



## **The work of the German Sparkassenstiftung on dual training in Latin America - work perspectives for Panama**

Prognosis of Peru

Panamanian exports continue recording record figures

The Quad in the post-COVID era: beyond the Chinese challenge

The jurisdiction of maternity is extended to the father of the minor



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SEPTEMBER 2021

# Editorial

# 5



DUAL TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE, TWO OPTIONS OF EXTRAORDINARY VALUE FOR THE PANAMANIAN YOUTH

# Content

## 23. Politics

AFGHANISTAN: COMMENTS ON AN ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL

THE QUAD IN THE POST-COVID ERA: BEYOND THE CHINESE CHALLENGE 27

## 28. Panamanian Economy

PANAMA'S GDP GROWED 40.4% IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2021 46

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX CPI 48

PANAMANIAN EXPORTS CONTINUE RECORDING RECORD FIGURES 51

## 52. World Economy

20 YEARS AFTER THE DURBAN DECLARATION, RACISM CONTINUES TO PERFORM INSTITUTIONS, SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND EVERYDAY LIFE

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WILL GROW 5.9% IN 2021, REFLECTING A STATISTICAL DRAG THAT WILL MODERATE TO 2.9% IN 2022 54

WHO / ILO: ALMOST 2 MILLION PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR FROM WORK-RELATED CAUSES 56

THE IDB AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTE COOPERATION IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 58

THE EXIT FROM THE CRISIS CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM THE DEVELOPMENT MODEL AND THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 59

## 62. Environmental Capsule

## 64. Sports Capsule

## 70. Psychological Capsule

## 72. Cultural Agenda

# Norms of Interest

INTERNATIONAL  
BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

16

# Content



# Invited <sup>7</sup> Writer

THE WORK OF THE GERMAN  
SPARKASSENSTIFTUNG ON DUAL TRAINING  
IN LATIN AMERICA - WORK PERSPECTIVES  
FOR PANAMA

PROGNOSIS OF PERU

12

FINES FOR HIRING FOREIGN PERSONNEL WITHOUT  
WORK PERMITS INCREASE

19

THE JURISDICTION OF MATERNITY IS **20**  
EXTENDED TO THE FATHER OF THE MINOR

EXTEND VALIDITY OF THE RETURN FOR PROCESSING  
THE WORK PERMIT **22**



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# Editorial

Dual training and international baccalaureate, two options of extraordinary value for the panamanian youth

**F**or many years, Panama has shown a significant lag in the educational system and as a consequence of the pandemic, a true collapse has occurred that is impacting the number of young people who have left the system. These are alarming figures as reflected in the socioeconomic letter No. 8 that the Labor Foundation has recently published.

<https://funtrab.org.pa/category/cartas-socioeconomica/>

This reality not only impacts the educational system, but also affects unemployment and informality.

As if this were not serious enough, it turns out that, on the other hand, Panama has the highest number of adolescent pregnancies in Latin America, with more than eighty-one (81) adolescent

pregnancies for every thousand (1,000) women. According to the world economic forum and data from the United Nations. In the case of pregnant minors, this situation turns into a cycle of poverty, marginalization, malnutrition, abandonment of the educational system and overcrowding.

We can imagine the repeated cases of young people who leave the educational system and due to their precarious education are left out of the work force and in turn contract obligations as parents.

Their only chance of earning an income to meet their subsistence obligations is to depend on their parents for support or to join an informal activity or become entrepreneurs.

This is where two different directions appear on the

path of life, namely:

### • Dual Training

In a pill it means having the opportunity to join an educational center that prepares them in technical, technological or service areas and then learn by doing through training in training centers or in companies that prepares them for the world of decent work; in simple terms learn by doing.

At the end of this dual experience, they have a diploma or certificate that certifies their technical or formal knowledge or skills and also a qualification on apprenticeship, in the training center or the company that allows them to choose a first job or create a micro-business with the support of AMPYME, for example.

This dual training is not limited to technical careers, as shown in our guest pen this month called: "The work of the German Sparkassenstiftung on dual training in Latin America - Work perspectives for Panama", in a country like Germany, there are more than two hundred careers that are incorporated into the dual training process. We have another example in the health sciences, because all medical students and even medical graduates, when they choose a specialty, have dual training, since they require long periods of training in clinics, hospitals, universities and communities to acquire your suitability or specialty.

### • International baccalaureate program

As developed in the segment of standards of interest of our magazine this month, through Law 236 of September 3, 2021, the implementation of international baccalaureate programs is promoted in official and private educational centers.

This international baccalaureate program starts from elementary school and continues through middle school and concludes with an international baccalaureate diploma and career guidance. The Panama Bilingual Academy has also been created, for secondary education with academic excellence, to offer a bachelor's degree in science for the STEAM methodology (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as stated in our July 2021 magazine, whose title is "Stem competencies and their evolution".

<https://edicion.revistalegislacionyeconomia.com/JULIO%202021/COMPETENCIAS%20STEM%20Y%20SU%20EVOLUCI%C3%93N.pdf>

These are two roadmaps, which intend to keep the entire population residing in Panama within the educational system, particularly young people, which is the strength that can achieve, not only social advancement, but also strengthen soft skills to coexist in a world that requires people to learn to learn, learn by doing and equip young people and adults with the essential tools for their personal growth and their ability to tackle the challenges of modernity and be empathetic. Like our news of September 27 that is titled Importance of empathy in our social interaction.

<https://edicion.revistalegislacionyeconomia.com/SEPTIEMBRE%202021/IMPORTANCIA%20DE%20LA%20EMPATIA%20EN%20NUESTRA%20INTERACCION%20SOCIAL.pdf>

We invite you to read with interest our guest pens this month, including Prognosis del Perú.

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

# Invited Writer



## THE WORK OF THE GERMAN SPARKASSENSTIFTUNG ON DUAL TRAINING IN LATIN AMERICA - WORK PERSPECTIVES FOR PANAMA

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**P**anama is an important country in the region that enjoys a series of competitive advantages. On the one hand, it highlights the privileged geographical position of the Panamanian territory, which allows the country to be a key player in world trade, since it has different maritime, air and land access routes that are well developed. On the other hand, Panama belongs to the group of countries in Latin America that have a good risk rating and, therefore, attracts a high level of foreign investment. Likewise, the country can be considered as a financial hub due to its strong international banking center. Banking plays a fundamental role in the economic development of the country, the growth of businesses and the well-being of families. Thanks to this system, companies can borrow, invest and, in this way, create jobs.

In reality, it would be possible to list many more competitive advantages with respect to the country; However, there are also areas that could receive more attention and boost, such as vocational training, especially at the level of vocational technical education. The latter plays an important role in the structure of the educational system of a country, since it is a key tool when it comes to matching the needs of technical personnel in the productive sector (companies), on the one hand, and the supply of young people with good training (highly skilled and qualified), on the other hand. Consequently, vocational technical education contributes to the economic development of the country and can even offer a rather interesting alternative compared to university training, which plays a dominant role in Panama. Considering the existing

good practices around the world -in Germany, for example-, vocational technical education is carried out on large scales under a duality scheme (dual training), which means that theory and practice are combined, therefore Young people spend 30% of their time in an educational institution learning theoretical knowledge and the other 70% acquiring practical skills in a training company. In other words, **you learn by working in a real environment**. Dual training in Germany exists for more than 300 types of technical professions, and has been and continues to be a key driver of success for the economy that has been contributing and adding value to the system for more than 100 years..

In this context, the German Sparkassenstiftung is a non-profit organization for international cooperation that seeks to boost the local financial sector in developing countries. To do this, it designs and implements projects with strategic allies, adapting the best practices of the German Sparkassen system (German savings banks) to the needs and the local context, to promote institutional strengthening and financial inclusion and, therefore, contribute to sustainable development. For this reason, part of the work of the last 8 years in the German Sparkassenstiftung in the field of dual training has been to export the best practices of this innovative model of the German system to the countries of Latin America, where we have launched the career for the profile Financial Technical Advisor ("Bankkaufmann /frau", in German), following the general guidelines of dual training and adapting certain characteristics to the conditions and regulations of each country, so that successfully reached 5 countries (El Salvador, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico and Colombia).

The general objectives of implementing the career of Financial Technical Advisor are: 1) Create a qualified profile to fulfill different functions in technical areas of a financial institution, 2) Professionalize the human

resources of financial institutions to provide quality and personalized attention to customers and 3) Reduce staff turnover in these financial institutions.

**However, it is important to know the path we have followed in these 8 years to make dual training a reality in the 5 countries and, for this, we can answer the following question:**



**What have been the success factors that we have considered to transfer the dual training model from Germany to the countries where we implement careers for the financial sector?**

- **First, we start from the base German model of dual training, in which 70% of the training time is spent in the training company and 30% in the vocational school, also called vocational school.**

- **Government participation: It is taken into account that in Germany an official recognition is given to the dual technical career, which grants the title of Financial Technical Advisor to the apprentices who graduate from the training; In addition, there is a legal framework that regulates the model and includes companies, vocational schools and chambers of commerce and industry (IHK).**

- **Role of the chambers of commerce and industry (IHK):** Mainly, they are the entities that support the participation of companies in training, but, above all, they are responsible for the training of the mentor (s) trainers (es) in companies, as well as those in charge of applying the corresponding exams for the certification of apprentices (intermediate and final with theoretical and practical components through evaluation tables made up of experts from the productive sector). They also carry out monitoring and supervision of the execution of the degree in the two training environments (companies and schools).

- **Training through the professional school or vocational school:** The ideal educational institution for theoretical training is identified, which has qualified teachers in subjects of the career curriculum. It should be noted that these are public entities with free access to training for young apprentices.

- **Role of the training company:** In this case, the Sparkassen act as training financial institutions that have trained and certified staff as training tutors(s). They are also responsible for coordinating the rotations of the apprentices in the institution. Throughout the comprehensive training, they demonstrate aptitude and commitment.

- **Participation of apprentices:** The best practices of the Sparkassen are retaken in their process of selecting suitable and motivated apprentices for training. Thus, the potential is identified at the level of knowledge and skills to be able to develop in the immediate future as Financial Technical Advisors.

But what is the main strategy of the German Sparkassenstiftung to carry out this transfer to

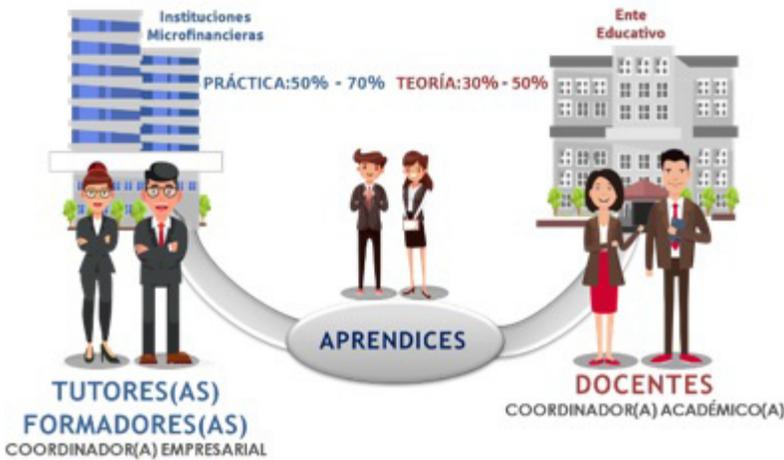


3 Visitas Técnicas a Alemania  
(2017, 2018 y 2019)

**Latin America of the success factors identified above?**

As part of international cooperation and with the aim of assimilating the transferred German good practices and making the most of them by our counterparts in all the countries where we work, several technical visits by Latin American delegations to Germany have been promoted. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, 3 delegations visited Berlin and other nearby cities to learn about how the dual training model works, through contact with all the actors of the model: Sparkassen, vocational schools, chambers of commerce and industry and even the Sparkassen federations. In addition to the model, the participants discovered the line of professional growth that is planned and executed for apprentices who have graduated and working people who want to continue climbing positions within their Sparkassen.

**Where are we now and what have we achieved?**



### How does the adapted model work in the region?

As the motto of one of our partners says, dual training is a formula for success, in which companies, educational institutions and apprentices assume the commitment to implement comprehensive training and comply with it. Therefore, as can be seen in the graph, the coordinated work with our counterparts in the 5 countries where today we implement dual training has allowed us to have a model adapted to the region and that continues to be customized to the local regulations and requirements of each country, without losing the essence of the dual training model originating in Germany.

It is very motivating to show how this adaptation of the success factors to Latin America has materialized. The achievements to date are listed below, which have made it possible for the model to work:

- **Official recognition of the career.** In the 5 countries there are already established careers to issue technical degrees with official validity from the governments, which allows their graduates a successful job placement with better prospects from the formal point of view.

- **Work articulated with the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry in each country (AHK):** We work with the AHKs in 4 of the 5 countries, and they are the main responsible for the training and certification of tutors (s) with the AdA International course. Until 2021, within the framework of our projects, 150 trainers have been certified in the region.

- **Alliances with educational institutions (institutes and universities):** We work with 8 counterpart educational institutions (3 institutes and 5 universities), which act as strategic allies responsible for technical training of apprentices. These institutions have gone through an important selection process.

- **Cooperation with training financial institutions:** Currently, our counterparts are 40 institutions in the microfinance sector, which train 189 trainees. In addition, there are already 60 graduates.

- **Apprentices:** Every year apprenticeship selection processes are carried out in a coordinated manner between educational entities and training institutions (on average, 1 out of 4 applicants is selected).

**Finally, why is the German Sparkassenstiftung still motivated to promote dual training in the region and especially in Panama?**

1. We want to continue promoting a technical career that offers added value in the professional profile of new personnel in Panamanian financial institutions, who know the real work in practice, and thus guarantee the training of a loyal staff with their institution.

2. We aspire to generate a competitive advantage in the financial institutions of the sector, which will obtain the possibility of having a highly qualified and trained staff tailored to business needs, so that they can provide high-quality advice to more Panamanians and Panamanians .

3. We seek to improve the image and attractiveness of financial institutions, so that, based on their social role with the community, they offer a job opportunity with quality training for young people.

4. We have the experience that, to date, 94% of graduates from other countries with the same profile work successfully in their training institutions.

5. We seek to contribute from this area to the achievement of 5 Sustainable Development Goals for the country and, in this way, to the UN 2030 Agenda: Goal 4 - Quality education, Goal 5 - Gender equity, Goal 8 - Access decent work, Goal 10 - Reduction of inequalities and Goal 17 - Partnerships to achieve goals. *L&E*

### Ilustración: FORMACIÓN DUAL EN LATINOAMÉRICA





## PROGNOSIS OF PERU

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The esteemed Mr. José Javier Rivera has asked me to write about the Political Situation and Business Environment for this year 2021 in Peru, my country. It is an assignment that has been difficult for me to carry out. I have remembered the feeling of receiving an unfavorable medical diagnosis. But, as in the medical situation, it is preferable to face reality and be in a position to take measures to combat the disease. Everything I express in this column is public and documented information. This information has been known for a long time, and perhaps that is exactly what makes it difficult for me to write it down.

In Peru we are approximately 33 million inhabitants. Since market reforms were introduced in the early 1990s until 2019, the Peruvian GDP per capita maintained an upward trend; poverty was reduced from 60% to 20% and extreme poverty from 27% to 2.9%. Millions of Peruvians stopped being extremely poor and poor. Life expectancy at birth increased by more than 10 years. In this same period, inequality, measured with the

GINI index, fell by 10 points, close to the current levels of Chile, the United States or Panama and 10 points of the less unequal Japan, the United Kingdom or Switzerland (World Bank). This progress is at risk due to the situation in which we live today, September 2021.

Next, I give a brief description of the institutional framework of Peru in force during the last 28 years. According to the 1993 Constitution, Peru is a unitary Republic with separation of powers, under a presidential system with parliamentary controls. The Armed Forces are not deliberative, they are subordinate to the Executive Power and are indoctrinated to stay that way. The mandate of the President of the Republic is 5 years, without the possibility of immediate reelection. The Constitution establishes a "social market economy", some locks against the waste of public resources and guarantees for national and foreign investment. In addition to the judiciary and the legislative power, other institutions enjoy autonomy: the Central Reserve Bank, the Comptroller's Office, the Ombudsman's

Office, the electoral authority, among others.

