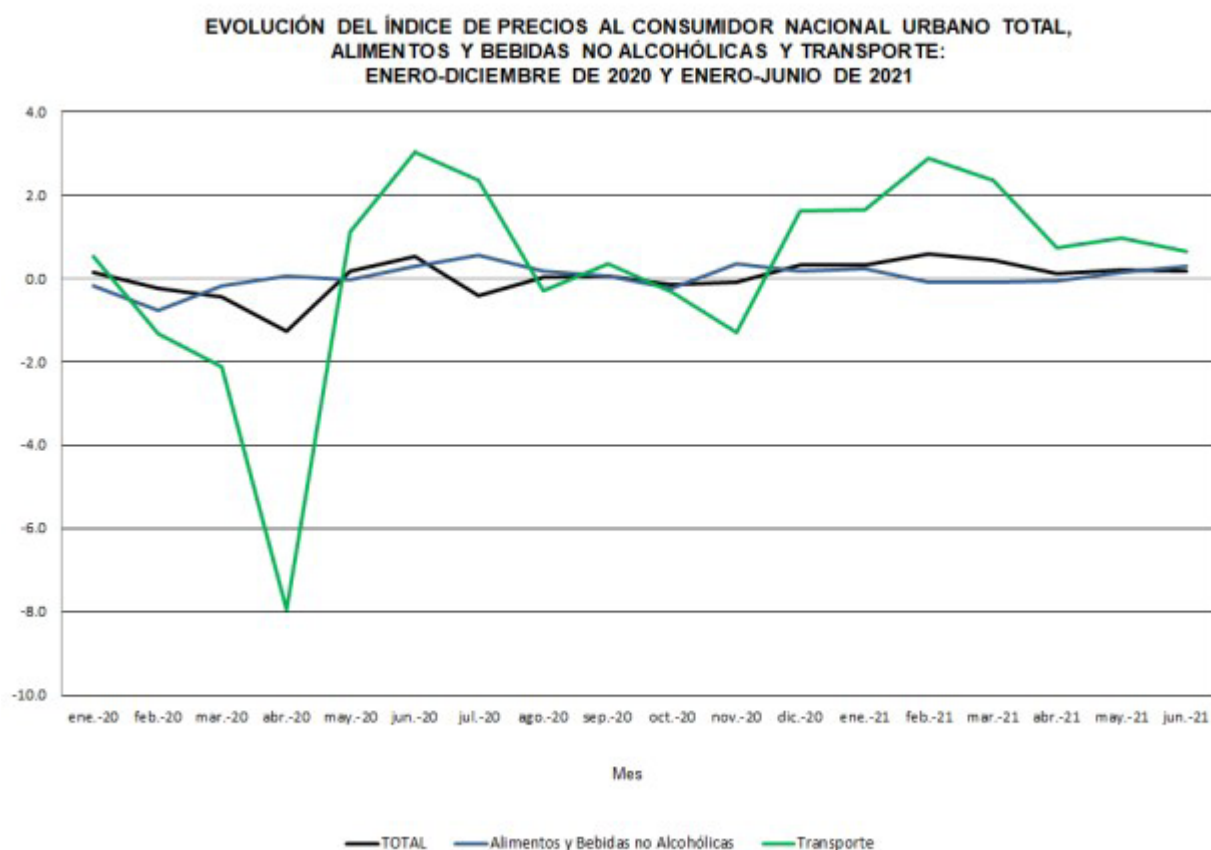
Incidence: Corresponds to the contribution of each group with respect to the total variation of the National Urban Index, therefore, the sum of the incidents results in the variation of the index. *L&E*

CUADRO 1. INCIDENCIA Y VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: JUNIO DE 2021
BASE 2013=100

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidencia	Variación mensual
TOTAL	100.0	0.2	0.2
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	22.4	0.0666	0.3
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	0.0022	0.3
Prendas de vestir y calzado	7.7	0.0032	0.0
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	8.5	0.0186	0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	7.8	-0.0040	-0.1
Salud	3.4	0.0024	0.1
Transporte	16.8	0.1127	0.7
Comunicaciones	4.3	-0.0043	-0.1
Recreación y cultura	9.7	-0.0123	-0.1
Educación	2.4	0.0000	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	6.7	-0.0067	-0.1
Bienes y servicios diversos	9.8	0.0021	0.0

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.



**CUADRO 2. EVOLUCIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO,
SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS:
ENERO-JUNIO DE 2021**

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Variación porcentual mensual					
	2021					
	Enero	Febrero	Marzo	Abril	Mayo	Junio
TOTAL	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.3
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.5	0.0	0.3	-0.2	-0.4	0.3
Prendas de vestir y calzado	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Salud	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Transporte	1.6	2.9	2.3	0.7	1.0	0.7
Comunicaciones	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Recreación y cultura	-	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Educación	-1.4	4.6	-	-	-	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1
Bienes y servicios diversos	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE IMF CONCLUDES THE FIRST REVIEW UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON THE PRECAUTIONARY AND LIQUIDITY LINE GRANTED TO PANAMA

Source: IMF

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today concluded the first review within the framework of the Precautionary and Liquidity Line (LPL) agreement granted to Panama for an amount of SDR 1,884 million (500 percent of the quota of Panama, equivalent to around USD 2.7 billion) (see Press Release No. 21/19). The Panamanian authorities have not made any transfers within the framework of this agreement and they intend to continue assigning the same precautionary character. The LPL serves as insurance against extreme external shocks derived from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Panama's economy suffered a strong shock due to the global pandemic in 2020, as containment measures significantly reduced economic activity, especially tourism, while Hurricane Eta and Tropical Storm Iota affected a significant part of production. agricultural country. As a result, output contracted 17.9 percent and the fiscal position deteriorated considerably due to loss of revenue and pressure on spending.

Although Panama can meet its external financing needs under current conditions, the LPL serves as a hedge against downside risks driven by external factors. Priority policies under the LPL are to support an adequate level of spending on health

and social needs, while driving the post-pandemic recovery and continuing to strengthen institutional policy frameworks, including financial integrity and security. improving the quality of statistics.

Panama has adopted the policies envisaged under the LPL and has complied with the amended fiscal rule. The authorities continue to strengthen Panama's institutional frameworks, including the AML/CFT regime in accordance with the action plan agreed with the FATF, the declaration of statistics, the multi-year budget, and financial regulation and supervision.

At the end of the Board of Executive Directors' deliberations, Deputy Managing Director and Chairman of the Board, Mitsuhiro Furusawa, made following statement:

"The Panamanian economy suffered a drastic contraction in 2020 in a context of rigorous confinement measures and restrictions on mobility to face the COVID-19 pandemic, reversing the unprecedented economic expansion achieved during the last two decades. The outlook for 2021 is optimistic as the country is well positioned for a substantial recovery, supported by a rebound in the global economy, a robust COVID-19 vaccination program and appropriate

macroeconomic policies. However, significant challenges remain, including a possible resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that would disrupt global trade and capital flows, damaging Panama's canal activity and logistics sectors. In addition, the country faces significant downside risks stemming from a possible lack of progress to quickly exit the FATF gray list.

"The two-year agreement within the framework of the Precautionary and Liquidity Line (LPL), approved by the Executive Board, on January 19, 2021 for 500 percent of the quota (SDR 1,884 million), is helping to face the remaining vulnerabilities, support authorities' recovery efforts, and shore up market confidence. Performance under the program has been strong and Panama continues to meet the LPL access criteria. The authorities remain firm in the implementation of sound policies under the LPL and intend to make the agreement precautionary.

"The authorities have committed to recalibrating policy measures to safeguard macroeconomic and financial stability and to address the issues raised by the FATF to get off the gray list. These measures include complying with the fiscal rule to preserve medium-term debt sustainability, improve fiscal transparency, maintain strict supervision to safeguard financial stability, and enhance the financial integrity framework by expeditiously addressing remaining deficiencies in the AML/LFT regulatory framework.

"The policy agenda during the LPL will focus on facilitating rapid exit from the FATF gray list, improving the quality of statistics and preparing the economy for post-pandemic recovery." *L&E*

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World ECONOMY



Banco Mundial

TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE LANGUAGE THEY SPEAK AT HOME IS ESSENTIAL TO ELIMINATING LEARNING POVERTY

Source: World Bank

Children learn more and are more likely to stay in school if they are first taught in a language they speak and understand. However, it is estimated that 37% of students in low- and middle-income countries must learn in a different language, which places them at a severe disadvantage during their school life and limits their learning potential. According to a new World Bank report **titled Loud and Clear: Effective Language of Instruction Policies for Learning**, effective language of instruction policies are essential to reduce learning poverty (i) and improve other outcomes in this area, as well as equity and inclusion.

Teaching takes place through the language - written and oral - and the fact that children learn to read and write is an indispensable condition for them to be able to learn all other academic subjects. The Loud and Clear report puts this issue simply: many children are taught in a language

they do not understand, and this is one of the main reasons why many show very low levels of learning.

Children most affected by such policies and decisions are often disadvantaged in other respects as well: they are in the bottom 40% of the socioeconomic ladder and live in more remote areas. They also lack the family resources to address the effects of ineffective language policies on their learning. This contributes to an increase in dropout rates, repetition rates and learning poverty, and a decrease in the level of learning in general.

"The devastating impacts of COVID 19 on learning are putting an entire generation at risk," says **Mamta Murthi, Vice President of Human Development at the World Bank**. "Even before the pandemic, in many education systems, students are put at a disadvantage by requiring them to learn in a language that they don't know well or, in too many cases, that they do

not know at all. Teaching children in a language they understand is essential to recover and accelerate learning, improve human capital outcomes, and rebuild more effective and equitable education systems”.

This new report states that when children are taught first in a language they speak and understand, they learn more, are better able to incorporate other languages, are able to learn other subjects such as math and science, are more likely to remain in school and enjoy a school experience appropriate to their culture and local circumstances.

Also, in this way, firmer foundations are established for learning in a second language later in school. Since effective policies on the language of instruction improve learning and school progress, they reduce the costs borne by the country for each student and thus allow more efficient use of public funds to expand access for all students. children to education and improve its quality.

“The linguistic diversity of Sub-Saharan Africa is one of its main characteristics: although the region has 5 official languages, 940 minority languages are spoken in West and Central Africa and more than 1,500 in Sub-Saharan Africa, which makes the challenges of education are even more arduous,” says **Ousmane Diagana, World Bank Regional Vice President for West and Central Africa**. “If countries adopt better policies on the language of instruction, they will allow children to have a much more auspicious start in school and will be on the right track to develop the human capital necessary to sustain the productivity and growth of their economies over the long term. term”. The report explains that while before the COVID-19 pandemic the world had made tremendous strides in getting children into school, near-universal enrollment in primary education did not lead to near-universal learning. In fact, before the pandemic broke out, 53%

of children in low- and middle-income countries suffered from learning poverty, that is, by age 10 they couldn't read and understand an age-appropriate text. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion was close to 90%. Today, unprecedented double crisis (i) triggered by prolonged school closures and the deep economic recession associated with the pandemic threatens to further exacerbate the situation: initial estimates suggest that learning poverty could rise by a fraction record 63% (i). These poor learning outcomes are, in many cases, a reflection of inadequate policies regarding the language of instruction.

“The message is very clear. Children learn best when they are taught in a language they understand, and this constitutes a solid foundation for later learning in a second language,” said **Jaime Saavedra, director of the World Bank's Department of Global Education Practices**. “This profound and unfair learning crisis demands that we act. Investments in the world's educational systems will not produce significant improvements in learning if students don't understand the language in which they are taught. Significant improvements in learning poverty can be made by teaching children in the language they speak at home.

The World Bank's new approach to the language of instruction is guided by five principles:

- 1. Teach children in their first language, from the time they attend early childhood care and education services and for at least the first six years of primary school.**
- 2. Use students' first language to teach other academic subjects, beyond reading and writing.**
- 3. If students are to learn a second language in primary school, it should be introduced as a**

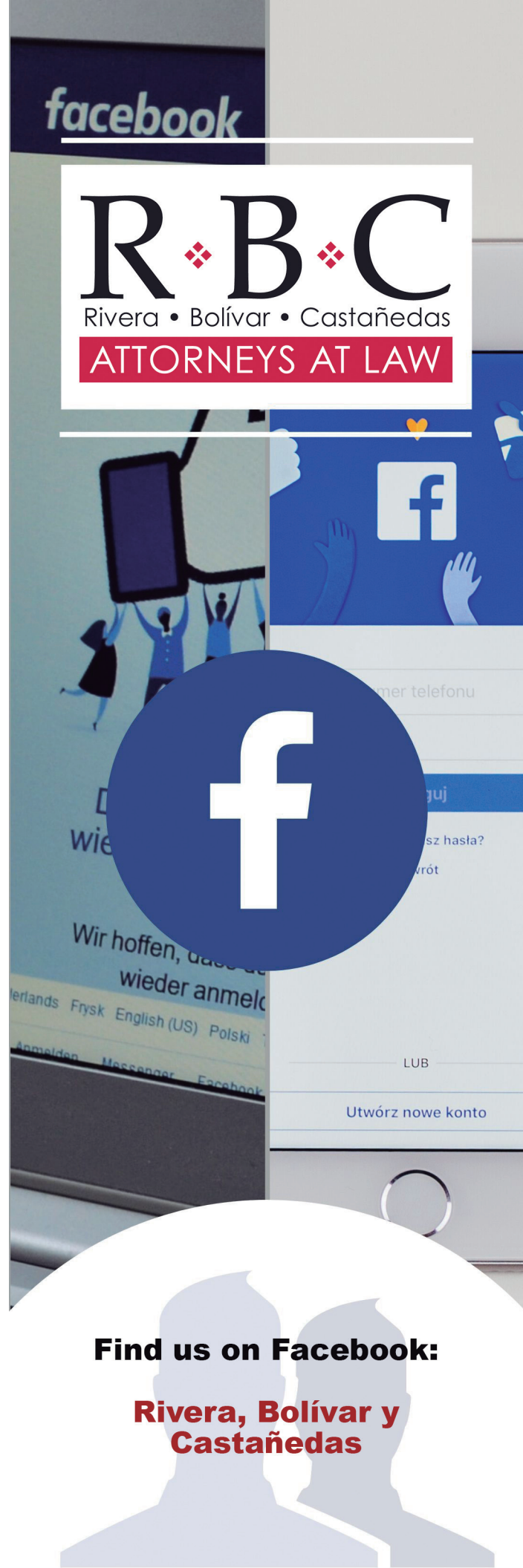
foreign language, with an emphasis initially on oral language skills.