The most relevant political event this year has been the proclamation of Pedro Castillo Terrones as President of the Republic, through the political party Peru Libre. Also this year, Peru Libre obtained 37 of the 130 seats in the Legislative Power. Pedro Castillo (51) is a primary school teacher in Cajamarca, one of the poorest regions of Peru. He performed modestly on the exams to move up in his teaching career (2014) and didn't take the 2017 exam with which he could have been promoted. Also in 2017, he led the teachers' strike calling for the removal of the meritocracy that includes promotion exams. The strike reached 64% of teachers and affected 1.5 million schoolchildren for more than 3 months. That year government authorities revealed his relationship with Shining Path terrorist group, of Marxist, Leninist and Maoist ideology (self-styled "Gonzalo Thought"), which directly caused at least 32,000 deaths. Pedro Castillo is a leader who doesn't grant interviews to press, communicates through Twitter and through speeches in public squares (with little content or clarity) or openly contradictory with other statements of his or his party.



The political party that has brought Castillo to power has its own history. Peru Libre (2008) has defined itself as a "Marxist-Leninist-Mariateguist" party. Its members are mostly provincial. He is a member of the Sao Paulo Forum. It was founded by Vladimir Cerrón (50), a doctor who studied his career and specialization as a neurosurgeon in Cuba. Cerrón's father was a university professor in the course "Dialectical Materialism." He died in 1990. His body was found with signs of torture, which Cerrón Jr. interpreted as "the pure expression of the class struggle in Peruvian society." Vladimir Cerrón's political career is extensive. The last public position

he held was Governor of Junín. He was re-elected in 2018, but vacated after his ultimate corruption conviction. Due to this sentence, which disqualifies him from holding public office, Cerrón didn't join the presidential formula (president and 2 vice presidents) of Peru Libre for the 2021 elections. For about 3 years, Cerrón has been under investigation by the prosecution for other crimes, which include money laundering and leadership in a criminal organization called "Los Dinámicos del Centro", the same one that would have financed the candidacy of Pedro Castillo, according to the thesis of the prosecution and according to the public statements of the current Minister of Justice (such as you read it). To the 37 seats that Peru Libre obtained, it must be added 5 from its political ally "Juntos por el Perú", a Marxist party from Lima. The political banner of the governing party that has the most publicity is the holding of a "Constituent Assembly", for which it is collecting signatures for a referendum. The electoral bodies have delivered the necessary forms, despite the fact that the Constitution establishes that it can only be modified by parliament.

It is speculated that there are several left-wing factions in the Peruvian executive branch, as they make their internal differences public. The veracity of these speculations (including the differences) is uncertain, but what is concrete and proven is that 5 of the Ministers of State, including the Prime Minister, have underway or have had tax investigations for crimes related to Marxist terrorism. Pedro Castillo does not declare in this regard. I could elaborate further, but I believe that readers may already have an idea of what the protagonists who occupy the executive power in Peru are like.

Inside the parliament we find another 9 political groups with diverse ideology, ranging from the center-left to the conservative right. They add up to 88 votes out

of 130. None have a majority and there is no known alliance between them. In some cases, they have had dissenting votes from their members on fundamental issues. The most open and militant opposition to the Castillo government can be found in a section of the press. Last week, Peru Libre presented a bill proposing the regulation of content in the press, which was quickly withdrawn in the face of criticism from politicians and the journalists' union, among others. A peculiarity of the Peruvian institutional arrangement is that the parliament, with 87 votes, can vacate the President of the Republic for certain reasons. "Moral incapacity" has been the cause used in the past. On his side, the President can dissolve parliament if it has censured or denied the trust of him to two Councils of Ministers. In 2019, the Peruvian constitutional court validated the controversial figure of "factual denial", when the parliament was dissolved for not approving a proposal from the executive. The magistrates of this court are the same, but it is not certain how they would decide a second time. Some political leaders of the ruling party have been explicit in their intention to dissolve the congress, for example, if the constituent assembly is not approved. Polls show that Pedro Castillo's disapproval exceeds 40% of Peruvians and that approximately 50% of Peruvians have a favorable attitude to the presidential vacancy. In Lima, the capital that accounts for 1/3 of the population, Castillo's popularity is lower than in the provinces. I believe that we are facing a fragile balance (if the oxymoron is worth it), in which the one who will act first will prevail. Due to its level of organization and cohesion, everything indicates that the government will make the first move.

What we can observe is that so far the legal framework has not been changed in substantial aspects in economic matters, but the prospects of this happening, if the agenda that Peru Libre is decisively applying is followed, have been sufficient to seriously affect the country. At this point I want to highlight the role of the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCR), both in its institutional role and in its much more modest

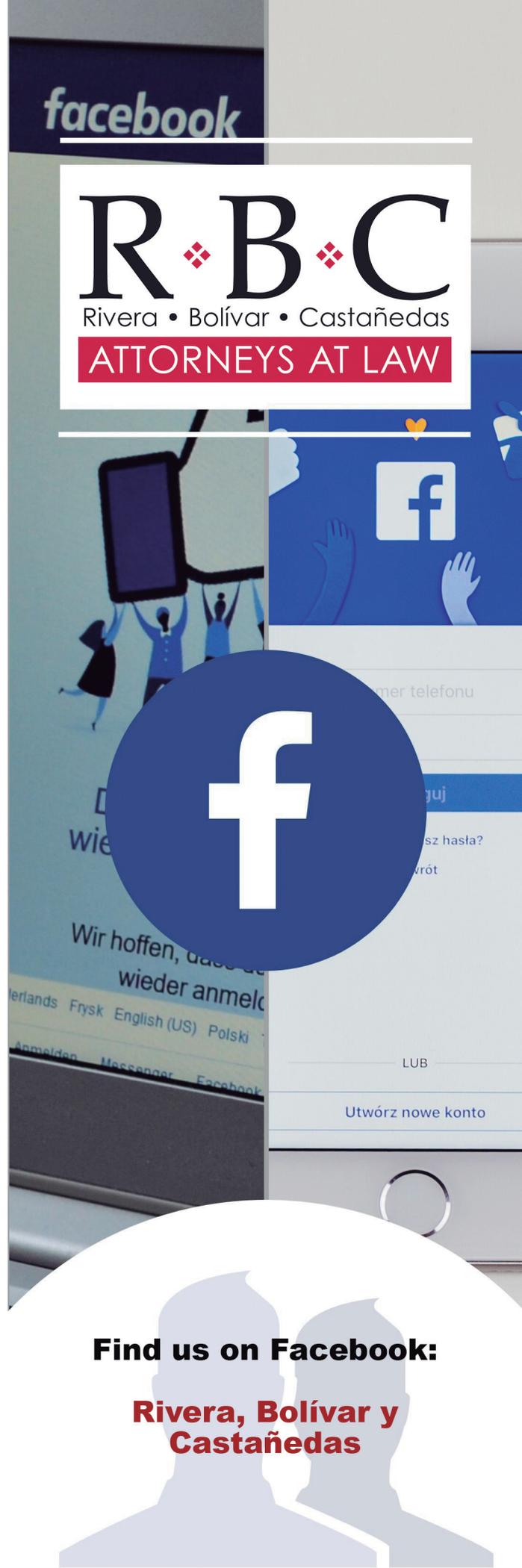
role as a source of information for this article. The current Constitution establishes that the purpose of the BCR is to preserve monetary stability, issue currency, report truthfully, and establish a consensus procedure between the executive and parliament for the election of its highest body. The current Chairman of the Board of Directors has held that position for longer than the last 5 presidents of the Republic and is internationally considered one of the greatest experts in monetary policy in the world. His mandate has expired and his continuity is not being processed by the executive power, thus contradicting Pedro Castillo's electoral offer to continue counting on him. Este es uno de esos casos en que las personas que ocupan el cargo más alto son determinantes.

Regarding GDP, this year there is a "rebound" effect of the year 2020, in which Peru's economic activity shrank by 11% due to the pandemic, interrupting 22 consecutive years of growth. The latest BCR report has been disappointing. Thus, the economic growth projection for 2021 is 11.9% due to the rebound effect; The Peruvian economy would not perform well in 2022 either. The GDP growth projection for next year fell from 4.5% to 3.4%, due to the weakening of business expectations. Thus, private investment expectations fell from 2.5%, initially projected, to 0% and could go negative. Regarding the value of the Peruvian currency, which is at 4.10 per dollar since Castillo had the possibility of being president, the head of the BCR has declared "in conditions of no political uncertainty, we probably would have expected an exchange rate closer to S / . 3.60 or S / . 3.70 ". And, I reiterate, these results are without any relevant legal change so far. I will give an eloquent example of the uncertainty that exists. The news on Sunday, September 26, after the international tour of the President of the Republic that same week, in which he offered legal security to investors, has been a tweet from the prime minister (supposedly his subordinate) in these terms: "We summoned the Camisea gas operating and marketing company to renegotiate the

distribution of profits in favor of the State, otherwise, we will opt for the recovery or nationalization of our field." The civil construction union has reacted against this threatening message more effectively and quickly than the hydrocarbons union. The union tells the government to govern well, that they do not want gifts, that they want work and for that private investment is required. They have already called for mobilizations.

### How did we get here?

I don't think there is a single cause. In this article I will mention in general terms what I consider fundamental, hoping that it will not be repeated. In my country, there was an attitude that ignored politics and the education of young people, thinking that the friendly or neutral legal framework was enough to continue to prosper. Sadly, this evasive attitude has been prevalent in the longtime victims of Marxism - Leninism that now rules: they generate wealth, the businessmen. This same attitude could be corrected in the United States in the 20th century, so it can also be corrected in our countries. In Peru today, the facts show once again that the fall of the Berlin Wall was not enough to bury an ideology that affirms - honestly - that it wants to destroy the generators of wealth. Special mention deserves the constant work of progressive intellectuals (artists, academics, etc.) who paved the way for what we now have. They managed to introduce subjectivity in the approach to reality and relativize morality. A concrete result of this work was the "softening" of Marxist terrorism, which they seldom called terrorism, but regarding which they indicated that it was involved in an "internal armed conflict", as if terrorism and the State that defended its citizens were 2 sides with equal moral value. Now these intellectuals are not receiving from the Marxist-Leninist government the treatment or benefits to which they feel entitled, and they complain. Others ignore their past. *L&E*



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# Norms of INTEREST

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

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**O**n September 3, Law 236 was issued, which promotes the implementation of international baccalaureate programs in official and private educational centers.

Law 236 aims to promote the implementation of international baccalaureate programs in official and private educational centers as an alternative that provides high-level training opportunities for students in the country. They constitute an optional educational offer, of an international nature, that can be implemented in educational centers that meet the requirements to be certified as International Baccalaureate World School.

What is sought, through specialized study programs, is to develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills that students need to live, to learn and work in a globalized world.

Under these parameters, the official and private

educational centers that wish to implement the international baccalaureate programs must go through a process to have the authorization granted by the International Baccalaureate Organization, the international governing body that evaluates the students who study the program. both throughout the established process, as well as in the application of international tests and the preparation of projects, which will be evaluated outside the country.

**The international baccalaureate program comprises: 1. International Baccalaureate Primary School Program. 2. International Baccalaureate Intermediate Years Program. 3. International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. 4. International Baccalaureate Professional Orientation Program.**

It has been established that the Professional Orientation Program is an optional educational offer for students of second level of education, professional and technical education of the official and private

educational centers of the country, which focuses on responding to the needs of students who they opt for professional training. Oriented to higher studies, professional apprenticeship programs or to get a job.

On the other hand, the Panama Bilingual Academy for the future is created as an educational institution, of an official and experimental nature, for secondary education with academic excellence, duly accredited to offer the Bachelor of Science, which will operate with an international calendar, under the STEAM methodology (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics), with international standards and certified mastery of English as a second language.

We must remember that by Executive Decree 125 of February 10, 2020, the Bilingual Academy of Panama had been created, under other parameters, however, Law 236 previously outlined repeals article 1 of Executive Decree 125, consequently, the Academy in Law in reference.

It is worth mentioning that the Law in question will be regulated by the Executive Branch in a period that doesn't exceed six months.*L&E*

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## REACTIVATION OF CRUISE BOARDING AND LANDING OPERATIONS IN PANAMANIAN PORTS

**T**he Ministry of Health, through Executive Decree No. 829 of August 24, 2021, repeals Article 3 of Executive Decree No. 472 of March 13, 2020, ordering the reactivation of ports, berths, anchorage areas and marinas in the national territory, of the operation of vessels dedicated to the international transport of passengers, such as cruises, minicruises, deep draft vessels, yachts, mega yachts, yachts

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for commercial use or any other maritime vessel.

It has been established that the passengers and crew of the vessels that disembark in national ports must comply with all the norms, protocols and sanitary measures established by the Ministry of Health, in order to safeguard the health of the population, visitors and the crew of these ships. *L&E*

# FINES FOR HIRING FOREIGN PERSONNEL WITHOUT WORK PERMITS INCREASE

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**T**hrough Law 237 of September 15, 2021, the Labor Code is modified, articles are added to the Organic Law of the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development and to Law 67 of 2015 that adopts measures in the construction industry to reduce the incidence of work accidents: which we will see below:

## 1. Numeral 3 of article 20 of the Labor Code:

The reform focuses on increasing the fine for infractions in the hiring of foreign personnel without having a work permit, which for the third time is increased to the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (US \$ 15,000.00). Before the reform, for the third offense the penalty was TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (US \$ 10,000).

## 2. Coercive jurisdiction:

Article 44-A of the Organic Law of the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development is added, which creates the Coercive Jurisdiction of the Ministry, it will correspond to the minister, delegate these functions to the executing judges, who will make effective the collection of the existing obligations in favor of the Institution due to delinquency in the

payment of services, permits, fines or damages caused to property of its property and in general to any credit or obligation that it maintains in its favor.

On the other hand, article 44-B is added, by which the Mitradel will issue a procedure manual, as well as regulations for the coercive collection process.

## 3. Occupational safety fund:

With the addition of article 11-A to Law 67 of 2015, it is established that, for the purposes of paying the rate of the Occupational Safety, Health and Hygiene at Work Fund, in the construction works of the State it will be used as base the value of the work established in the contract from the earthmoving phase to the completion of the work including gray work. However, for private construction works the total value of the work reflected in the construction permit will be used. The payment of the fee must be paid in full from the beginning of the work, understood from the earth movement phase and the works that are executed without having canceled the contribution will be suspended by the Labor Inspection Directorate. *L&E*



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## THE JURISDICTION OF MATERNITY IS EXTENDED TO THE FATHER OF THE MINOR

# W

ith the approval of Law 238 of September 15, 2021, the scope of the maternity jurisdiction is extended to the father and vacations are granted in the event of the death of the minor's mother.

Article 1 of Law 238 establishes that the main purpose of the regulation is to safeguard the best interests of the minor by protecting them when they are in a state of vulnerability or defenselessness and guaranteeing the conditions of stability that allow their development in their first year of life. suitable.

**The Law in reference indicates that the maternity jurisdiction is extended to the father, which will apply to all employees, whether in the public or private sector, so that the father can avail himself of the benefit, the following facts must be present:**

- 1. Death of the mother during part or up to twelve months after delivery.**
- 2. When the woman in a state of pregnancy or within twelve months after the birth or does not**

### have a formal job.

It adds the provision that when the woman is pregnant and does not have a formal job, the father will enjoy the scope of the maternity privilege, that is, he may not be fired from a public or private job for the months that the pregnancy lasts and after delivery, for a term of one year.

Law 238 adds, that the scope of the maternity jurisdiction will be suspended if it is found that the woman in a state of management or after childbirth, manages to find a formal job or in the event of the death of the child.

Similarly, the worker is granted the right to fifteen days of vacation, as long as he has the acquired right, which may not be denied by his employer. They will be granted, after having completed the time of mourning established in the internal regulations of the institution or company where he provides his services.

It is important to note that Law 238 will take effect the day after the state of emergency is lifted as a result of the effects generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and it will be subject to regulation by the Executive Branch.