4. Continue teaching the first language even after the second becomes the primary language of instruction.

5. Plan, develop, adapt and continually improve the implementation of policies related to the language of instruction, in line with the country context and educational objectives.

Of course, these policies must be adequately integrated into a broader regulatory package to ensure alignment with political commitment and coherence of teaching in the system.

This approach will guide the support that the World Bank will provide with financing and advisory services for countries to provide high-quality early childhood education and basic education to all students. The World Bank is the largest source of external financing for education in developing countries: in fiscal 2021, it broke another record and committed \$5.5 billion of resources from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the Association. Development International (IDA) for new operations, and also committed USD 800 million in new grants with funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which will go to a total of 60 new educational projects in 45 countries.*L&E*



GAPS WIDEN IN GLOBAL RECOVERY

Source: International Monetary Fund

The economic outlook has diverged even more between countries since projections published in the April 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO report). Access to vaccines has become the main gap along which the global recovery is divided into two blocks: the countries that can expect further normalization of activity by the end of this year (almost all advanced economies) and those still facing an outbreak of infections and an increase in the number of COVID victims.

However, recovery is not assured even in those countries with very low infection levels as long as the virus circulates in other countries. The world economy is projected to grow 6.0% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022. The world forecast for 2021 has not changed from the April 2021 WEO report, but the revisions are neutralized.

The outlook for emerging market and developing economies for 2021 has been revised downward, especially for emerging Asian economies. In contrast, projections for advanced economies have been revised upward. These reviews reflect the evolution of the pandemic and changes in supporting policies. The 0.5 percentage point increase for 2022 stems mainly from the upward revision of the forecast for advanced economies, particularly the United States, which reflects the anticipated adoption of legislation to provide additional fiscal support in the second half of 2021 and an improvement of

health indicators, in general, in the whole group.

Recent price pressures largely reflect unusual pandemic-related developments and transitory mismatches between supply and demand. Inflation is expected to return to pre-pandemic ranges in most countries in 2022 once these shocks are reflected in prices, but great uncertainty remains. Inflation is also expected to be high in some emerging and developing economies, due in part to high food prices.

Central banks should generally look closely at transitional pressures on inflation and avoid tightening policies until they have a clearer picture of underlying price dynamics. Clear communication from central banks on the outlook for monetary policy will be essential to shape inflation expectations and safeguard against premature tightening of financial conditions. However, there is a risk that transitional pressures will become more persistent and central banks may need to take preventive measures.

Risks around the baseline scenario are sloping to the downside. A slower-than-anticipated vaccination rate would allow the virus to mutate even further. Financial conditions could tighten quickly, for example as a result of a revaluation of the outlook for monetary policy in advanced economies if inflation expectations rose faster than expected. A double blow to emerging and

Multilateral action is essential to reduce divergences and strengthen global prospects. The immediate priority is to distribute vaccines equitably around the world. IMF staff's proposal for USD 50 billion, jointly endorsed by the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank, sets out clear goals and pragmatic measures at an affordable cost to end the pandemic. Economies with financial constraints also need unrestricted access to international liquidity.

The IMF's proposal for a blanket allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) equivalent to USD 650 billion aims to increase the reserve assets of all economies and help ease liquidity constraints. Countries also need to redouble their collective efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These multilateral actions can be reinforced by policies at the national level adapted to each stage of the crisis that help catalyze a sustainable and inclusive recovery.

The implementation of well-targeted and concerted policies may be what makes the difference between a future of long-lasting recoveries for all economies or one with ever-deepening gaps, now that many of them are struggling with the health crisis while a few see it as their situation is normalizing, although with the constant threat of new outbreaks.^{*LE&T*}



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GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2021 WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REVERSE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

Source: ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) raised its estimate of average growth for region in 2021 to 5.2%, a figure that denotes a rebound from deep contraction of 6.8% recorded in 2020 as a result of the adverse effects produced by the COVID-19 pandemic. This expansion will not be enough to ensure sustained growth since the social impacts of the crisis and structural problems in the region have worsened and will continue during the recovery phase, the United Nations agency warned in a new special report given to meet today.

The document entitled **The Paradox of Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean. Growth with persistent structural problems: inequality, poverty, little investment and low productivity**, was delivered by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, in a virtual press conference in which she urged governments to maintain emergency transfer policies to strengthen a reactivation that is sustainable over time, fairer, more egalitarian and friendly to the environment.

"We need policies for a transformative recovery with an emphasis on investment. Industrial and technological policies to promote the growth of sectors that are more intensive in technology and generate quality jobs. Restructure the health and education systems. Sustaining transfers, universalizing a basic emergency income, implementing bonds against hunger, ensuring access to a basic digital basket, strengthening support for MSMEs. Promote transversal and sectoral policies to move towards a new development model", she declared.

According to the new ECLAC projections, in 2022 Latin America and the Caribbean will grow 2.9% on average, which implies a slowdown compared to the 2021 rebound. There is nothing to anticipate that the low growth dynamics prior to 2020 will change. The structural problems that limited the region's growth before the pandemic have worsened and will have a negative impact on the recovery of economic activity and labor markets beyond the rebound in growth of 2021 and 2022. In terms of per capita income, the region continues on a

trajectory leading to a lost decade, warns report.

The document explains that the current growth rate is not sustainable and there is a risk of a return to mediocre trajectories, with insufficient investment and employment, and greater environmental deterioration. The crisis derived from the pandemic has increased inequality and poverty, affecting mainly women, schoolchildren and the elderly. It also came at a time when the region was stagnant, without facing the long-term crisis of investment, employment and sustainable productive diversification. It also recognizes that the fiscal measures adopted by the countries have been important, but insufficient in amount and duration.

As of June 30, the region accumulated more than 1,260,000 deaths due to COVID-19 (32% of the world total, despite the fact that its population represents 8.4% globally) and presents large gaps in vaccination compared to developed countries. Closing them requires cooperation and integration. In Latin America and the Caribbean (30 countries) the percentage of the total population with a complete vaccination scheme reaches only 13.6%, while in the European Union it is 34.9% and in North America 46.3%.