In this regard, we consider it appropriate to point out that, although Law 238 comes into force on an uncertain date so far, no less true is the fact that it is inappropriate, doesn't respond to needs of the country and can be constituted in a fund of Pandora.

Our Constitution establishes protection for the maternity of working women, granting her the right to paid maternity leave and to a maternity jurisdiction, principles that have been developed in the Labor Code, a point on which there is no discussion.

The problem is that through Law 238, a maternity privilege is extended to the worker, which was granted to be granted to the working woman, that is, to that working woman who works either in the government or in the private company, who receives a salary for the services they provide and also has rights and obligations granted by current legislation, disrupting the meaning of the norm by being granted to women who do not have a formal job.

Maternity leave and maternity leave were granted as an inalienable right in favor of the working woman, precisely so that she could have a paid rest after childbirth and to guarantee the feeding of the child during the first year, which is not enough for the woman who doesn't have a formal job. It doesn't apply to women who don't have a job; However, Law 238 extends to the worker a maternity jurisdiction that doesn't even apply to women, for the reason that they don't have a job. *L&E*



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## EXTEND VALIDITY OF THE RETURN FOR PROCESSING THE WORK PERMIT

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**T**hrough Executive Decree No. 69 of September 14, 2021, the documentary validity of the Social Security Fund returns for the months of February and March 2020 is extended until December 31, 2021, exclusively to be contributed as evidence within the requests for the extension of work permits submitted to the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development.

However, the Social Security Fund return corresponding

to the month immediately prior to the presentation of the extension request must also be submitted.

Similarly, until December 31, applications for an extension may be submitted regardless of the social security card that reflects a minimum of nine installments in the last twelve months or the presentation of the income statement. *L&E*

# Politics



## AFGHANISTAN: COMMENTS ON AN ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL

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The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan became independent at the beginning of the 20th century, on August 18, 1919, and maintained a monarchical regime until 1973. In 1978 the Saur Revolution established a communist-inspired government and received the support of the Soviet Union, invading the country to support its communist government, thus originating a confrontation against the Islamic guerrillas, the latter being supported by the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, among others.

In February 1989 Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet president, ordered the withdrawal of his troops, but he did not stop supporting the Afghan communist regime, thus continuing the civil war until in 1996 the Taliban movement controlled almost 80% of the Afghan territory and took power, totally removing the Russians from their country.

When the attacks of September 11, 2001 occurred in the United States, this country accused the Taliban, in power in Afghanistan, of hosting Osama Bin Laden in its territory and being responsible for the terrorist action, invading Afghanistan on October 7, 2001 in alliance with NATO countries, under the presidency of Republican George W. Bush. A portion of the US forces in Afghanistan was under the command of NATO and

the rest under the command of the United States.

The United States had nearly 100,000 troops in Afghanistan under the Obama administration in mid-2010. However, the Taliban continued to grow stronger, causing heavy casualties to the Afghan army, despite strong combat support and air strikes from US aviation. In May 2011 the Obama administration, through a SEAL command (Sea, Air and Land), killed Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan.

President Obama had set the start of the withdrawal for July 2011, in order to transfer responsibility to the Afghan forces, raising doubts in some countries of the international community about the real capacity of the Afghan forces to maintain control of the country. In 2014, the withdrawal of US troops began in order to find a solution to the conflict. That is to say, the whole world, and especially Afghanistan, knew that the United States and its allies had the intention of retreating from 10 years before the final withdrawal that culminated on August 31, 2021.

During its two-decade presence, the United States spent billions of dollars in development aid to Afghanistan and another billions of dollars in military spending, notwithstanding the corruption of Afghans and Western defense and development contractors.

The US-funded and trained Afghan armed forces were notorious for corruption and mismanagement, leading many of their soldiers to defect or surrender, thus making it easier for the Taliban to take control of important barracks in surprising ways. quick.

When Donald Trump assumed the presidency of the United States in 2017, he promised to put an end to the "endless wars" of his country because he considered the presence of the United States in Afghanistan a "waste of life and millions", expressing to the public that "we are no more fools, the US cannot be the police of the world". In 2018, the dialogue between President Trump and the Taliban began with the purpose of ending the conflict.

The negotiations were interrupted several times, to the point that Trump declared them dead, but later gave in to the demand of the Taliban who demanded that the Afghan government withdraw from the agreement. For all practical purposes, this agreement beheaded the Afghan

government, thus the rapid recapture of power by the Taliban in Afghanistan was a fait accompli long before the capture of Kabul, its capital, on August 15, 2021.

On February 29, 2020, the administration of President Donald Trump and the Islamic extremist group Taliban, signed in Doha, Qatar, the agreement by which a timetable was set for the definitive withdrawal of the United States and its allies after almost 20 years of conflict. . This agreement evidently raised the morale of the Taliban.

In the pact, the Taliban would not allow their territory to be used to carry out threats to the security of the United States. This was called the Accord to Bring Peace to Afghanistan. In our view, this agreement ensured the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan; for others it was a surrender. The Doha Agreement signed by the government of Donald Trump also committed the great northern nation to lift the sanctions they had imposed on Taliban leaders..

The Islamic terrorist group the Taliban also

imposed a demand for the release of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners and 1,000 Afghan government officials at the end of the negotiation, which was met. This disaster was what produced the one who boasts of mastering the art of agreement.

Obviously what former President Trump wanted at all costs was to be able to say, solely in advance of his November 2020 reelection bid, that he had kept his campaign promise to end the longest war his country had ever had in all. his story. Details have been extensively documented by Bob Woodward, legendary key reporter on the Watergate scandal, in his book entitled "Peril."



Many saw in this Doha agreement the obvious manifestation that the United States was abandoning Afghanistan to its fate. Once this Doha pact was signed, the violence escalated in the following months because the Taliban had the purpose

of dominating as much territory as possible and acquiring forces in the face of these negotiations with the Trump administration. Some argue that the United States had lost the war in Afghanistan on the day that Donald Trump reached the peace deal with the Taliban without the presence of the Afghan government. For this reason, the current British Defense Minister, Ben Wallace, recently stated: "I blame former US President Donald Trump for the current situation in Afghanistan" because, in his opinion, peace agreement designed in Washington in 2020 has only served to "give momentum "to the Taliban, adding" The die was cast when Donald Trump closed that agreement "and, referring to new president, Joe Biden, considered that he" inherited "this situation after completing roadmap set for US exit from Afghanistan.

Regarding the stay of the troops, the facts show that the different US administrations, Bush, Obama, Trump and the recent Biden one, had the main purpose of interrupting the use of that country as a terrorist base of operations but also and have always been reluctant to stay in Afghanistan indefinitely and for this reason

for many years they trained and supported the Afghan army in many aspects in its fight against the radical Islamists Taliban. Unfortunately discouragement and corruption were major causes in the lethargy of the Afghan army. This army was not able to defend its country and the logical thing is to think that it will not be others who will die in a war that Afghans are not inclined to fight on their own. Since 2001, a total of 775,000 US soldiers have served in Afghanistan, of whom 2,461 were killed in Afghanistan.

A real fact is that the American people wanted to bring their boys home, let the governments of those nations assume and solve their own difficulties and accept that the American model of liberal democracy is not exportable to certain countries, because of culture, religion, customs and idiosyncrasies of those nations. In a recent NBC News poll, conducted August 14-17, 2021, 61% of Americans said the war in Afghanistan was not worth it, a view almost identical to that of 2014.

If former President Trump had not lost the election to be re-elected as President in November 2020, he would surely have withdrawn US troops sooner rather than later, for political reasons. It must be remembered that at the beginning of his administration he referred to fatigue

with "endless wars." A few days before leaving the Presidency, he announced that both Afghanistan and Iraq would leave 2,500 troops by January 15 and proceeded to sign the order for thousands of US soldiers assigned to Afghanistan to return.

When Joe Biden assumed the presidency of the United States he inherited a country in deep political, economic, cultural and health crisis. Joe Biden promised to seek unity after four turbulent and intellectually regressive years of the previous administration. One of the many problems was the withdrawal of the United States from Afghanistan, announced during the Trump administration for May of this year, after choosing to reduce the military

mission rather than strengthen it to ensure an orderly withdrawal. During his presidential campaign, Biden also promised to end the war in Afghanistan. Suffice it to remember that when he served as vice president, he disagreed with the surge in US soldiers in Afghanistan approved by former President Obama.

In April 2021 Joe Biden announced that all US troops would leave the country before September 11; he subsequently brought the date forward to August 31 in the face of the surrender and little resistance of the Afghan armed forces and the fierce offensive of the Taliban. Biden's decision not to prolong the "eternal" war was unanimously endorsed by the generals who advised him and who are in command of the US armed forces.

On August 14, President Joe Biden pointed out that "an endless American presence in the middle of another country's civil conflict was not acceptable to me." On August 26, 2021, a suicide bomber blew himself up at an access control post at the Kabul airport, taking with him dozens of lives, including those of

13 US servicemen, thus tarnishing evacuation operations. This terrorist was a member of the ISIS-K terrorist network, enemy number one of the Taliban; Although both are Islamic groups, they have different ideologies that have pitted them in a long-standing

conflict. ISIS maintains close ties with AL QAEDA. Now, in addition to the immense governance problems, the new Taliban government will have to confront this terrorist group that has been operating in Afghanistan since approximately 2015.

Obviously the impressive reduction of American troops and the announcement signaling the imminent withdrawal of troops from the great northern nation in Afghanistan, hastened the Taliban advance, the collapse of the Afghan government and the rapid fall of the country into the hands of the Taliban. Due to the unfortunate situation of political acrimony in the United States, it was to be expected that for partisan political reasons, pro-Trump congressmen (and



a few Democratic congressmen) have demanded explanations about the evacuation management carried out by the new government of Biden and for an alleged abandonment of thousands of Afghans who collaborated with the United States.

Obviously there was improvisation since there was never a Trump evacuation plan that outlined the route and procedures, nor any withdrawal strategy on May 1. What there was was a backlog of thousands of unprocessed immigration applications. There was only the theatrical montage of agreements and dates that could be used in proselytizing demagoguery. It is important to understand that reviewing and validating the credentials of Afghans wishing to flee Afghanistan were vital to prevent terrorist infiltration of refugees as much as possible. When this process has to be applied to tens of thousands, it is not possible to handle it in a few months. It is really interesting that Trump never did anything about this and it is completely predictable that if he were re-elected, this May 1 deadline would either disappear with the greatest cynicism or self-confidence or the degree of tragedy that the entire world witnessed would have multiplied exponentially.

A television interview with a young Afghan who had already moved and settled in Spain for seven years caught my attention, in which he expressed his concern for his mother and sister, with whom he had not been able to communicate on account of his moment. It is unlikely that even though it was generally known for many years that the United States would withdraw, this Afghan didn't make arrangements to bring his mother and sister to his side where he was based. It is possible that what was seen in the hours of evacuation was a tragic combination of Trump's incompetence and cynicism and denial on part of the Afghans, unless countries that took them asylum didn't allow the entry of relatives, which I suspect is not common.

The truth is that a great effort has been made thanks to the airlift led by the United States with support of allied countries and civil organizations that managed to evacuate more than 124,000 people in two weeks and I don't doubt that evacuations will continue. President Biden's decision to postpone but follow the evacuation route is made when the options are to exit or increase presence. For Biden, taking the past as a reference, the increased presence would have meant more years, more downed soldiers,

more wasted funds, and probably the same result.

We must not forget that the United States invaded that complicated country to end Osama Bin Laden and control the operational capacity of Al Qaeda, the authors of the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States. The Biden government has already warned the Taliban government that it will not allow the use of that territory for the preparation of terrorist acts against the United States and, make no mistake, the United States will react if the opposite happens.

The current Taliban government is at the moment acting with caution, tolerating for the moment acts that previously prohibited its population. The United States has frozen the assets of the Central Bank of Afghanistan and global cooperation for the development of that country. The great northern nation and its NATO allies have resorted to financial warfare. "Almost 7,700 million euros in assets, 1,200 million dollars in gold and more than 300 million dollars in other international currencies are kept in the United States", which is an incentive to act with caution because of the detrimental situation for the country. Several countries have suspended their economic aid for the development of that country, aid estimated at approximately 8,000 million dollars last year. Obviously, the current Afghan situation can only get worse in the immediate future.

The Taliban need to legitimize themselves internationally to rule. All these international warnings and pressures, both financial and military, could incentivize them to improve their cruel and ruthless behavior, to be more tolerant of their population, which they apparently are currently doing with evacuations and to some extent with women who study or they work outside the home or who protest demanding their rights and other measures. Likewise, the international community warned that it will judge the Islamist movement that returned to power after 20 years of international military intervention in Afghanistan for its actions..

In my opinion, it is necessary to be cautious and constantly keep an eye on this tiger that will probably soon tire of being a vegetarian (or less carnivorous) even considering the dire consequences that the horror of September 2001 and the subsequent invasion brought to Afghanistan. to that country, then under the full control of the Taliban. *L&E*

# THE QUAD IN THE POST-COVID ERA: BEYOND THE CHINESE CHALLENGE

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## S ummary

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated China's rise in the Indo-Pacific, further accentuating its assertiveness in region. This renewed determination by Beijing has provoked the reaction of the Quad, a security forum formed by United States, India, Japan and Australia that, after greater commitment made by Indian Government in post-COVID era and continuation of the hard line vis-a-vis China under the new US Administration, it is progressively strengthening and pointing towards institutionalization. However, the Quad faces a number of challenges in its competition with Beijing. This document proposes that the Quad's growing rapprochement translate into a regional strategy that projects beyond China, prioritizing its development as a forum for multilateral and multidimensional cooperation.

## Introduction

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a

security forum for the Indo-Pacific region made up of the United States, India, Australia, and Japan. It was born in a meeting held on the sidelines of the 2007 ASEAN Regional Forum in Manila (Philippines), conceived as an informal association of four liberal democracies to stop China in the region. While the four countries had first partnered in 2004 as an ad-hoc group to deal with the tsunami that hit the shores of the Indian Ocean, the true promoter of a quadrilateral dialogue on security for the Indo-Pacific was the former prime minister. Japanese, Shinzo Abe, who coined the idea of the "Confluence of the Two Seas" in a speech in the Indian Parliament and the "Diamond of Democratic Security" in an article written by himself.

Parallel to the meeting in Manila, using the Malabar naval exercise framework already in place since 1992 between India and the United States, a naval exercise was carried out between Australia, the United States, India and Japan, together with the

participation of Singapore. The Chinese Government angrily responded to the Naval Exercise Malabar 2007 by issuing a formal diplomatic protest, for which Australia decided in 2008 to withdraw from the Quad (version known today as Quad 1.0.). Coupled with the departure of Japanese Prime Minister Abe and the lack of Indian will, the group lost all relevance until the 2017 ASEAN Summit, where the four countries agreed to give the group a new impetus, in view of China's growing determination in the region.

The Quad meeting in September 2019 is of particular relevance, as it was the first ministerial meeting of the Quad since its inception in 2007. There the idea of a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) was consolidated, a term introduced by Japan and assimilated by the United States in response to the threat posed by China to the international liberal order. Although the concept of "Indo-Pacific" is gaining popularity in recent years, it was actually coined by the German geopolitical thinker Karl Haushofer in the interwar period, with the term *Indopazifischer Raum* (Indo-Pacific Space in German). Thus, the geographic space of the Indo-Pacific, conceptualized by Haushofer a century ago, has today become the center of gravity of world geopolitics. And it is that only the four members of the Quad and China represent more than 52% of world GDP, around 42% of the global population and all of them, with the exception of Australia, are among five largest military powers in the world.

## The challenges of the Quad in the face of the rise of China

China has successfully managed the pandemic<sup>8</sup>, which has allowed it to emerge stronger from the global crisis caused by the virus, as long as recent investigations into the origin of the coronavirus do not tarnish that management. China is the only world power that registered growth in 2020 (2.3%) and, despite this, it will grow, according to estimates, to 8.5% in 2021. In addition, it also increased by 9.4 % its exports in goods and services with respect to the pre-pandemic. In relation to vaccination, which is one of the decisive factors for recovery in the post-COVID era, China is the country in the world that has administered the most doses, with more than two billion, almost half of the total doses administered all over the planet. This extraordinary deployment has allowed Beijing to propose vaccine diplomacy, an important soft measure to enhance its global projection.

Meanwhile, the Quad countries have suffered severely from the ravages of the pandemic: the United States and India are the first and second countries in the world in number of confirmed COVID cases and, in number of deaths, they rank first and third, respectively. The second wave of COVID has been particularly damaging for India, which in turn has affected growth forecasts for 2021<sup>16</sup>. The four Quad countries suffered a contraction of their economy in 2020<sup>17</sup>: Australia (-2.4 %), The United States (-3.5%), Japan (-4.8%) and India (-8%). And also of its exports. In the case of the US, exports of goods plummeted 24% compared to 2019. Thus, it is estimated that the Chinese economy will overtake the US in 2028, five years earlier than expected, due to the pandemic of COVID19.

This favorable situation has led China to position itself as the direct competitor of the United States on the world board and has, in turn, increased assertive profile of the Asian giant in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition to Taiwan, Hong Kong or ASEAN, China has also faced some tension with the three Quad countries of the Asia-Pacific region - Australia, India and Japan - since the beginning of the pandemic: skirmishes on the border between China and India in June 2020; also in the summer of that year, China's intrusion into the

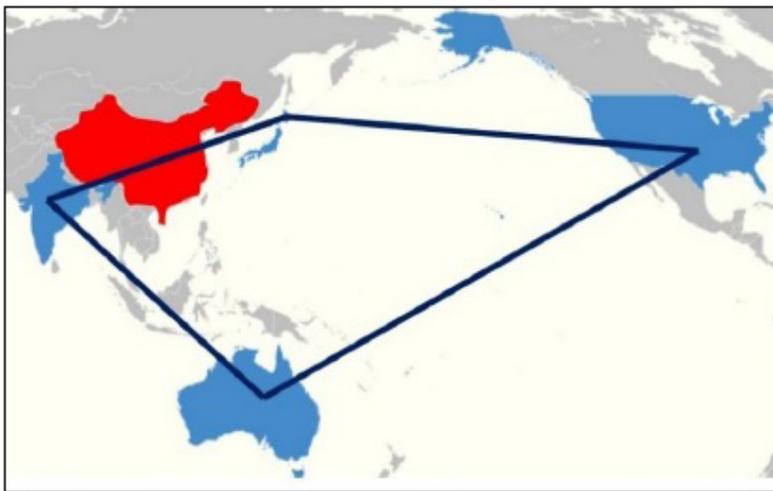


Figura 1. El Diamante de Seguridad Democrático formado por el Quad. Fuente. Elaboración propia.

territorial sea of the Senkaku Islands under Japanese sovereignty; or the stormy relationship between Australia and China in the post-pandemic, with a trade war that has persisted for a year (see Figure 2).

This situation has forced the Quad to reformulate its strategy against China. Thus, in March 2020, the Quad Plus was formed, an extension of the Quad to face the new post-pandemic context, which had the participation of South Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam; the first Quad meeting in the post-COVID era took place in October 2020; in November 2020 first Malabar exercise since 2007 was carried out among the four members; and in March 2021 the first Quad summit in history was held, with first joint declaration and creation, for first time, of joint working groups. Despite these advances towards institutionalization, there are a number of challenges that make it difficult to formulate a long-term strategy in competition with China:

the persistent reluctance of these Quad countries to send a message of unity in the face of the Chinese challenge during the term of former President Donald Trump, despite the transformation of the geopolitical context in favor of China after the arrival of COVID-19.

Beyond the Trump administration's anti-China rhetoric, the lack of unity and convergence exhibited by the post-COVID Quad is largely due to the isolationism, willful unpredictability, unilateralism, and tactical "transactionalism" of President Trump's strategy in the Indo-Pacific region, all of this embodied in the slogan "America First." His defense of protectionism meant the withdrawal of US economic influence in the Indo-Pacific, as in 2017 Trump decided to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Agreement (TPP); Instead, he chose to unilaterally declare a trade war against China. This abandonment of multilateralism did not happen only at the commercial level, but also in the environment - with the withdrawal of the Paris Agreement - or in health - with the withdrawal of the World Health Organization—.

However, Trump's foreign policy also had positive aspects in his Indo-Pacific strategy, such as making it easier for the region's partners to be more frank with their positions on China. Likewise, the new US administration headed by Joe Biden has endorsed the term "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) promoted by Trump and has favored a continuity with respect to the hawkish policy of his predecessor against China. Despite the push for the Quad and strong opposition to China from both US presidents, the Biden administration has achieved a milestone under the Quad that the Trump administration failed to achieve, not even in the post-COVID era. Thus, President Biden's first Quad meeting on March 12, 2021 resulted in the first joint statement in the history of the Quad and an unprecedented plan of action. Although there is still no direct reference to China in the declaration - not even to military security - this milestone marks a before and after in the history of the Quad, as it is the first sign of strategic union and convergence between the four liberal democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

In addition, it announces the formation of three working groups with well-defined objectives. One of them will focus on the production and distribution

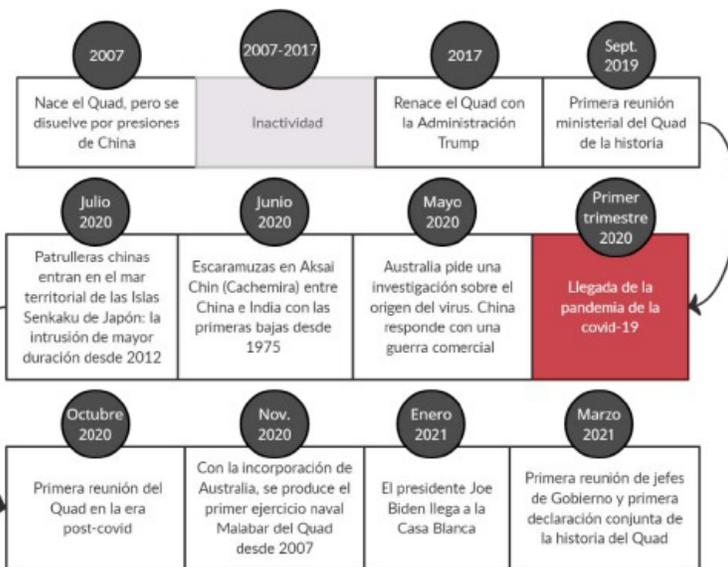


Figura 2. Cronología del Quad y principales hitos. Fuente. Elaboración propia.

### The fickleness of US leadership

Given China's rise in the post-COVID era and its consequent assertive pulse in the Indo-Pacific region, the Quad decided to meet in October 2020, with Trump still in power. However, as in 2019, there was no joint statement after the meeting, no group action plan was presented, nor was there any direct mention of China by Australia, India or Japan. These events demonstrate

of the COVID-19 vaccine; the second will facilitate cooperation in critical and emerging technologies; and a third working group will focus on the fight against climate change. The first two task forces undermine China's leadership in vaccine diplomacy and technology development, while seeking to create and strengthen new supply chains to counter China's dominance of these; on the other hand, working group on climate change is an area in which China is a cooperative actor and not a competitor.

It could be argued that the fact that the first joint statement in the history of the Quad took place as soon as Biden came to power is a mere coincidence. However, there are two differences between the foreign policies of Trump and Biden that are decisive for the Quad. First, unlike Trump's policy of total confrontation, Biden continues the hard line against China, but has left room for cooperation on issues such as climate change, an area in which the Trump Administration couldn't have made progress, since Trump himself abandoned the United States' commitments in this matter and decided to remove the United States from the Paris Agreement.

Second, unlike Trump's defense of traditional US isolationism embodied in America First, Biden is projecting US leadership in tune with American exceptionalism, and is focusing on reinforcing the primacy of the United States in global affairs through multilateralism, having met with the Quad in March, but also the G7, NATO, the EU and Russia on their first international trip. Unlike unilateralism, transactionalism and Trump's lack of predictability with his allies in the region, the new administration's commitment to multilateral cooperation guarantees the commitment and involvement of the United States vis-à-vis China as part of its global strategy, since the NATO has also presented China as a challenge. On the other hand, the withdrawal of Afghanistan in August 2021 seals the strategic turn of the United States, from the Greater Middle East to the Indo-Pacific, with the aim of facing the Chinese challenge.

### The need for a geoeconomic strategy

It has only been two years since China claimed

that the Quad would dissipate like foam on the sea, accusing it of being an Indo-Pacific NATO, evidence of the growing concern the Quad raises in China's geostrategic calculations. The Indo-Pacific NATO designation became popular following statements by Under Secretary of State Stephen Biegun under President Trump, who suggested a NATO-like security organization for the Indo-Pacific in August 2020, but it wasn't until October of that same year that China made such an accusation against the Quad for the first time. Thus, China's attitude towards the Quad became more aggressive in late 2020, the turning point being the Quad meeting in October 2020 under the Trump administration. China's angry protests are an unequivocal indicator of the new challenge posed by the formation of the four democracies for Chinese influence and the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific.

However, China has a key asset, and it is its economic hegemony in the region. China is a manufacturing superpower, with 28.7% of world production; not even the sum of the global manufacturing volume of the United States (16.8%), Japan (7.5%) and India (3.1%) reaches the Chinese figure. This last piece of information is very important to understand Beijing's leadership in global supply chains. China was in 2020 the largest trading partner of Australia, Japan and the United States, and the second partner of India, although it was the first in the first half of fiscal year 2020-2021. In this regard, Australia's position is particularly vulnerable, as 33% of its global exports go to China.

This economic dependence on China has already been exploited by the government led by Xi Jinping, showing that it is willing to resort to economic coercion against members of the Quad. In May 2020, the Australian Government decided to request an investigation into the origins of the coronavirus and China responded with a trade war against Australia, which has continued until today (although it does not seem to have had the desired effect). Also, in May 2021, China indefinitely suspended the Strategic Economic Dialogue between Australia and China, the value of the Australian dollar falling by 0.6% against the US dollar shortly after news was known..

On the other hand, the signing of the Regional

Comprehensive Economic Association (RCEP) in November 2020, which will become the largest free trade agreement in the world, excluded the United States, and India renounced its accession, giving wings to the perpetuation of the economic hegemony of Beijing in the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile, two members of the Quad - Australia and Japan - have joined the RCEP, agreeing to join a free trade network led and shaped by China. The main weapon that China has, therefore, is the economic one. However, the foray into geoeconomics is a step the Quad has yet to take, beyond the task force on critical and emerging technologies, which seeks to reduce China's control over technology supply chains, with Beijing being the largest world's rare earth producer with almost 60% of global production. There is a trilateral geoeconomic initiative - which has already been launched - and a trilateral infrastructure project.

In April 2021, Asia Pacific partners - Australia, India and Japan - formalized the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (IRCS), which aims to 'create a virtuous cycle of improving chain resilience supply in order to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in Indo-Pacific region. Although not expressed directly, IRCS has as its underlying intention to reduce dependence on control of Chinese supply chains, making it first geoeconomic initiative against Beijing in post-COVID era.

On the other hand, informally, an infrastructure project to rival the Chinese Belt and Road has been put on the table: the Blue Dot Network (BDN). The BDN, led by the United States and supported by Japan and Australia, "aims to promote investment in quality infrastructure that is open and inclusive, transparent, economically viable, financially, environmentally and socially sustainable, and complies with standards, international laws and regulations", as opposed to China's Belt and Road infrastructure projects, which have been accused of being opaque and engaging in debt traps for developing countries.

### India's strategic autonomy

India is the Quad's least committed partner. Its ambivalent position vis-à-vis China, as well as its

strategic autonomy in foreign policy, have made it difficult for India to become more involved in the group. Beyond the fear of China and the unpredictability of the Trump Administration in recent years, several factors explain India's strategic autonomy. First of all, Delhi does not want to renounce, for now, the strengthening of ties with Western adversaries such as Iran - an important actor for its access to Central Asia through the port of Chabahar - or Russia, a country with which it maintains a friendly relationship. historical. On the other hand, if India is to become the 'Net Security Provider' (in line with its SAGAR policy for 'Security and Growth for the Whole Region') of the Indian Ocean, it must demonstrate maximum autonomous capability as a leader in security of the Indian Ocean. the region. Finally, according to the Indian geographic imagination, a military alliance would ultimately detract from India's destiny of becoming a great power.

Despite India's particular foreign policy, India's Defense Ministry's End-of-Year Review issued a direct warning to China, referring to the Aksai Chin skirmishes in June 2020, stating that any attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo at the border is unacceptable and that India is determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Considering that India has avoided mentioning or addressing China directly in recent years, this public warning marks a before and after. Always considered the weakest link in the group<sup>53</sup>, in this post-COVID era the security agreements between the United States and India have been strengthened: in October 2020 both countries signed the BECA (Basic Agreement of Exchange and Cooperation) that , together with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA) and the Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), will help both countries to enhance high-level military technological cooperation.

However, India's insistence on its strategic autonomy does not allow for the construction of solid blocks with its partners in the region for now. The fact is that India's particular foreign policy, described by the current Indian Foreign Minister as "The India Way," lacks a clear long-term strategic path. India continues to strengthen military cooperation with Russia (for example, it conducted a military exercise with Moscow

in August 2021) as Russia has fiercely criticized both the Quad and the Indo-Pacific concept for trying to exclude China from the region. In December 2020, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov went so far as to affirm that “India is currently the object of the persistent, aggressive and devious policy of Western countries, as they are trying to involve it in anti-China games promoting strategies of the Indo-Pacific, like the Quad ». On the other hand, the fact that India cooperates with Beijing in the BRICS, Russia-India-China (RIC) groups or the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) when the objective of the United States and the Quad it is precisely to stop the advance of Beijing, it adds to the variety of ambiguities and contradictions of the Indian strategic autonomy.

### Challenges at sea

In November 2020, a historic event took place for the grouping: Australia's re-entry into the Malabar naval exercises. Since Japan's formal re-entry into Malabar exercises permanently in 2015, Australia had tried to rejoin the exercises, but India had been reluctant not to provoke China. Following the aforementioned border tensions with the Chinese Army in Aksai Chin, Delhi shed its hesitations and invited Australia to exercise Malabar 2020. Malabar 2020 was therefore the first exercise involving all four Quad members since 2007 and involved Australia's first participation in 13 years. In addition, it seems that their participation will be regularized, as Australia has also been invited to the Malabar 2021 exercises, held in August in the Philippine Sea.

There is no doubt that the incorporation of Australia after thirteen years of absence marks a milestone towards an institutionalization of the Quad. But, assuming it were to become an alliance, one wonders whether the power of the Quad could serve as a deterrent to China. According to the Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index 2020, the coronavirus has changed the Asian geopolitical reality, in which the United States “far from being the undisputed unipolar power, could be described as the first among equals in a bipolar Indo-Pacific” 60. In fact, the United States is increasingly aware of the erosion of its military capabilities vis-à-vis China.

Despite this, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the United States easily led global defense spending in 2020 - with a whopping \$ 778 billion, followed by China, with \$ 252 billion. India had a military spending of 73 billion dollars, which undermines its credibility because, despite the progressive increase in its investment in defense since 2015, its annual military spending is almost four times lower than that of China, which further accentuates the need for alignment with the United States to stop Beijing's advance. As for Japan and Australia, their defense spending reached \$ 49 billion and \$ 28 billion in 2020, respectively. Thus, even the combined annual spending of India, Japan, and Australia - \$ 150 billion - falls far short of China's annual spending (see Figure 3). Thus, while the Quad's defense spending is much higher than that of China, it is highly dependent on that of United States. Without United States, China's neighboring countries are at its mercy, as it continues exponential military growth that it has maintained in recent years (see Figure 4). Chinese defense spending has increased, from 2010 to 2019, by 85%, compared to India (37%) or the United States (-15%).