In the last year, the extreme poverty rate would have reached 12.5% and the poverty rate 33.7%. Emergency transfers to the most vulnerable sectors made it possible to mitigate the rise in poverty in the region in 2020 (it went from 189 million in 2019 to 209 million, which could have been 230 million, and from 70 million in 2019 to 78 million, which could have been 98 million in the case of extreme poverty). These transfers benefited 326 million people, 49.4% of the population. However, inequality in income distribution increased (2.9% of the Gini index).

Meanwhile, moderate or severe food insecurity reached 40.4% of the population in 2020, 6.5 percentage points more than in 2019. This means that there were 44 million more people in moderate or severe food insecurity in the region,

and 21 million became severely food insecure.

The report indicates that in the period January-April 2021, 20 countries announced or extended emergency transfers for 10 billion dollars (0.26% of GDP in 2020). If this level of spending is maintained in the remaining eight months of 2021, annual transfer spending would be only 0.78% of 2020 GDP, that is, half of 2020 spending: 1.55% of GDP. In this way, coverage would be much lower and would reach 60 million households (231 million people and 29% of the population, compared to the 326 million and 49.4% of the population reached in 2020).

On the other hand, ECLAC indicates that the pandemic leaves 2021 in a worse environmental state that is difficult to reverse. Although there were temporary improvements in air quality and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, emissions would rebound 5% this year, while 11 countries in the region saw a 35% drop in the budget or spending of environmental protection in 2019-2020.

In terms of foreign trade, the outlook is more favorable, since regional exports are expected to increase 22% in 2021 (after experiencing a decrease of 10% in 2020), which is explained by the increase in the prices of raw materials, the recovery of demand in China, the United States and the European Union, and the recovery of economic activity in the region. Meanwhile, in the period January-April 2021, the value of intraregional trade expanded by 19% compared to the same period in 2020, thus recovering values close to those of 2019 (which were already very low).

Regarding financing, the ECLAC report notes that Latin America is the region with highest weight of external debt in GDP (56.3%) and with highest service of external debt in terms of exports of goods and services. services (59%). These levels of indebtedness reduce fiscal space and jeopardize future growth and recovery. In the case of the small island states of the Caribbean (SIDS), situation is even more unsustainable, since in some

countries level of public debt exceeds 100% of GDP.

"In light of all these challenges, a new international financial architecture is necessary to respond to the emergency and development of the region," emphasized Alicia Bárcena. She indicated that a multilateral forum is needed to discuss conditions for issuing new debt and debt restructuring, a multilateral credit rating agency, the inclusion of middle-income countries in all relief initiatives and access to both concessional and non-concessional liquidity, the implementation of innovative financing instruments, such as green bonds and SDG bonds, the capitalization and strengthening of development banking at all levels, access to multilateral mechanisms for the application of global taxes, elimination of avoidance, evasion and illicit flows, and rethinking the cooperation system to achieve a multidimensional measurement beyond GDP per capita.

In fiscal matters, the ECLAC study reaffirms that it is essential to maintain fiscal policies to support emergency social transfers, support productive sectors, and reverse the persistent decline in investment to continue mitigating the effects of the pandemic and advance towards a transformative recovery with equality. In addition, fiscal policies must have a gender focus throughout the fiscal cycle. "Fiscal space must be increased via growth in tax revenues and reduction of unnecessary expenses. It is also necessary to consolidate taxes on income, extend the scope of taxes on property and wealth (wealth), review and progressively update royalties for the exploitation of non-renewable resources, and consider taxes on the digital economy, environmental and related to public health ", specifies the report.

"Efforts for a transformative recovery must learn from the environmental crisis: the other windows of opportunity will also close if no action is taken now," Bárcena remarked.^{L&E}

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NEGRA NURSERIES TO PROTECT THE MANGROVES

El Capital Financiero / <https://elcapitalfinanciero.com/rbcweb@rbc.com.pa>

A project of great value for the conservation of the natural resources of the area arrives at the Espavé community in West Panama: a fattening nursery for black concha, with a reproductive capacity of 5,400 juvenile mollusks.

The Ministry of the Environment joins the Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP) in the construction of this space in the mangroves of Bahía de Chame, where members of the Espavé Ebenezer Agro-tourist Association and the Asociación Defensores Unidos

del Manglar de Sajalices de Chame (DEUMSA), join this strategy, which will make possible the recovery and conservation of the natural populations of the resource, which will make it possible to contribute significantly to the improvement of their quality of life and the ecological environment.

Data from the Environmental Information Directorate of MiAMBIENTE, show that from 2012 to 2019, 358.94 hectares have been lost in the mangrove swamp of Bahía de Chame, as a result of illegal logging.



De igual manera, encuestas realizadas por la entidad en la zona, indican que años atrás los concheros durante dos horas en el mangar recolectaban cerca de 50 a 60 docenas de este bivalvo, ahora, encuentran 20 docenas y cada día deben adentrarse más al humedal debido a la escasez del producto en ciertos puntos.

In order to change this reality, Miambiente has a restoration project for the Bay of Chame that includes the reforestation of 500 hectares of mangroves in the area, the establishment of two control and surveillance posts to combat illegal logging, the development of a management plan for the protected area so that there can be co-management with neighboring communities and a component of training.

The educational factor is crucial, taking into account that for a long time, this activity has been irrational and uncontrolled. The extraction sizes range from 44 to 47 millimeters, corresponding to the adult stage of the mollusk, which in turn doesn't affect the reproduction process.

How does this space works?

Gustavo Nelson Collada, Fisheries engineer from the ARAP National Directorate for Integration and Development, reports that nursery has a size of approximately 100 square meters, currently there are 2,400 shells planted, with a growth of 1.5 millimeters per month. They are expected to

reach adulthood in a period of 8 months to a year. The black shell fattening nursery consists of housing or returning juvenile shells to the environment to be protected and once they reach their development, shells can take advantage of the resource; In other words, shell that doesn't have the standard size must be returned to environment for it to continue its development. The sowing of more bivalves will continue as those with a size of 47 millimeters are extracted..

Jean Carlos Martínez, Vice-president Agroecotourism Association of Espavé Ebenezer, informs that the nursery, apart from protecting the species, is important for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the area. "We bring tourists to participate in the mangrove and shell planting process and learn the importance of conserving the natural environment," he said.

A market study of the black shell, carried out by the independent consultant **Arturo Reyes Valverde**, showed that the mangroves of Alanje, David and San Lorenzo in the province of Chiriquí, have less and less shells and a large quantity is attributed to different factors. extractors, soil

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"Este proyecto va ayudar a que haya un mejoramiento natural del área. Hemos visto la merma en el producto", detalla Collado.

and water contamination and excessive logging.

In 2001, on average, up to 98 dozen shells could be extracted on each mangrove trip. According to the study, an average of 68 dozen were extracted in Alanje, Pedregal up to 109 dozen and in the Oriente Chiricano up to 117 dozen. The following year this changed and

an annual decrease rate of 8.86% was established.

In relation to the initiative of the black shell fattening nursery, Miambiente and ARAP will initially provide technical assistance, monitoring and training to community members, so that it can later be cared for and managed by them. *L&E*



STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT

Claudia Cubas - Assistant
repcion@rbc.com.pa

P

hilip Zimbardo was born on March 23, 1933 in New York City in the bosom of a Sicilian family based in Bronx neighborhood. In 1954, Zimbardo specialized with a triple degree in psychologist, sociologist and anthropologist from College of Brooklyn.

Zimbardo was a professor at Universities such as Yale, NYU and Columbia University and taught at Stanford University from 1968 until his retirement in November 2003.

He was president of the North American Psychological Association in 2002 and is famous, both in the academic world and outside of it, his work in social psychology, especially is recognized for the classic and controversial Stanford Jail experiment, carried out in

the decade from the 70's nearby Stanford University.

What is the Stanford Jail Experiment?

In 1971, Philip G. Zimbardo, designed and managed experimental procedures in the Department of Psychology of the university. Along with him, he was accompanied by a team of researchers, doctors, psychologists, priests and students. In addition, he had the support of the true Police Department, which carried out on the prisoners the real legal procedure that we have related.



The object of the study was to find out what the exact relationships were between guards and prisoners, and how hierarchical networks were established in an environment of deprivation of liberty. Furthermore, the researchers wanted to

test their hypothesis that, in a real prison, guards and prisoners self-selected in a downward spiral that led to worsening institutional conditions.

Through this experiment he wanted to demonstrate how social situations have the power to significantly influence individual behavior.

Young university students were summoned through a newspaper, to assume the roles of guards and inmates, in a fictitious cell set in the Psychology laboratories of Stanford University.

The young inmates were “arrested” without prior notice and taken to this prison and, still blindfolded, transferred one at a time to the fake prison, called “Stanford County Prison.” There they were received by a guard, who informed them of the seriousness of their crime and the fact that from that moment on they were legally prisoners. According to Zimbardo himself, they were all “in a state of moderate shock after their surprise arrest.”

The prison regulations were then read to the future prisoners.

On the other hand, the guards, instructed to do what they believed necessary to maintain law and order in the prison and to command respect, although they were ordered not to physically abuse the prisoners. As a curiosity, they were given sunglasses to prevent the prisoners from seeing their eyes.

The study, which had been planned for two weeks, however, had to be stopped.

Why did the study have to be stopped?

The study had to be stopped after six days, as it quickly got out of control, reaching unexpected points. As of second day, riots of caliber of a riot began, as well as encouragement on part of the guards to work unpaid overtime to resolve the matter, even wanting to take him to a real prison and requesting it from the local police.

The humiliating and humiliating treatment did not take long to appear on the part of the guards, including the

prohibition of going to the toilet. Their attitudes worsened at night when they thought there were no cameras and they were branded sadistic (some of the guards even complained when the experiment was canceled).

Many of the prisoners suffered trauma due to the treatment they suffered in prison. Although Professor Zimbardo did not stop the experiment until Cristina Maslach, a graduate student who conducted interviews, pointed out the terrible conditions in the prison. After six days, eight days ahead of schedule, the experiment was canceled.

What laws did this investigation violate?

For the psychologist Ana Matilde Bieberach, professor of psychological theories and human development, comments that the laws that were breached were the codes of ethics, which today are known as the Bioethics Committee.

The bioethics committee consists of multidisciplinary groups whose fundamental function is, on the one hand, to face ethical dilemmas that the practice of medicine presents today, and on the other, to ensure the correct fulfillment of a series of norms that tend to the protection of living beings subject to experimental studies.

In this study, the physical and psychological integrity of the participants was violated, that is, they committed human rights violations.

Why has this experiment become so important in the world of psychology?

The Stanford prison has been revolutionary for psychology since this experiment opens the door for social psychologists to stop creating laboratory tests and start doing more work applied to society, respecting ethical norms, idiosyncrasies and participant criteria.

What does this teaching experiment leave us at an educational and professional level?

At a professional level, it is found that human beings under various conditions, even fictitious, under influence of a group have tendency to change

their position, which was what Zimbardo wanted to verify under Miller's theory, which is based on the fact that Humans have group tendencies, therefore, we work based on the circumstance and the environment and this is where it is verified that the human being is bio-psycho-social (the 3 edges). These three edges foster an individual in a society.

At an educational level, it is important to teach ethics and the norms established by ethics committees, when research is carried out we have to take into account that we are going to deal with human beings, therefore, it must be seen with the three edges (biological , psychological and social). In all research, evaluations must be carried out to know if the participant meets the necessary criteria for said research.

To conclude, this experiment provides us with many learnings, one is the importance of limits for success, and for the psychological effect that it can exert by the perception of power and the influence of the role granted by an external context.

Curious fact: Currently this investigation has a movie, you can find it on the Netflix platform. *L&E*



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REIMAGINING THE BUILDING AS A PROPELLER OF CULTURE

Rafael Fernandez Anguizola - Architect
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

After a year of crisis and anxiety, the things that matter to us and that inspire us are simplifying in our lives. In the midst of this reality, we realize that the public craves culture; in it we find a therapy or refuge that encourages us not to give everything up for lost as a society.

Faced with a crisis that has limited our mobility, the presence of the buildings and the spaces we occupy are extremely relevant. And trying not to criticize the regression of our city in the last thirty years or the scrapping of our neighborhoods, why not talk about the role of our buildings? Why not identify some buildings that could make part of our common desire to be part of a simultaneously local and modern culture?

We could evaluate different criteria to understand the role of our buildings as a cultural manifestation. One way would be by observing them as a constructive phenomenon that transcends time and forms part of our historical memory of the city. Another would be observing them as a typological phenomenon, where the building literally promotes culture within its uses, in a similar way to how a library or museum generally works..

On the first criterion, we could rely on the work of the architect and critic Kenneth Frampton (b.1930). For Frampton, tectonic expression would be the starting point to interpret the architectural and cultural value of our buildings. Frampton describes tectonic expression as a constructive poetics focused on the building's materiality, identifiable in the conjugation of structural and decorative elements that transcend its technical character and constitute the true revelation of the building and its surroundings before us.

Frampton bases multiple essays and books on this subject on anthropocentric precepts proposed by architects such as Gottfried Semper, who in the nineteenth century contributed to the analysis of tectonic expression by proposing his theory of "Bekleidung" (wearing or the act of dressing) where the fabric of the clothing forms the most basic or elemental architectural manifestation. Within this appreciation of the façade as a textile production, Semper would elevate the joint as the primary tectonic element and from which the modularity and tactility of the building spontaneously

emanates. For Frampton, this idea would allow us to distinguish the culture of one building from another.