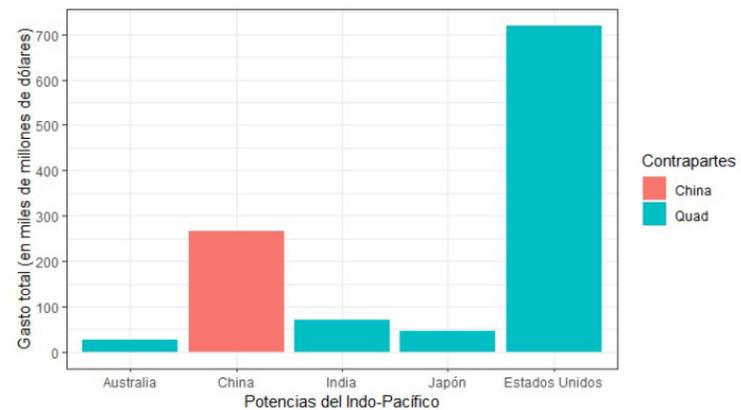


Figura 3. Gasto en Defensa de China y del Quad en 2020. Fuente: Elaboración propia a partir de datos del SIPRI.

In the past two decades, China has built the largest navy in the world, surpassing its fleet to that of the United States, and it will continue to grow for years to come. Beijing poses a major challenge to the ability of the US Navy to achieve and maintain control of blue waters - a term that refers to the deep waters of the open oceans - in the Western Pacific, which becomes the first challenge of this type that the US Army has faced since the end of the Cold War,

thus questioning the status of the United States as the main military power in that region. As if that weren't enough, the vastness of the Indo-Pacific also makes the geographic distance between the United States and the Quad's partners very significant, compounding these issues. In addition, the base of the United States Seventh Fleet - the American fleet for the Western Pacific - is located in Yokosuka (Japan), a relatively peripheral area of the Indo-Pacific, so its response and mobilization capacity is reduced.

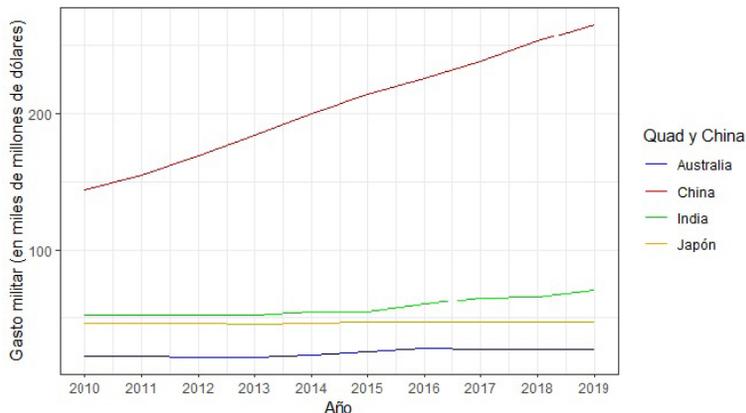


Figura 4. Gasto militar de China y del Quad (sin EE. UU.). 2010-2019. Fuente. Elaboración propia a partir de datos del SIPRI.

Here there is a dilemma. Although India has always welcomed a prominent role for the United States in its backyard, it is also highly suspicious that the American presence could erode its leadership role in the region. In other words, India's military dependence on the United States in turn clashes with the spirit of Indian foreign policy, which is based on full autonomy, as previously explained. This was revealed in April 2021, when a US Seventh Fleet vessel sailed 130 nautical miles from the Lakshadweep Islands, crossing the Exclusive Economic Zone of India without prior permission from Delhi. India expressed its displeasure at the maneuver of its ally<sup>66</sup>, but the commander of the US Seventh Fleet stated that Washington would continue to carry out this type of freedom of navigation operations, calling India's rights "excessive". If these types of conflicts continue to occur in the future, it will not be positive for the deepening of the military relationship between India and the United States and, therefore, for the Quad.

## Final thoughts

China is a military, economic and technological power that also challenges the Quad's shared values: freedom, democracy and the rule of law. This challenge has been accentuated, as Beijing has emerged stronger from the COVID-19 crisis. To respond to this problem, and after renewed assertive profile of India towards China and the arrival of Biden to the White House, the members of the Quad have proposed for first time in their history a joint plan, with strategic axes and working groups with defined objectives. Also, joint military practice has resumed after 13 years. Despite these steps towards institutionalization, there are a number of challenges that make it difficult to formulate a long-term strategy for Quad against China.

Therefore, the Quad should prioritize its internal development and group coordination through a strategic alignment of national foreign policies. It is necessary to turn the group into an institution with extensive mutual knowledge and joint work, univocal in security matters and whose cooperation as a group in different fields - military, geoeconomics, development, and non-traditional security - becomes more and more visible. provide a medium-long-term vision, without formulating a strategy against China, but for the benefit of the entire Indo-Pacific region.

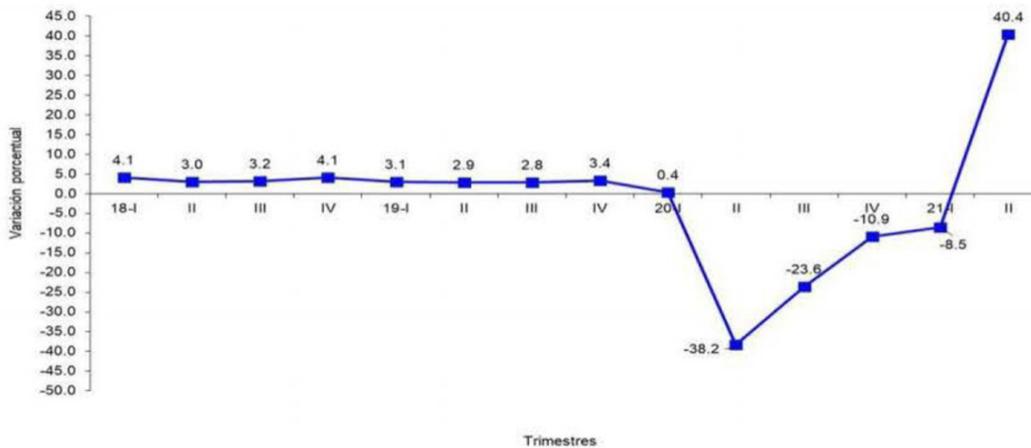
The Quad must also be an inclusive forum, promoting the participation of regional actors - strengthening the Quad Plus extension - and extra-regional ones, such as France, Germany, the Netherlands or the EU, which have already formulated a strategy for the Indo-Pacific . This issue is especially relevant, since as US power erodes and China's power increases in the Indo-Pacific, the need to seek new allies that contribute to deterrence and the balance of power in the region will be accentuated. The naval exercise La Pérouse, led by France and carried out in the Bay of Bengal in April 2021, had the participation of the four members of the Quad, which represents an important step in this direction. But above all, the development of the Quad will be in line with its positive contribution to the region, beyond the Chinese challenge, so cooperation with Beijing will also be desirable.<sup>L&E</sup>

# Panamanian ECONOMY

**PANAMA'S GDP GROWED 40.4% IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2021**

Source: GCRP

Gráfica 1. VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL DEL PRODUCTO INTERNO BRUTO TRIMESTRAL, EN MEDIDAS DE VOLUMEN ENCADENADAS, CON AÑO DE REFERENCIA 2007: AÑOS 2018-17 A 2020-19, PRIMER Y SEGUNDO TRIMESTRE 2021-20



The Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDPT), in the second quarter of 2021, presented an increase of 40.4% in the performance of the Panamanian economy, compared to the similar period of 2020.

The PIBT, valued at 2007 prices (in linked volume measures), registered an amount of B/. 9,124.9 million for the estimated period, which corresponded to an increase of B/. 2,627.8 million compared to the same quarter of 2020.

For the second quarter of 2021, mitigation measures and the vaccination process have been allowing health authorities to reduce or eliminate the restrictions established to contain the pandemic, helping economic activities to begin their recovery process. The behavior of economic activities in the same period of 2020 was very different, when the impact generated by the pandemic was marked by mobility restrictions, partial and total closure of the operations of establishments and companies throughout the country.

Of the activities related to the domestic economy had positive performance in this quarter: construction, transportation and communications, commerce, government services, health, real estate and business, other community and personal; within the agricultural activities, the cultivation of rice and corn; as well as the production of cattle that increased their slaughter by 16.2%, pigs by 24.1% and chickens by 19.4%. On the other hand, financial services showed decreases.

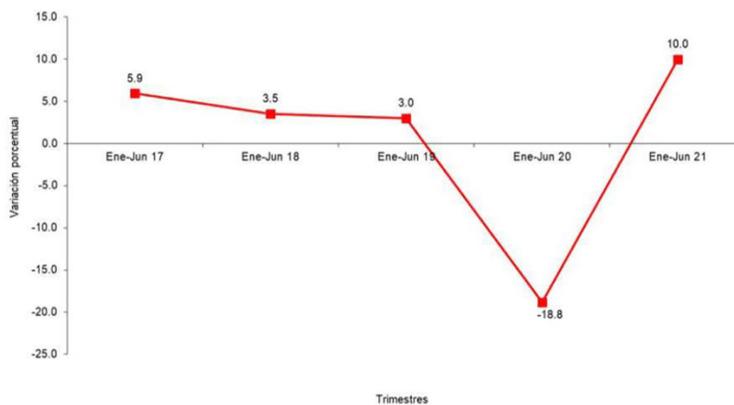
increase in its toll revenues by 20.2%, mainly those related to the transit of neopanamax vessels by 21.5%; port operations as a result of the greater movement of TEU containers in 17.0%; re-exports from the Colon Free Zone by 62.4%. Meanwhile, banana, pineapple and fish exports showed decreases.

Among the added values generated by activities related to the rest of the world that showed increases, the exploitation of mines and quarries stood out, by boosting the economy with the production of copper concentrate in 493.3%; the Panama Canal with an

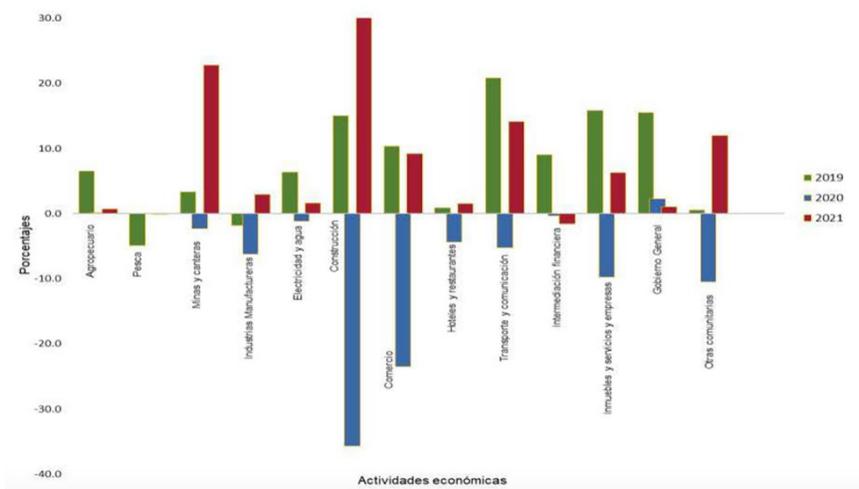
In the period January to June 2021, the Gross Domestic Product reached a cumulative growth of 10.0%.

Note: The discrepancy between total and sum of its components is due to statistical difference that comes from using mobile base price structures, in accordance with the methodology suggested in the 1993 National Accounts system (SNA93).L&E

Gráfica 1. VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL DEL PRODUCTO INTERNO BRUTO TRIMESTRAL, ACUMULADA EN MEDIDAS DE VOLUMEN ENCADENADAS, CON AÑO DE REFERENCIA 2007: AÑOS 2017-16 A 2021-20



Gráfica 3. APORTES PORCENTUALES DE LAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, A LA VARIACIÓN ABSOLUTA ANUAL DEL PIB EN LA REPÚBLICA: SEGUNDO TRIMESTRE DE 2019-21



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX CPI

Source: GCRP

The groups that showed increases were: Food and non-alcoholic beverages; Housing, water, electricity and gas; Communications, and Restaurants and hotels all at 0.2%; and Recreation and culture in 0.1%.

The increase registered in the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group was due to the increase in seven of its eleven classes. The greatest variations were in the classes "Oils and fats" in 1.8%, due to the rise in the price of oil, and "Fish" in 1.7%, due to the growth in the price of shrimp.

The group Housing, water, electricity and gas presented an increase in two of its eight classes: "Materials for the conservation and repair of the house" and "Gas" both in 1.4%. The increase observed in the class "Materials for the conservation and repair of the home" was due to the rise in the price of materials for home repair, and in the class "Gas" it was due to the rise in the price of the gas tank. 100 lbs.

The growth reflected in the Communications group was due to the increase in one of its two classes,

"Telephone equipment" in 2.3%.

The increase presented in the Restaurants and hotels group was due to the rise in one of its two classes, "Restaurants, cafes and similar establishments" by 0.2%, due to the increase in the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages outside the home, and beverages. alcoholics outside the home.

The Recreation and Culture group showed growth 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 0.4%, due to the increase in the price of sound equipment.

The groups Furniture, articles for home and for ordinary maintenance of the home, and Health showed a slight variation and Education remained without variation.

The groups that registered decrease were: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco in 0.6%; Miscellaneous goods and services at 0.2%; Clothing and footwear, and Transport both at 0.1%. The group

Alcoholic beverages and tobacco presented a drop in one of its four classes, "Wine" at 11.4%.

The drop registered in the group Miscellaneous goods and services was due to the reduction in two of its ten classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Other appliances, articles and products for personal care" in 0.4%, due to the decrease in the price of personal care items.

The reduction reflected in the Clothing and footwear group was due to the decrease in two of its four classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Cleaning, repair and rental of clothing" in 0.4%, due to the decrease in the price of the washbasin and laundry service.

The Transportation group showed reduction in two of its seven classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Passenger transport by air" in 6.1%, due to the decrease in the price of airfare.

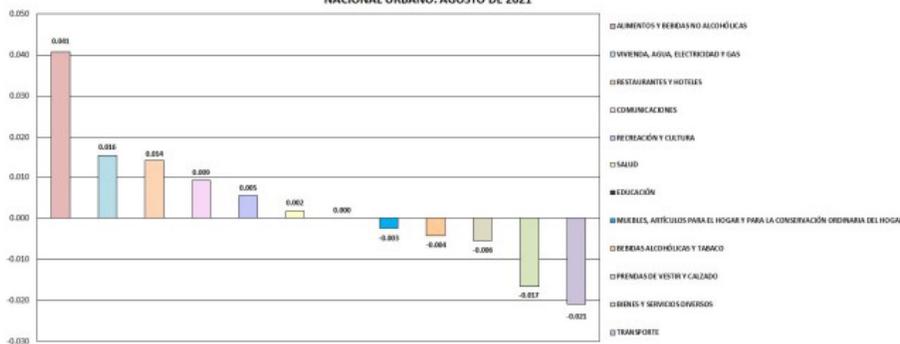
### • Interannual variation of the National Urban CPI (August 2021 compared to August 2020):

The National Urban CPI reflected an interannual variation of 2.4%. The groups that observed increases were: Transportation in 10.9%; Education at 3.1%; Housing, water, electricity and gas in 1.9%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages at 1.4%; Restaurants and hotels in 1.1%; Health at 0.7%; Miscellaneous goods and services by 0.4%, and Furniture, articles for the home and ordinary household maintenance by 0.2%.

The groups that presented decreases were: Clothing and footwear in 0.6%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, and Communications both at 0.3%; and Recreation and culture in 0.1%.