We would then have to observe some cases in our city where we could relate these ideas to different buildings which, despite their modesty, show in themselves the use of tectonic expression. Let's try if it is possible to clearly perceive where its columns and slabs are, and if, beyond being supported by these elements, they intertwine with its façade and visually and tactilely tell us some type of constructive narrative.

In Via Italia, Punta Paitilla, we find the Plaza Mar (1976, Arq. Ramiro Oses) and Laliue (1983, Arq. Richard Holzer) buildings. Both implement reinforced concrete eaves on their façade in a rhythmic and modular way. From the sidewalk we can see the textile effect on its facade, complementary and dramatic, which gives architectural authenticity to the neighborhood, crowded with crude buildings or with little character. Similarly we can see the Esses building in El Cangrejo that achieves this effect with the windowsills of its balconies.

Despite its deterioration, the Tarraco building on Avenida Cuba, formerly known as Arboix or Maria Teresa (1961, Architects Schay and Holzer) is made with a simple system of slabs and concrete block that exhibits great gestures of expressiveness tectonics. We can see it defined by its exterior walls that are rhythmically framed with volumes that enter and exit. Its slabs form exaggerated cantilevers that accentuate the predominance of the horizontality of the building. The railings and metal frames of its balconies weave an ornamentation that unfolds along each slab, and from afar we can see how the tower is visually dislocated from its basement by assuming a different orientation from that of the street. The abandoned flower pots on its slabs allow us to imagine how impressive it would be to see vegetation on its façade and how it would potentially blend in with the trees that surround the building..

This tectonic expression, that is, this use of the different elements of a construction system to define the visual and tactile character in block and concrete buildings, represents an effective way to elevate our local architecture not only for its durability, but also for their

modesty and able to reconcile our past with the future.

We can see other more recent local projects such as "La Plaza", one of the main buildings in Ciudad del Saber, designed by the Architect Leonardo Álvarez Yepes in collaboration with the project management of Ciudad del Saber. Walking inside this commercial plaza gives us a marked tactile experience, in which polished concrete, grass and clay are the basic elements to define different spaces. The central pavilion houses a dining room covered with terracotta bricks and an interlocking steel blind, providing us with a model of tropical, local and modern architecture.

The example of the City of Knowledge leads us to the second criterion, which I have named typological, of understanding the building: for example, rethinking the typology of the shopping plaza as a place for culture. Under the usual scheme of commercial squares, the parking of vehicles takes precedence and is almost always located in front of the entrance of each store.

"La Plaza" of Ciudad del Saber is one of the few that breaks this scheme, usual in shopping malls; here the central courtyard of the project functions as a central axis of circulation and is completely isolated from the parking lot, which allows the project visitor to develop a multisensory experience, where the visual is integrated with the space instead of taking precedence over it.

The Plaza of Ciudad del Saber combines both criteria - it is an evidently tectonic building due to its materiality and it transcends its original function as a shopping center. This is not just the product of the talent and ingenuity of an architect as a proponent and designer. It is also the product of a series of administrative, institutional and executive actors of the City of Knowledge who were able to share the vision of this project and bring it to reality.

I would like to emphasize this plurality of actors, who basically allude to us as a society to appreciate and give value to the good buildings that we finally do have. It is also a call to confront junk modernity, persistent not only in our country but throughout the world. In his essay "Towards a critical regionalism: six points for an architecture of resistance"

Frampton quotes the French philosopher Paul Ricoeur who illustrates this condition very clearly.:

"... In all parts of the world one finds the same bad movie, the same slot machines, the same atrocities made of plastic or aluminum, the same distortion of language by propaganda, etc..."

As Ricoeur relates, the unbridled spread of this junk modernity is not an exclusive problem of architecture and is part of a phenomenon that disrupts all aspects of our lives, and literally presupposes the

environment of our backwardness or cultural advance.

As a society, we are urged to value the building as a cultural phenomenon in the same way that we do with music and plastic arts. People crave for culture, we see it in the City of Knowledge, we see it in the Coastal Beltway, we see it in any of the public spaces that today are generally used to the maximum in the context of all these months of quarantine and devastation by COVID. Reimagining the building as a place for culture is one more tool in our struggle to humanize our city.*L&E*



Detalle de ladrillo prefabricado de hormigón, Ennis House por Frank Lloyd Wright, 1924



Edificio de dormitorios en Ningbo, China por Li Xiaodong, 2019



Fachada de los condominios Plaza Mar (Ramiro Oses, 1976) y Laliq (Richard Holzer, 1983) Via Italia, Punta Paitilla



Edificio Esses, Calle 56 Oeste, El Cangrejo, Schay y Holzer, 1963



Edificio Arboix, en Avenida Cuba, Schay y Holzer, 1961



Edificio Comercial "La Plaza", Ciudad del Saber, 2014



Patio interno del edificio comercial "La Plaza"

Rafael Fernandez Anguizola is a Panamanian Architect and has developed his professional career from New York to Singapore and Panama.

Sports Capsule



Ana Sofía Corrales
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa



All about the Olympics

This Tokyo 2020 Olympiad has been a very atypical day, where athletes have been struggling with many factors due to the current Pandemic. Like the cancellation of sporting events, so there were no competitions, the closings of the gyms, having limitations to train and get back to the level and rhythm they had, was complicated.

We add that for this Olympic event the biosecurity measures are very high, so no public or walking around the city was allowed, among other measures.

What has caused a stir is the decision of the Olympic medalist in gymnastics Simon Biles not to continue with the competition to take care of his mental health, a 24-year-old American athlete, being an important reference in this discipline and who has two movements to his name.

This superstar in gymnastics has shown great courage in giving this message to the world, that we must take care of both our mental and physical health.

She is not the first athlete to retire with these reasons, the tennis player Naomi Osaka, number 2 in the world, made the decision to withdraw from the French Open.

The withdrawal of Biles is understandable, for her high expectations were had for these Olympic games, it was expected that she would break the record of medals won. Which carried a great weight on her shoulders, which caused her mental blocks, which is very dangerous in gymnastics, since it can cause injuries.

Mental health was a taboo subject a few years ago, and even more so in sports, sometimes you lose the notion that athletes are not machines that only have to strive

to win and forget that they are also human beings. Although sports psychology has existed for more than 40 years, it has not been given adequate relevance, and its lack is seen more in Latin American countries.

Mental blocks, despite being psychological, can happen in any type of activity and in all of them they are risky, imagine driving, having a mental block, it could cause a serious accident. The same happens in sports, and not being able, for example, to calculate the distance of a fall while you are in the air in the gym, can be the reason for an injury and / or loss of points. So it is important to put the well-being of the body and mind before any competition.

Biles, who is admired for bringing these issues to the fore, helps many athletes give it importance it deserves. Now it is a factor that cannot be taken to the background. Stress and anxiety levels are on the rise recently, much triggered by social media. Receiving both positive and negative comments influences performance.