Next, the graph with the monthly incidence by group of the National Urban CPI for August 2021: *L&E*

Gráfica 1. INCIDENCIA MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO: AGOSTO DE 2021



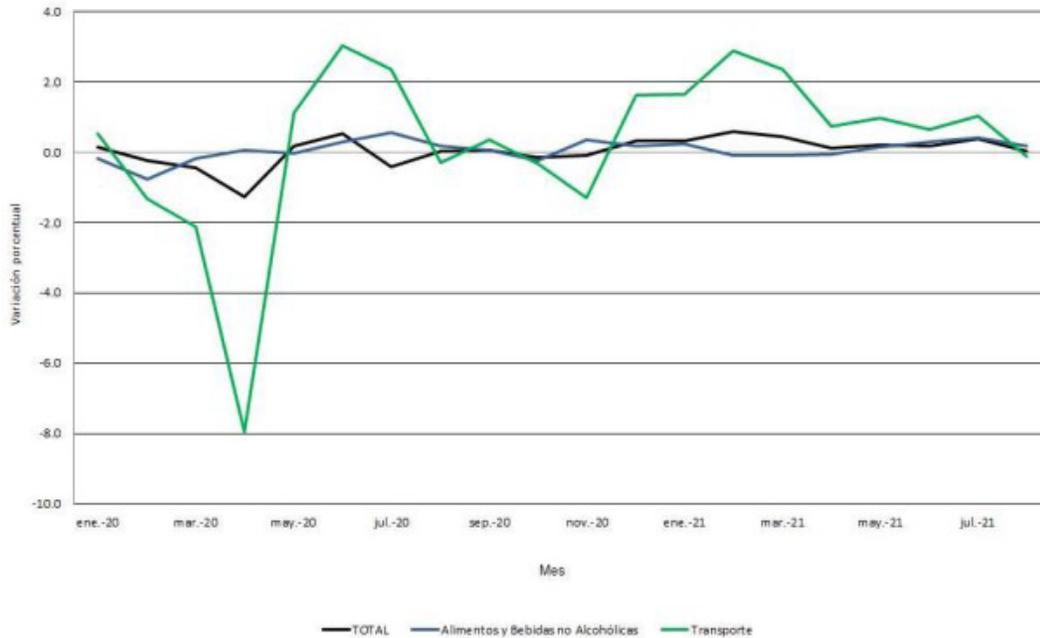
Incidenia: Corresponde a la contribución de cada grupo respecto a la variación total del Índice Nacional Urbano, por ello, la suma de las incidencias da como resultado la variación del índice.

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

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidenia	Variación mensual
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	22.4	0.041	0.2
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	-0.004	-0.6
Prendas de vestir y calzado	7.7	-0.006	-0.1
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	8.5	0.016	0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	7.8	-0.003	0.0
Salud	3.4	0.002	0.0
Transporte	16.8	-0.021	-0.1
Comunicaciones	4.3	0.009	0.2
Recreación y cultura	9.7	0.005	0.1
Educación	2.4	0.000	0.0
Restaurantes y hoteles	6.7	0.014	0.2
Bienes y servicios diversos	9.8	-0.017	-0.2

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

**Gráfica 2. EVOLUCIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO TOTAL, ALIMENTOS Y BEBIDAS NO ALCOHÓLICAS Y TRANSPORTE: ENERO-DICIEMBRE DE 2020 Y ENERO-AGOSTO DE 2021**



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

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Variación porcentual mensual							
	2021							
	Enero	Febrero	Marzo	Abril	Mayo	Junio	Julio	Agosto
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.5	0.0	0.3	-0.2	-0.4	0.3	0.0	-0.6
Prendas de vestir y calzado	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	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	0.0	0.0
Salud	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Transporte	1.6	2.9	2.3	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.0	-0.1
Comunicaciones	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.2
Recreación y cultura	-	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1
Educación	-1.4	4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.2
Bienes y servicios diversos	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	-0.2

- Cantidad nula o cero.  
0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adaptada para la expresión del dato.



## PANAMANIAN EXPORTS CONTINUE RECORDING RECORD FIGURES

Source: MICI

Exports of goods from Panama reached the record figure of \$ 1,945.9 million between January and July of this 2021, that is, \$ 1,056.6 million more than in the same period of 2020, which means a percentage growth of 118.8%, according to data provided by the National Directorate for Export Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MICI).

Copper concentrate represents 78.5% of exports with a total value of \$ 1,528.4 million. On the other hand, non-mineral exports registered \$ 417.6 million and a growth of 7.6% versus the previous year. These exports are derived from the agricultural, industrial, agro-industrial and fishing sectors.

Among the items with good performance in the first seven months of the year are food products such as palm oil (72.7%), pumpkin (68.1%), shrimp (36.2%), watermelon (21.1%), cocoa beans (20.6 %) and bananas (2.2%). Likewise, non-food products with added value stand out such as medicines (13.6%), cement (100%), rum (60%), lubricating oils (84.5%), clothing (58.1%), acrylic polymer-based paints ( 100%), prefabricated metal structures (47.7%) and ethylene polymer bags (102.7%).

The export destinations of non-mineral products are Europe (28%), Asia (25%), the United States (24%) and Latin America (23%). *L&E*

# World ECONOMY



## 20 YEARS AFTER THE DURBAN DECLARATION, RACISM CONTINUES TO PERMEATE INSTITUTIONS, SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Source: International Monetary Fund

**T**wo decades after a landmark declaration to eradicate racism was adopted, discrimination continues to “permeate the institutions, social structures and everyday life in all societies,” said the UN Secretary General.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, Heads of State and Government met in the General Assembly hall to discuss reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent, at the framework of the UN high-level week.

“Afro-descendants, minority communities, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, and many others continue to face hatred, stigmatization, the search for scapegoats, discrimination and violence,” he said. António Guterres.

**“Xenophobia, misogyny, hate conspiracies, white supremacy and neo-Nazi ideologies are spreading,**

**amplified in the echo chambers of hate”, he added.**

**Links to gender inequality.**

The UN head said that human rights are under attack, from flagrant violations to stealthy transgressions.

Structural racism and systematic injustice continue to deny people their fundamental human rights, and **the links between racism and gender inequality are unmistakable.**

Some of worst impacts on “overlaps and intersections of discrimination” are suffered by women. And the world is witnessing a “worrying rise” in anti-Semitism, growing anti-Muslim fanaticism and mistreatment of Christian minorities, Guterres noted.

The secretary-general urged everyone to condemn discrimination, hate speech and unsubstantiated claims, as those who promote that ideology today

denigrate "our essential fight against racism".

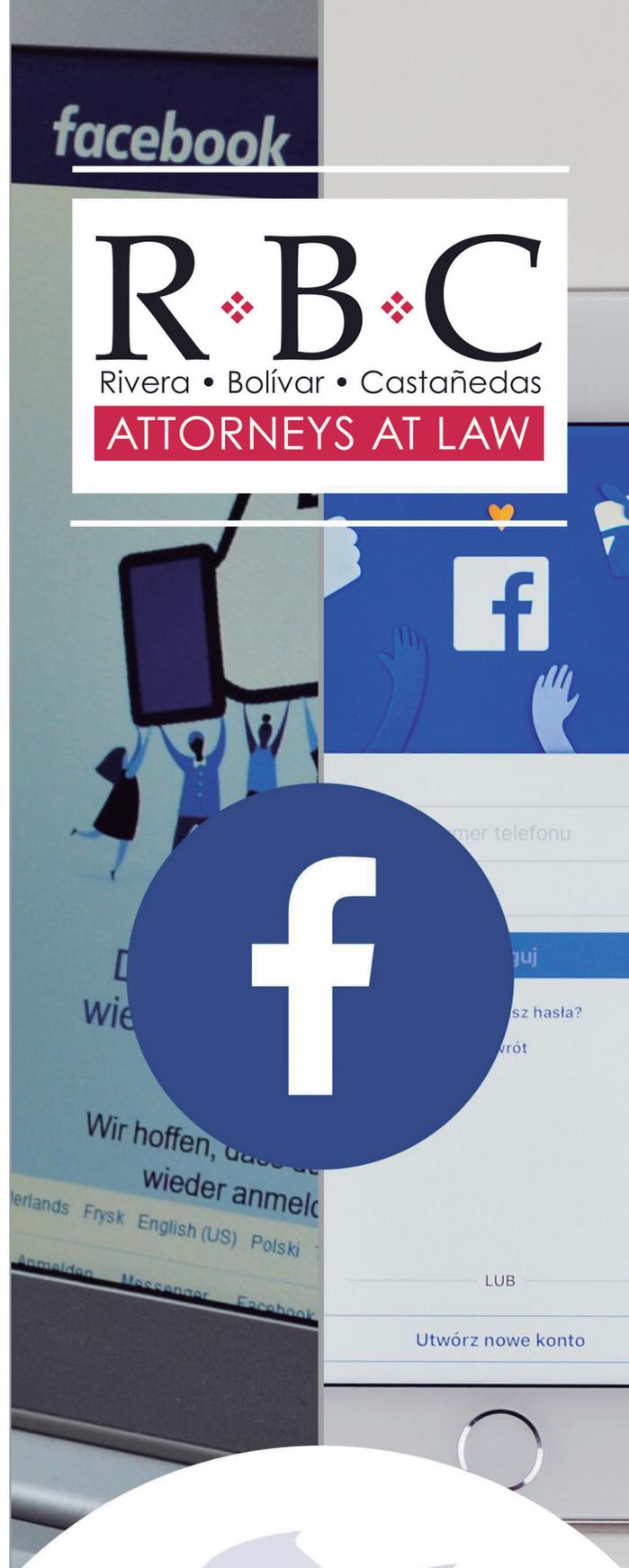
**Recognize the resonance of the past in the present.**

Guterres highlighted the "transformative agenda" launched by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to try to dismantle systemic racism, ensure accountability and offer restorative justice.

"This new awakening, often led by women and youth, has created momentum that we must build on," he said, also acknowledging "significant progress" made by the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent in the fight against systemic racism.

The UN chief called on member states to "adopt concrete measures" to support these efforts at the national and global levels and to **"recognize the contemporary resonance of past crimes that continue to haunt our present"**, such as transgenerational suffering and structural inequalities "deeply rooted in centuries of colonial slavery and exploitation".

"We must reverse the consequences of generations of exclusion and discrimination, including its obvious social and economic dimensions, through restorative justice frameworks", he declared. *L&E*



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NACIONES UNIDAS

CEPAL

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WILL GROW 5.9% IN 2021, REFLECTING A STATISTICAL DRAG THAT WILL MODERATE TO 2.9% IN 2022

Source: ECLAC

Latin America and the Caribbean will grow in 2021, although the pandemic continues and the crisis exacerbated long-standing structural problems in the region: low investment and productivity, informality, unemployment, inequality and poverty. For this reason, recovering investment and employment, especially in environmentally sustainable sectors, is key to a transformative and inclusive recovery, said the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) when delivering a new version of one of its most important annual reports..

The Executive Secretary of the organization, Alicia Bárcena, released the Economic Study of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021: Labor dynamics and employment policies for a sustainable and inclusive recovery beyond the COVID-19 crisis, in which ECLAC updated its regional growth projection for this year to 5.9% and warned that the region will have a slowdown in 2022, with an estimated expansion of 2.9%.

The growth in 2021 is mainly explained by a low base of comparison -after the contraction of 6.8% recorded in 2020- in addition to the positive effects derived from external demand and the rise in the prices of basic products (commodities) exported by

the region, as well as increases in aggregate demand.

"There are important asymmetries between developed countries and middle-income nations -among which are most Latin American and Caribbean countries- both in the dynamics of vaccination and in the ability to implement policies for recovery. economic ", indicated Alicia Bárcena.

"To maintain expansive fiscal and monetary policies, the countries of the region need to complement domestic resources with greater access to international liquidity and with multilateral mechanisms that facilitate debt management, if necessary. Multilateral initiatives are needed to face the uncertainties about vaccination and the access of developing countries to financing under adequate conditions ", added the senior United Nations official..

The document shows that the structural problems that for decades have limited economic growth in the region worsened as a result of the pandemic and will limit the recovery of economic activity. Before COVID-19, the region had a path towards stagnation: in the six-year period between 2014 and 2019 it grew at an average rate of 0.3%, lower than the average for the six-year

period that includes the First World War (0.9%) and that of the Great Depression (1.3%). In addition, it shows a progressive fall in investment, reaching in 2020 one of its lowest levels in the last three decades (17.9% of GDP). Similarly, labor productivity falls significantly.

On the other hand, in 2020 the pandemic unleashed the greatest crisis that the labor markets in Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced since 1950. At the global level, the region's labor markets were the most affected by the crisis generated by COVID-19 -the number of employed fell 9.0% in 2020- and the expected recovery for 2021 will not allow reaching pre-crisis levels.

Likewise, the pandemic caused a sharp drop in labor force participation, particularly for women. With the crisis, female participation in 2020 reached 46.9%, which represents a decline from the levels of 2002. In 2021 a recovery of this indicator is expected, which would reach 49.1%, despite which levels would be similar to 2008.

The Economic Study highlights that ECLAC has proposed channeling investment towards sectors that promote a new style of development and that can enhance competitiveness, employment, and lower the environmental footprint. These are: the transition to renewable energy; sustainable mobility in cities; the digital revolution, to universalize access to technologies; the health manufacturing industry; bioeconomy and ecosystem services; care economy; circular economy; and sustainable tourism.

"Boosting employment will demand productive and labor policies to promote job placement, especially for women and young people," Alicia Bárcena highlighted. She added that programs that promote employment should be expanded, especially for women and youth; promote sectoral policies for the reactivation of productive activities seriously affected by the crisis, such as trade and tourism; extend and deepen support programs for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MiPymes); and boost the care economy.

In fiscal matters, the report highlights that fiscal policy should accelerate public investment and encourage

and attract private investment. It is a priority for the sustainability of fiscal policy to strengthen tax revenues and reduce evasion, which represents around US \$ 325,000 million (or 6.1% of regional GDP).

In this area, greater access to international liquidity and multilateral mechanisms that facilitate debt management would contribute to broadening the space for fiscal and monetary policy in the region. The issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US \$ 650 billion, recently implemented, will strengthen the external position of the countries of the region, reduce risk and free up resources to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). But the issuance of SDRs and their reallocation is not a panacea and should be accompanied by other initiatives, including the creation of multilateral funds such as the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) promoted by Costa Rica, to facilitate access to financing.

The report highlights the need to strengthen regional, subregional and national development banks in order to increase lending and response capacity to the pandemic, as well as the establishment of a multilateral sovereign debt restructuring mechanism to deal with the obligations contracted with private creditors. It adds the importance of mitigating the procyclicality of risk rating agencies and contributing to making financial stability a global public good through the creation of a multilateral credit rating agency.

"The set of innovative instruments should be expanded to improve access to financing and include middle-income countries in all debt relief initiatives and access to concessional liquidity. GDP should not be the only criterion for evaluating the development and needs of countries. We must go from graduation to graduation", highlighted Bárcena. *L&E*



Organización  
Internacional  
Del Trabajo

## WHO / ILO: ALMOST 2 MILLION PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR FROM WORK-RELATED CAUSES

**W**ork-related injuries and illnesses killed 1.9 million people in 2016, according to first joint estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

According to the Joint WHO and ILO Burden of Work-Related Injuries and Morbidity, 2000-2016: Global Monitoring Report, the majority of work-related deaths were due to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Non-communicable diseases accounted for 81% of deaths. The leading causes of death were chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (450,000 deaths); stroke (400,000 deaths) and ischemic heart disease (350,000 deaths). Occupational injuries caused 19% of deaths (360,000 deaths).

The study takes into account 19 occupational risk factors, such as exposure to long working hours and exposure in the workplace to air pollution,

asthma, carcinogens, ergonomic risks and noise. The main risk was exposure to long working hours, which was linked to some 750,000 deaths. Exposure in the workplace to air pollution (particulate matter, gases and fumes) caused 450,000 deaths.

"It is shocking to see how so many people literally die from their work," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Our report is a wake-up call to countries and companies to improve and protect the health and safety of workers by fulfilling their commitments to provide universal coverage of health and safety services at work."

The report warns that work-related injuries and illnesses strain health systems, reduce productivity and can have a catastrophic impact on household income.

Globally, work-related deaths by population fell by 14% between 2000 and 2016. According to

Source: ILO

the report, this may be due to the introduction of improvements in health and safety in the workplace. However, deaths from heart disease and stroke associated with exposure to long hours of work increased by 41% and 19% respectively. This reflects an increasing trend regarding this relatively new and psychosocial occupational risk factor.

This first joint WHO / ILO global monitoring report will enable policymakers to track work-related health losses at the national, regional and global levels. This will allow more focus on the scope, planning, costing, implementation and evaluation of appropriate interventions to improve the health of the working population and health equity. The report shows that more measures are needed to ensure healthier, safer, more resilient and more socially just workplaces, and that workplace health promotion and occupational health services play a role. a fundamental paper.

Each risk factor has a unique set of preventive actions, which are outlined in follow-up report to guide governments, in consultation with employers and workers. For example, preventing exposure to long working hours requires an agreement on healthy upper limits of working time. To reduce exposure to air pollution in workplace, dust control, ventilation, and personal protective equipment are recommended.

“These estimates provide important information on work-related burden of disease, and this information can help shape policies and practices to create healthier and safer workplaces,” said Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General. “Governments, employers and workers can take steps to reduce exposure to risk factors in the workplace. Risk factors can also be reduced or eliminated through changes to work patterns and systems. As a last resort, personal protective equipment can also help protect workers whose jobs prevent them from avoiding exposure”.

“These nearly two million premature deaths are preventable. Action based on available research is needed to address the evolving nature of work-related health threats,” said Dr. Maria Neira, Director of the Department of the Environment, , Climate Change and Health of the WHO. “Ensuring the health and safety of workers is a shared responsibility of the health and labor sector, as is not leaving any worker behind in this regard. In the spirit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the health and work sectors must act together, hand in hand, to ensure the elimination of this great burden of disease”.

“International labor standards and the tools and guidelines of the WHO and ILO provide a solid foundation for putting in place strong, effective and sustainable occupational safety and health systems at different levels. Their application should help to significantly reduce these deaths and disabilities,” said Vera Package-Perdigao, Director of the ILO’s Department of Governance and Tripartism.

A disproportionately high number of work-related deaths occur among workers in South Asia and Western Pacific, as well as in men and people over 54 years of age.

The report notes that the total work-related burden of disease is likely to be much higher, as future health losses from various other occupational risk factors will have to be quantified. In addition, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will add another dimension to this burden that should be reflected in future estimates. *L&E*



## THE IDB AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTE COOPERATION IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Source: IDB

The Inter-American Development Bank, together with seven international organizations, are joining forces to launch a new portal that promotes global cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI). The portal is a one-stop shop for data, research results, and best practices in AI policy.

The goal of the portal is to help policymakers and the general public navigate the landscape of international AI governance. It provides access to the necessary tools and information, such as projects, research and reports

to promote reliable and accountable AI that is in line with human rights at the global, national and local levels.

Among the main partners in this joint effort are the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank Group. *L&E*



NACIONES UNIDAS

CEPAL

## THE EXIT FROM THE CRISIS CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM THE DEVELOPMENT MODEL AND THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Source: ECLAC

The exit from the health, economic and social crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is an opportunity to transform the development model of Latin America and the Caribbean and build agri-food systems that develop resilience to future risks.

This is supported by the ninth edition of the report *Perspectives on Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas*, a look at Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), prepared in an interdisciplinary manner by more than 30 technicians from institutions.

The document emphasizes that long-term transformative actions must be carried out together

with the immediate recovery process and with a simultaneous approach to health, economic and climate problems.

One of the priority issues is to accelerate the digitization of agriculture, which can contribute to the construction of more prosperous, sustainable, resilient and inclusive agri-food systems in the region, during the transition from the post-pandemic period.

The ongoing technological revolution offers the possibility of maximizing the economic, environmental and social benefits of food production. For this, a joint and planned work of public and private actors is essential, which minimizes the risks of the generation of inequalities and exclusion, says the report signed by Manuel Otero, Director General of IICA; Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and Julio Berdegué,

deputy director general and regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO.

The document indicates that the 7% reduction in regional GDP in 2020 has been the largest drop in economic activity in 120 years in Latin America and the Caribbean. Poverty and extreme poverty reached levels that were not observed in the region during the last 12 and 20 years, respectively.

Consequently, it calls for "rebuilding better". Region produces food for more than 800 million people, while hosting much of global biodiversity and providing irreplaceable ecosystem services. The transformative actions of agri-food systems go through establishing a more harmonious relationship between human beings and nature and correcting multiple present social, economic and territorial inequalities.

For this, it is essential to recognize the role that agriculture plays as a source of income, jobs and food for the region and the world.

Given its essential nature, food production, together with health, should be in the first line of financing and investment priorities in the recovery and transformation phase of the post-pandemic period..

"Digital agriculture can make a substantive contribution to the transformation and strengthening of agri-food systems in their evolution towards sustainability and social inclusion," said IICA Director General Manuel Otero.

"I have no doubts - he added - that digital technologies are a concrete alternative to face many of today's challenges: higher, sustainable and resilient production; more efficient and accessible markets; safer, more nutritious and traceable food and, of

course, more inclusion and a better quality of life for all actors in rural areas".

"The pandemic has shown the centrality of agri-food systems to maintain food flows - global, regional and national - from our fields to populations confined by quarantines and restrictions on mobility. It has also made our vulnerabilities evident," said the executive secretary of ECLAC.

"Strengthening multilateralism, taking better advantage of the opportunities of trade agreements and regional integration processes, promoting trade policies and strengthening trade promotion programs are some of the measures that can enhance the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in food global", expressed, for his part, Julio Berdegué, from FAO.

The report indicates that the digitization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean is incipient, but it is beginning to accelerate and it will be inevitable. Its use is still low and uneven due to various barriers, so this is the time to promote the digital revolution of agri-food systems, to advance its transformation into a post-pandemic recovery scenario.

The gap between the city and the countryside is one of the facts of reality that must be corrected. While 71% of the urban population has significant connectivity services, in rural populations this percentage drops to 36.8%.

Among the actions that are considered safe in the transition from the post-pandemic period to promote the transformation of agri-food systems are investment in good sustainable management practices that will generate positive returns; the promotion of cooperativism as a key tool for the inclusion and formalization of family production and

taking advantage of the opportunities that the region has for adding value to “the biological” and generating new socio-economic opportunities in rural territories.

The report states that the agri-food sector has proven to be more resilient than the rest of the economic sectors to the health, logistical and financial challenges posed by the pandemic, which was evidenced in the growth trends in the value of regional production and trade . In fact, preliminary data for 16 countries of the region in 2020 indicate that the set of activities of agriculture, livestock, hunting and fishing grew, or had a smaller fall than the total GDP, and, on the other hand, the agri-food exports of Latin America and the Caribbean increased 2.7% in 2020 compared to 2019, while total exports fell 9.1%.

The document also proposes how to carry out promotion programs in a scenario of scarce fiscal resources such as that which could occur in the coming years. It is pointed out that activities related to agriculture and food should preferably be based on endogenous and low-cost solutions that enhance the own resources of farmers, their families and communities. The crisis is also an opportunity to rethink the financing for development agenda and promote a sustainable and egalitarian reconstruction process. *L&E*

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## TREE VS. DEVELOPMENT

Narciso Cubas - Forestal Engineer  
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According to the Forestry Law of Panama, the Tree is defined as a perennial plant with a well-defined woody trunk that branches at a certain height with a clearly formed crown, with a height of not less than 5 meters in its adult state. This constitutes an element of the forest but can grow individually.

Taking into account that the tree can grow individually outside the forest, it is necessary to start thinking about all of these trees that grow in our cities, mainly in the capital city, among which we can mention: national mahogany, oak, ficus, mango, Guayacán and Corotú among others, which due to their large size and aggressive root systems and the absence of appropriate management practices, are causing damage to the road infrastructure, sidewalks, electrical network, aqueduct system and constitute a risk for the human life among others.

Although it is true that trees contribute to improving urban environments with scenic beauty, purify the air,

increase the humidity rate, lower the temperature and influence air circulation, it is necessary to make a correct selection of them, seeking to minimize the damage they cause and maximizing the benefits they offer.

On the other hand, the growth of the construction industry has been constant in recent years, allowing the establishment of new buildings, shopping centers and neighborhoods, among others. The development of these infrastructures enters into a competition for the spaces (land) with the trees without understanding that the trees must coexist with the human being and make use of their multiple environmental benefits.

To minimize this antagonism, it is necessary for the citizen to reach a level of environmental awareness for which an environmental education program is required at all levels. On the other hand, a correct selection must be made of the trees and shrubs that will occupy the public and private recreation spaces so that they do not affect infrastructure or represent a danger to human life.



So we ask ourselves the question: What characteristic must a tree or bush have to achieve the desired objective? It must have a small crown, deep roots, slightly brittle branches, evergreen trees (they keep leaves throughout the year), with showy flowers that do not produce poisonous fruits, nor that they attract insects that in the long run constitute a health problem, that can be managed by pruning and even that can support its transfer in its adult state, from one area to another. Additionally, it is necessary to have a maintenance plan for them, which includes pruning, periodic evaluations of their physical and sanitary condition.

Taking into account that the decentralization process is reaching many municipalities in the country, it is time for them to begin to play a leading role in order to improve the quality of life in each of this locality, promoting within their structure the creation of entities in charge of environmental management in their territories.

We welcome the municipal and state initiative to start the inventory of trees and their phytosanitary status, at least in the capital district, however, this should not stop. It is necessary to develop a plan for the replacement of all affected trees and shrubs and for the maintenance of all the rest. *L&E*

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# Sports Capsule



Ana Sofia Corrales  
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**T**he 81-year-old former soccer player, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, 'Pele', after a long time hospitalized, was discharged, after removing a tumor

in his lungs, whose treatment will continue with chemotherapy. *L&E*

## Baseball

The U23 Baseball World Cup has started in Sonora, Mexico. In this tournament Panama is presenting its best side, where Julio Goff has been highlighted by his pitching against Mexico after obtaining the victory with a score of 2-0, although in his fourth match against China he suffered a defeat of 5 runs to 3, encounter in which our ninth reacted late, scoring his goals in the seventh 'inning' for a 'homerun' by Abraham Rodríguez, since he had 2 more teammates on bases.

This Friday, October 1, the pass against Cuba is played at the close of this round.



Super Round Group

#	Equipo	W	L	T	PCT	GB
1	 COL	3	1	0	.750	0
1	 VEN	3	1	0	.750	0
3	 MEX	2	2	0	.500	1
3	 PAN	2	2	0	.500	1
5	 CUB	1	3	0	.250	2
5	 TPE	1	3	0	.250	2

Panama has a 2-2 result.

At the Opening Round he passed third in his group. Now in this second round we are tied with Mexico.

On the other hand, Antón's ninth beat Penonomé 9 runs to 0, crowning himself as the winner of the Coclé 2021 Provincial Youth Baseball Championship. *L&E*

# Soccer

Panama continues to prepare for the next round of the Octagonal of the Qatar 2022 Qualifiers. However, there are significant casualties due to injury recovery, such as: Andrés Andrade, Adalberto Carrasquilla, Cecilio Waterman and Azmahar Ariano.



The technical director Thomas Christiansen, has already announced the list of the 27 summoned, where Armando Cooper, Abdiel Arroyo, Cristian Martínez, Freddy Góndola and Gabriel Torres stand out, as well as Harold Cummings and Ismael Díaz, who had not been previously called.



Regarding the previous call, there will be the following absences: Carlos Harvey, Iván Anderson, José Fajardo and Romeesh Ivey.



Those summoned were:

## Lista de convocados

### Partidos del Octagonal los días 7, 10 y 13 de octubre

#### PORTEROS

Luis Mejía, Orlando Mosquera, José Calderón.

#### DEFENSAS

Harold Cummings, Fidel Escobar, Michael Murillo, Eric Davis, César Blackman, Óscar Linton, Jiovanny Ramos, Jorge Gutiérrez.

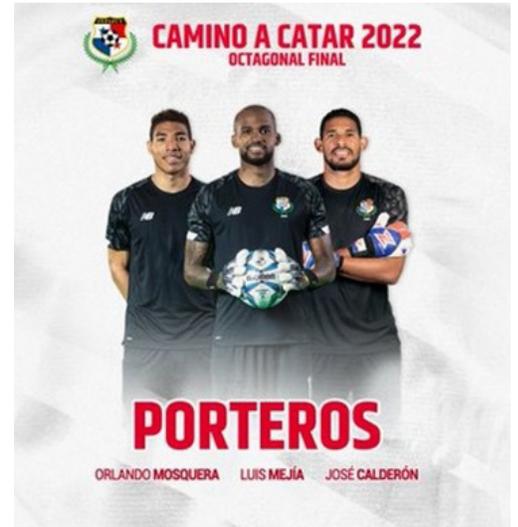
#### DEFENSAS

Aníbal Godoy, Armando Cooper, Alberto Quintero, Édgar Bárcenas, José Luis Rodríguez, Abdiel Ayarza, Cristian Martínez, José Luis Rodríguez, César Yanis.

#### DELANTEROS

Gabriel Torres, Abdiel Arroyo, Ismael Díaz, Rolando Blackburn, Jair Catuy, Eduardo Guerrero, Alfredo Stephens, Freddy Góndola

Infografía: LP - Fuente: Datos propios



The first meeting will be in El Salvador on October 7, then the United States is received on October 10 at the Rommel Fernández, and on October 13 Panama will move to Canada for the closing of this round.

The United States also has a significant loss due to injury, which is Cristian Pulisic.

On the female side, the Panamanians selected had two blank matches with Costa Rica, where in their first match they obtained a positive result with a 2-1 deserving the victory with a goal from Marta Cox; and in their second round, they could not win, leaving the match 3-2 in favor of the Costa Rican national team.

Similarly, the participation of Panama in the Futsal World Cup in Lithuania ends with a 5-1 against the Brazilian team.

In the Concacaf League, the three Panamanian clubs that went to represent them did not make it to the next round, which indicates that we must see the improvement points. The national teams that participated were the Independent Athletic Club (CAI), Plaza Amador and the University Sports Club.



Down the table of positions of the LPF, support your favorite:

**Caliente**  
caliente.pa

**LPF tigô**

**TABLA DE POSICIONES**

	J	G	E	P	GF	GC	+/-	PTS
	8	4	3	1	8	4	4	15
	8	4	3	1	8	5	3	15
	8	3	3	2	5	4	1	12
	8	3	2	3	5	8	-3	11
	8	0	7	1	6	7	-1	7
	7	0	5	2	3	5	-2	5

CONFERENCIA DEL ESTE

**Caliente**  
caliente.pa

**LPF tigô**

**TABLA DE POSICIONES**

	J	G	E	P	GF	GC	+/-	PTS
	8	4	2	2	12	7	5	14
	8	2	5	1	11	8	3	11
	7	3	1	3	7	8	-1	10
	8	2	3	3	7	7	0	9
	8	2	3	3	6	7	-1	9
	8	0	3	5	4	12	-8	3

CONFERENCIA DEL OESTE

L&E

# Boxing

Luis el 'Nica' Concepción, seeks to be crowned again the 112-pound World Champion. For this he will travel to Ukraine, to face the Azerbaijani, based in Ukraine, Artem Dalakian. The meeting will take place in November, the exact date is yet to be decided. *L&E*



# Competitions

For the first time a Panamanian rhythmic gymnastics team will participate in an international tournament. Three Panamanian athletes, under the age of 15, will see action at the X Central American and Caribbean Championship, which will take place from October 10 to 15 in El Salvador.

The National Men's Volleyball Championship took place in Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro from September 23 to 26, those of group A (Chiriquí Occidente, Chiriquí Oriente, Veraguas, Coclé, Colón

and Guna Yala) participated in Boquete, Chiriquí, and the of group B (Bocas del Toro, San Miguelito, Panama Metro, Los Santos, Herrera and Panama Oeste) in El Silencio, Bocas del Toro. The second round will be on Isla Colón, from October 15 to 17.

The Panamanian delegation, made up of 12 bowlers, had a good representation in the Central American and Caribbean Championship, organized by CONCECABOL, which was held in Guatemala City, where they achieved 5 medals, reaching the qualification for the Central

American and Caribbean Games San Salvador 2023.

In the XVI edition of the Panama Tour, the Panamanian cyclist Franklin Archibold was crowned champion, accumulating 6 days, 11 hours, 51 minutes and 28 seconds, in addition to qualifying in the mountains (14 points), regularity (120 points) and being the best national. On the other hand, the cyclist Roberto González

finished as the best placed of the Italian team Vini Zabú in the first stage of the 81st Tour of Luxembourg that traveled 140 kilometers between streets of that city.