After the end of this edition of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the preparation of all athletes, from all disciplines, are looking to the Games in Paris 2024.

Tokyo 2020 has following disciplines. Beach Volleyball, Volleyball, Water Polo, Sailing, Triathlon, Archery, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo Tennis, Surfing, Skateboarding, Jumping, Rugby, Rowing,

Sprint Canoeing, Step Canoeing, Modern Pentathlon, Open Water Swimming, artistic swimming, swimming, wrestling, golf, weightlifting, horse riding, hockey, judo, karate, sport climbing, soccer fencing, artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, gymnastics; Trampoline, Road Biking, Mountain Biking, Track Biking, BMX Racing Cycling, BMX Free Style Cycling, Boxing, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, 3x3 Basketball, Handball, Baseball/Softball.

Without leaving behind the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games that will take place from August 24 to September 5.

The delegation of Panamanian athletes is:

Aquatic / Swimming: Emily Santos / 100m breaststroke, Tyler Christianson / 200m breaststroke and 200m individual medley, **Athletics:** Alonso Edward / 200m, Nathalee Aranda / Long Jump, Jorge Castelblanco / Marathon, Gianna Woodruff / 400m hurdles, Christofer Jurado Cycling / Race Road, Boxing, Atheyna Bylon / -75 kg, Judo Kristine Jiménez / -52kg, Miryam Roper / -57kg.

Below we detail the participation of our Panamanian delegation so far, remembering that just being classified for the Olympics positions them among the best in the world and they should feel very proud of having reached such a distinguished competition.

Cycling

Christofer Jurado in a demanding test of 244 kilometers and a drop of 4,865 meters. Jury reached 138 kilometers, after 4 hours and 5 minutes of racing, with a disadvantage at that time of 11 minutes and 27 seconds with respect to leaders, In the absence of 50km Jury was neutralized, according to the regulations, the runners who lose 12 + of the peloton they must leave the competition and DNF is placed.

130 cyclists participated.



Judo



Panamanian judokas Miryam Roper and Kristine Jiménez qualified to participate in this Olympic event.

Miryam Roper, classified for the third time to the maximum sporting event by World Ranking in the -57kg by accumulating (2792 points).

Myriam Roper's participation in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games culminated in her being outmatched

in her match against South Korea's Kim Ji-su by ippon. Kristine Jiménez, obtained her quota in the -52kg by Continental Quota adding (732 points). After an Olympic cycle full of successes.

This was his first participation in an Olympic event, and despite not making it to the next round. He fulfilled his dream of reaching an Olympics and focuses on his training plan to qualify for the next games.



Swimming



Panamanian Emily Santos becomes the second youngest national athlete to participate in this Olympic event.

Emily was 5th in her qualifying heat and in position 35 out of 45 swimmers in the 100 meter breaststroke with a time of 1 minute 12 seconds 20 hundredths. She failed to beat her personal record of 1 minute 11 seconds 67 hundredths.

Tyler Christinson participated in two modalities,

winning in his qualifying heats.

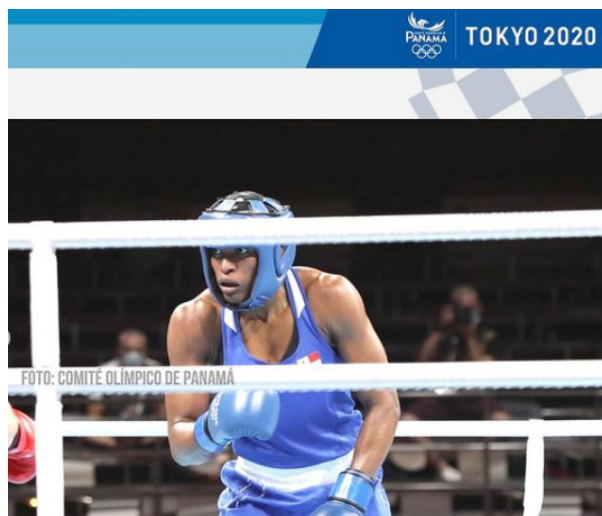
The first modality was the 200 meters breaststroke, where he improved his personal best and set a new national record with a time of 2 minutes 13 seconds 41 hundredths, remaining 29 out of 39 competitors.

The second modality was the 200 meters combined. Where he also improved his time and set a national record with a time of 2 minutes 2 seconds 70 hundredths, placing himself in the 40th position of 45 fins.

Boxing



Atheyna Bylon, in her second Olympiad, gave a good role qualifying from the 8th by defeating Australian Caitlin Parker by unanimous decision. However, in the second match of her in the quarterfinals, the Panamanian could not get the fight from the British Lauren Price, where she was overcome by unanimous decision and thus ends her participation in Tokyo 2020.



Track and field



Gianna Woodruff clasifica a las semifinales, quedando de segunda en su heat clasificatorio con un tiempo de 55.49 en los 400 metros vallas.

El panameño Jorge Castel Blanco, maratonista, Estará compitiendo el sábado 7 de agosto a las 6 pm, en su segunda cita olímpica.

Soccer



The United States, a formidable rival, has not lost to Concacaf rivals since their defeat to Canada in the Nations League in 2019. They will meet Mexico in the Gold Cup final.

This is after Mexico scored tiebreaker goal with Canada in overtime, leaving 2-1.

For its part, the United States meeting with Canada was also cardiac, since the only goal of the game was in the 86th minute.

Panama in this Gold Cup could not handle its luck, after drawing with Qatar with a 3-3, losing with Honduras 3-2, which left us in total dependence on the game of Honduras vs Qatar, where in order for us to pass, it had to win Honduras, which unfortunately did not happen. Even so, the result was obtained in the last game against Granada, leaving 3-1.

Where Alberto Quintero scored the first goal at 6 minutes, cataloged the fastest goal of the Gold Cup, José Luis scored the double, however, an error in the defense allowed Granada to score its first goal in its entire history in this tournament.

These last pictures of Christensen, demonstrate the weakness in the defense of the selection, which has been accentuated with some casualties due to the positive tests for Covid-19. It is expected that for the next games this will develop a better role. Since of this last tournament he indicated that the result, due to the desire of the players, among other factors, was not what was expected and should be improved.

The next game is against Costa Rica in the qualifying round for the World Cup. It will be played at the Rommel Fernández stadium, on September 2.

Baseball



The World Baseball and Softball Confederations (WBSC) announced today in conjunction with the Organizing Committee, the postponement of the 30th Edition of the U18 World Baseball Championship (Youth) scheduled to be played from September 10 this year, to next year for the safety and health of the participants.

Coclé won the victory in the XV National Pre-infantile

Championship.

Congratulate actions like Jaime Barria's, since his team, the Angels in Minnesota won the victory in their last game against the Twins, where Barria walked 7.0 innings (95 pitches) in which he struck out 4, received 4 hits and conceded 2 walks. And where nine of his throws were in the 95 miles, being the highest speed of his career.



Cycling



From August 24 to 29, the Tour of Panama 2021 "Cycling is tourism" will take place. With the participation of 300 cyclists from around the world.

It will consist of 6 stages:

Stage 1: from Tonosí Park and ending in Playa Venao to have a route of 31.8 km.

Stage 2: from Pedasí to cross the azuerence area and finish in the park of the picturesque town of Parita, with a final route of 137.8 km.

Stage 3: starts at Unión de Chitré Park and ends at Cerro Marta del Copé, a stage with a distance of 111.35 km.

Stage 4: from Penonomé to culminate in Altos del María.

Stage 5: starts at the Paseo Marino de Colón and ends at the Atlantic Bridge with 115.7 km of route.

Stage 6: the closing of the Tour of Panama, in a closed

circuit of 8 laps in the heart of the City, from Calle 50 to Panama viejo, culminating with a 96.8 km route.

As indicated by Elmer Samudio, Sports Director of the Panamanian Cycling Federation, this event not only

helps with the economic reactivation, but also gives another boost to cycling, which is having a lot of boom, with Jury Driver in Tokyo, Franklin Archibold Champion National, The Continental Panama team is Culture and Values achieving its first victories on European soil.

Golf



The Panama Titleist Tour Championship had great participants from the Panama Mid-Amateur Tour 2021, resulting winners Pablo Ruiz, Marcelo Lim, Samuel Ávila and Guillermo Bernal, in categories A, B, C, and D, in that order in the match play modality, at the Panama Golf Club.

The winners earned their pass to participate in the Latin American Golf Championship, which will take place in Bahía Príncipe, La Romana in the Dominican Republic, from November 1 to 6.

Softball



The Men's National Softball Championship will have its grand finale on July 31 to define the big

winner between Panama Metro and Los Santos. On the female side, the winning team was Colon.

Hockey



Panama City, stayed with the National Hockey Championship, held at the Emilio Royo Stadium.



Agenda Cultural

Por: Mariela de Sanjur
mariela.sanjur@rbc.com.pa



THEATER

- ABA Theater: "All-inclusive hotel" until August 1, whatsapp 6090-8950.
- ABA Theater: "Congelados" Sundays 1 to 15 August.
- ABA Theater: "Perfect Woman, La muda" from August 5 to October 3.
- La Plaza Theater: "Comicus" from July 22 to August 21 (tickets at Panatickets).
- Pacific Theater: tickets in <https://teatropacific.net/>
 - o "Laugh in 4 times" from July 23.
 - o "So-called Musketeers" since July 24.
 - o "Flamenco Infinito" August 28th and 29th.
- Theatre Guild of Ancon: "Disappear, the musical" on August 13, 14 and 15, tickets www.verteatro.com.
- National Theater: tickets www.verteatro.com
 - o "Mama Mia" until August 1.
 - o "Las Flamencas de Lorca" from August 5 to 7.
 - o "Disappear, the musical" on August 10.
 - o "The Ballet Experience by Maruja Herrera" on August 13 and 14.
 - o "Trees die standing up" from August 26 to 29.
- Teatro En Circulo: Learn with teacher Daniel Gomez Nates every Saturday from August 21 to December 11. Theater workshop, registration open at 6242-9996.

Theater Digital Billboard: Tickets www.verteatro.com

- "The Writer of Epitaphs"
- "Life's begins after a good cup of coffee"
- "First Dates"
- "Beware of the Tie"
- "The witch"
- "Dora and Prudencia"
- "To bed with the thief"

Pacific Theater digital billboard: tickets in <https://teatropacific.net/>

- o "House in order"
- o "# My Domestic Life"
- o "No Forgiveness for Sins"
- o "Halloween with Polyband and Puppets"
- o "Tell Christmas Tales"
- o Livestream: "Artists by Artists 2021"

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Del 5 de agosto
al 3 de octubre de 2021
Dirección Áurea Horta

Jueves y viernes 7:00 p.m.
Sábados 5:00 y 7:00 p.m.
Domingos 4:00 y 6:00 p.m.

Pre-Venta \$12
Día del Evento \$15

TEATRO ABA 6090-8950

Instagram @teatroaba WhatsApp 6090-8950
www.teatroaba.com info@teatroaba.com

MUSEUMS

MAC:

- o Mesotronics exhibiting until August 29.
- o Two meters away.
- o Cross References.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

- International Book Fair from August 19 to 22 from 9:00 a.m. at 8:00 p.m. at the ATLAPA Convention Center and in semi-virtual edition, the motto this year is Read to dream and move forward!, more information and access the activities in:
 - o Youtube: Panamanian Book Chamber
 1. Enter www.filpanama.org.
 2. Look for the Cultural Program section.
 3. Check it online or download it.
 - o Search your favorite activities under the categories:
 - Learning to take off (education).
 - Forums and conferences.
 - Talks and workshops.
 - Music.
 - Black novel.

VARIOUS DATES

- August 6 -Atomic bomb in Hiroshima.
- August 9 - Lawyer's Day.
- August 9 - International Day of Indigenous Peoples.
- August 9- Atomic bomb in Nagasaki.
- August 12: International Youth Day.
- August 15 - Assumption of the Virgin.
- August 15 - Panama la Vieja Foundation.
- August 15 - Inauguration of the Panama Canal.
- August 19 -International Photography Day.
- August 24-Ganesha Chaturthi.
- August 28- Cattleman's Day.
- August 28 -San Agustín.
- August 29: International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

- Presentation and reading of books.
- Conversations.
- Children's activities.
- Poetry.
- Comic.
- o Zoom.
- o Transmission by Facebook and Youtube Live of the Panamanian Book Chamber.
- National Festival of Manito Ocueño, from August 16 to 19 in Ocu, Province of Herrera.

MOVIES

- o Jungle Cruise.
- o The Suicide Squad.
- o Burning Heart.



- August 30- Archdiocesan Campaign ends.



Alianzas alrededor del Mundo

Mitrani, Caballero, Rosso Alba, Francia, Ojam & Ruiz Moreno- ARGENTINA

Guevara & Gutiérrez S. C. Servicios Legales- BOLIVIA

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- BRASIL

DSN Consultants Inc- CANADÁ

Lewin & Wills Abogados- COLOMBIA

Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas- PANAMÁ

Espinosa & Asociados- CHILE

Lawnetworker S.A. Asesores Legales- ECUADOR

Peter Byrne & Associates- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Ortiz, Sosa, Ysusi y Cía., S.C.- MÉXICO

Estudio Rubio Leguía Normand & Asociados- PERU

Adsuar Muñoz Goyco Seda & Pérez-Ochoa, P.S.C.- PUERTO RICO

Pellerano & Herrera- REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Alvarado & Asociados- NICARAGUA

Torres, Plaz & Araujo- VENEZUELA

Facio & Cañas- COSTA RICA