While hurdler Gianna Woodruff triumphed in the 400m hurdles on the Continental Tour Gold in Greece. Congratulations! Gianna is on a roll, after ranking seventh among the best in the world at the Tokyo Olympics. *L&E*



# Basketball

This is how the table of positions of the Panamanian League of Basketball for Women and Men, Copa Caliente, is so far. PA 2021.

**LPBF TABLA DE POSICIONES**  
LEA PANAMÁ DE BALONCESTO FEMENINO

**Caliente**  
caliente.pa

		GP	W	L	A FAVOR	EN CONTRA	PTS
1		3	3	0	223	172	6
2		3	2	1	189	184	5
3		3	1	2	216	232	4
4		3	1	2	179	219	4
5		3	1	2	207	210	4
6		3	1	2	214	211	4

#wearebasket @LPBFPANAMA



	GP	W	L	A FAVOR	EN CONTRA	PTS
<b>1</b> 	7	7	0	589	495	14
<b>2</b> 	7	6	1	599	553	13
<b>3</b> 	7	4	3	553	510	11
<b>4</b> 	7	3	4	527	574	10
<b>5</b> 	6	3	3	432	411	9
<b>6</b> 	7	1	6	550	586	8
<b>7</b> 	7	0	7	472	593	7

#YOSoyLPB @LPBPANAMA

In the same way, the U17 Men's National Tournament is taking place, here the results of the last day:



<b>58</b>	Colón A	<b>41</b>	Panamá
<b>60</b>	Coclé	<b>56</b>	Guna Yala
<b>69</b>	Chiriquí	<b>59</b>	Darién
<b>58</b>	Colón B	<b>63</b>	Veraguas
<b>17</b>	Herrera	<b>62</b>	Pmá. Oeste
<b>89</b>	San Mgto.	<b>27</b>	Bocas
<b>89</b>	Coclé	<b>85</b>	Darién

#PanamaBasketball



## HYBRISTOPHILIA

Claudia Cubas  
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**P**araphilias, recognized as disorders of sexual preference, lead to a morbid relationship where sexual desire or behavior is aberrant. They cause intense discomfort, can extend for six months or more, determining behaviors that violate good customs and social norms that cause annoyances constituted crimes, and that need specialized treatment for their rehabilitation and social vindication.

Hybristophilia, or attraction to dangerous people, is a term that was coined by the psychologist John Money. John Money, was a New Zealand psychologist specializing in sexology who emigrated to the United States after World War II.

Hybristophilia is a paraphilia, that is, a deviation from conventional sexual pleasure. It is not really a disease, but a sexual preference motivated by the attractiveness that comes from the harsh, dangerous or mediate profile of certain people with aggressive characters. However,

as in other paraphilias, they are considered a disorder when sexual pleasure and orgasm can only be achieved in situations and people with these characteristics.

### How does hybristophilia manifest?

In general, it is much more frequent in women, with many degrees, from momentary sexual desire and pleasure, to permanent romantic love. In fact, in some cases stable relationships can be created.

The range of attraction possibilities is wide, from scammers, harsh, cold or aggressive people to some women who are attracted to "bad guys" or bad people. However, in the most extreme cases, some female fans have married such people in prison. For this reason, this paraphilia is also called, colloquially, the "**Bonnie and Clyde Syndrome**".

In this sense, Katherine Ramland, after interviewing

women who have married these people, identified three motivations:

1. The belief that with their love they could transform these men.
2. Out of feelings of compassion, sorrow, or even tenderness and protection.
3. Out of the desire to share fame and media attention.

### What is the cause of hybristophilia?

As mentioned above, hybristophilia is not a psychological disorder. In general terms, as possible causes the following:

- a. Traumatic experiences.
- b. Narcissistic Needs.
- c. Antisocial Tendency.
- d. Low self-esteem.

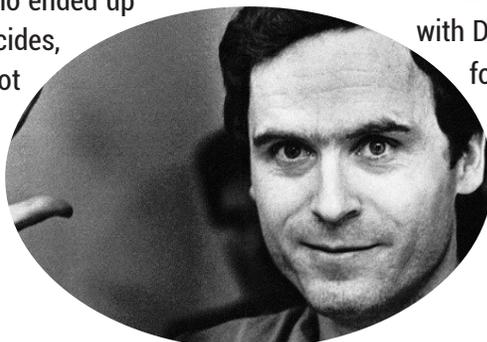
On the other hand, some psychologists mentioned that there is no consensus as to what are the main causes of hybristophilia. Other theories point to **possible attachment bond problems** in childhood lacking a strong authority figure.

This date is not clear, why it is more frequent in women.

### Famous cases of hybristophilia.

#### 1. Ted Bundy

Theodore "Ted" Robert Cowell Bundy (1946 - 1989) American murderer who ended up confessing 36 homicides, although it is not known exactly how many he committed. His case had great repercussion in media,



generating him a lot of fame. The surprising thing is that many women waited outside court to see him and sent him photos once in prison. In addition, these female fans called "Groupies" cut themselves and had their hair in order to look like victims that Ted killed and raped.

#### 2. Jeffrey Dahmer

Jeffrey L. Dahmer was arrested by police in July 1991 and confessed to sexually abusing, killing and dismembering seventeen men, for which he was dubbed "the Milwaukee butcher." In addition, he acknowledged having performed various cannibal and necrophilic practices with the bodies.



He was sentenced to nine hundred and thirty-six years in prison of which he barely served a couple since he was murdered in prison by another prisoner.

#### 3. José Javier Salvador

José, a native of Zaragoza, Spain, had a relationship with Rebeca Santamalia, lawyer who defended him during the trial who sentenced him to prison for killing his wife. After defending him, a loving relationship remained between them and José was released in 2017. In 2019, he murdered Rebeca and then committed suicide.

#### 4. Susana Atkins

He was involved in multiple murders and a member of the Manson family was married twice in prison. First with Donald Lee Laisure, from whom she separated for "not being as rich as he presumed" and then maintained a relationship with James Whitehouse, his defense attorney. They ended up marrying despite the sentence and the 15-year difference that she took from him. *L&E*



# Agenda Cultural

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



## Featured Activities of the Month:

- Campaign of the Pink and Blue Ribbon: During the entire month dedicated to the Fight against Breast and Prostate Cancer.

## THEATER

### • El Ateneo Theater:

- o With Chekhov in Quarantine from October 18 to November 1, information send an email to: molino\_mola@cwpanama.net

### • ABA Theater:

- o "Perfect Woman, La muda" until October 3.
- o Don't mess with my vouchers! From October 7 to 17.
- o The Powerpuff Girls vs. Mojo Jojo until November 21.

### • Art studio:

- o No one knows what mother-in-law she has until she loses it on the 6th, 15th and 16th.

### • Pacific Theater: tickets in <https://teatropacific.net>

- o The unforgettable "from October 6.
- o Friends until death.
- o Not so Villains.
- o Poli tells Halloween stories.
- o Stories that are not Stories.

### • La Estación Theater:

- o Intimate Enemies: Love in Times of Crisis.

### • Nacional Theater

- o tickets in [www.verteatro.com](http://www.verteatro.com)
- o La Lupe from October 21 to 24.
- o The monologues of the vagina on October 1 and 2.

### • En Circulo Theater:

- o Does it also happen to you? Stand-Up Comedy by Jossie Jiménez October 11, 18, 25 and 29, tickets at Panatickets.
- o Learn with teacher Daniel Gomez Nates every Saturday from August 21 to December 11. Theater workshop, registration open at 6242-9996.

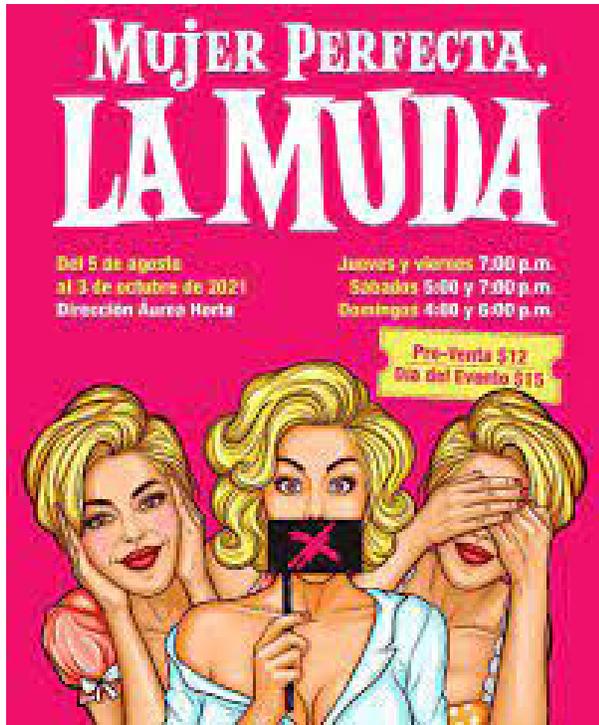
### • Guild Theater:

- o The Odd Couple until October 9.

### Theater Digital Billboard:

tickets in [www.verteatro.com](http://www.verteatro.com)

- "The Writer of Epitaphs"
- "Life's begins after a good cup of coffee"
- "God creates them and the Devil puts them together."
- "First Dates"
- "The diva"



- "Beware of the Tie"
- "The Witch SINDY NERO"
- "Dora and Prudencia"
- "To bed with the thief"
- "Fourteen"

Digital Billboard Teatro Pacific Theater: 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"

Cartelera Virtual del Teatro la Estación:

- o Toxic Idyll, reservations: <https://forms.gle/5xdZP5BP5jcCoH7M8>
- o Husband affairs, reservations: <https://forms.gle/VZP6BG99QDZMSjZ39>



## FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

o Prisma Contemporary Dance Festival from October 10 to 16:

Programming:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Video Dance "VARIETADES" - MARLYN ATTIE (PANAMA)

Diablo Rosso / Central Avenue

Free activity

4:30 PM

Inauguration of photography exhibition "10 years of PRISMA in images"

Cultural Center of Spain / Casa del Soldado

Free activity

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

4:30 PM

PRISMA LAB Juvenil (PANAMÁ) directed by BOCA TUYA (USA) | Final sample  
Central patio, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Pre-booking through Eventbrite  
Free activity

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

4:00 PM  
SINERGIA Programmers Meeting, International Performing Arts Festivals on the Net, Zoom Platform  
Pre-booking through Eventbrite  
Free activity

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:00 PM  
LALY AYGUADÉ (SPAIN) | Gizaki | Underneath  
National theater

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:00 PM  
YOTAM PELED (GERMANY) | migrena 2 x 2  
BOCA TUYA (USA) | The Dogs of the Colossal Neighborhood  
Ateneo Theater, City of Knowledge

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

8:00 PM  
COMPAGNIE MASSALA (FRANCE) | AND IT IS PRISMA LAB professionals (PANAMA) directed by KEREN HORESH (ISRAEL) | Final sample  
National theater

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

8:00 PM  
IRON SKULLS CO. (SPAIN) | Synesthesia  
Ateneo Theater, City of Knowledge

SATURDAY OCTOBER 16

4:30 PM  
DALL'ASTA SUÁREZ (PANAMA) | Tight CIE. MASSALA (FRANCE) | AND IT IS  
Central patio, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Pre-booking through Eventbrite  
Free activity

8:00 PM  
DUO NUX (ITALY) | Delicious overdose  
BOCA TUYA (USA) | Hat makers

National theater

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

BEAVER DAM CO. (SWITZERLAND) | YUMÉ  
Virtual Presentation through our youtube account  
Pre-booking through Eventbrite  
Free activity

## CONCERTS AND PRESENTATIONS

• Total Thanks Soda Stereo in Plaza Amador on October 10.

## MUSEUMS

• BIOMUSEUM:

o October 2, it is 7 years old since its inauguration and the exhibition "Extinción" opens at 10:00 a.m..

• MAC:

o Storytelling / Book Workshop "Niiskuamar Ebised Dule" narrated by Iguadindiligua, who tells the story in dule and Spanish and at the end will instruct in the creation of paper molas.

o Exhibition "Brooke Alfaro: Thank God it wasn't worse".

o Conversation: "Retrospective: 35 years of photosetember" with Gladys Turner, Mónica Kupfer, Alfredo Martiz and César del Vasto.

o Exhibition # VASOSCOMUNICANTES, is divided into II chapters and Alternative Spaces X:

Chapter I in the MAC

Chapter II at the International Cultural Center

Space X: In Central Ave, PH Bohemian Business Building (Payless Shoes).

Urban Alternative Spaces: works arranged in urban spaces that bring us closer to:

o "The strength of the diverse" located at MAC Panama

and Saks Ave. Central.

o "At first sight" located on Ave. De los Mártires and the International CCI.

Virtual: Instagram Galleries

- Exhibition: "My name is Legion portraits of a city that is many"
- The MAC Auction 2021 entitled "Corpus / Windows / Open"

### SEMINARS, CONGRESSES, TALKS, COURSES AND EXPO

- Black Week September 27 to October 10.
- Exhibition of Tires and Auto Parts, October 6 at the Amador Convention Center.
- Barber Fest 2021 "Beyond the Barber Shop" By Rolda, Sortis Hotel on October 26.
- XXV National Dairy Congress: Producing profitably and 1st Milk Expo APROGALPA 2021 "virtual modality October 21 and 22. aprogalpa@cwpanama.net
- Biz Fit 2021 at the AMPYME-Clayton Ciudad del Saber Convention Center, on October 21 at 12:00 m.
- Walk for Nonviolence on October 1 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Park of the City of Knowledge.

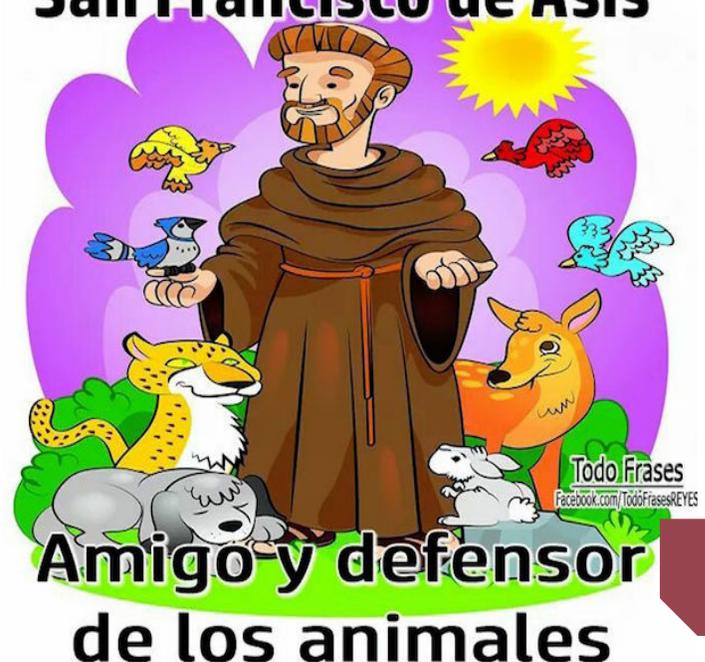
### VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND FESTIVITIES

- 1 Day of the Elderly.
- 2 International Day of Non-Violence.
- 4th World Animal Day.
- 4 Saint Francis of Assisi.
- 8th World Egg Day.
- 8th Day of the Producer and Professionals of Agricultural Sciences.
- 9th World Migratory Bird Day.
- 10th World Mental Health Day.

- 11 International Day of the Girl.
- 12 Columbus Day or Race.
- 16 World Food Day.
- 17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- 18th World Day for the Protection of Nature.
- 18 World Menopause Day.
- 19th World Day to Fight Breast Cancer.
- 21 Black Christ of Portobelo.
- 22 Holiness Day of him the Pope.
- 22 Day of the Musician.
- 24th International Day Against Climate Change.
- 27th Student Day.
- 28 San Judas Tadeo.
- October 31 halloween.
- October 31: National Savings Day.
- Third Week of October, Science week. *L&E*



## 4 de Octubre día de San Francisco de Asís



## *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**

