



# Presentation programme for the 2017 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Latin America and the Caribbean – 2nd Russia–Latin America Business and Media Forum

DRAFT (as of MARCH 01, 2017)

Havana, Cuba  
Palacio de Convenciones

**Day 1** Bilateral meetings held by members of the official Russian delegation.

**09:00—10:00** Participant registration, welcome coffee

**10:00—11:15** **Panel session**  
**Cooperation between LAC countries and Russia in the biopharmaceuticals sector: New opportunities for developing joint manufacturing and scientific and technical projects (UNIDO LAC)**

Since 2008, the LAC region has been the world's fastest-growing market for the pharmaceuticals industry. Latin American companies now play a leading role in the Latin American pharmaceuticals market, which has a turnover of USD 100 billion. Producers of generic pharmaceuticals in Brazil, Argentina, and Cuba are already exporting their products to other developing markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Plant-based pharmaceuticals constitute an important sector, allowing manufacturers to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in costs of building new facilities. The manufacturing process for plant-based pharmaceuticals is also

often shorter in comparison with the process for producing pharmaceuticals obtained from mammalian cells.

What are the prospects and mechanisms for collaboration between LAC countries and regions of the Russian Federation in the biopharmaceuticals sector?

What role will be played by key partners, such as business, government, the private sector, and scientific research institutes, in developing this collaboration?

What potential strategic steps is it essential to take in order to make collaboration in this area a reality?

**11:30—12:45**

**Panel session**

**How partnership between LAC countries and Russia in automation, mechatronics, and robotics can help to address the challenges of Industry 4.0 (UNIDO LAC)**

Whilst LAC countries are participating in the cyber revolution to a certain extent, its influence on the regional economy remains limited. The International Federation of Robotics predicts that, by 2018, more than 1.3 million industrial robots will be installed in factories throughout the world. Depending on the country, robots could carry out up to 85% of the various types of manufacturing tasks.

One of the most effective ways of adapting to such a global transformation is to progressively automate sectors of industry in LAC countries in order to achieve higher productivity figures.

What contribution can LAC countries and Russia make to the robotics industry, and to technology as a whole at the global level?

What are the prospects and mechanisms for collaboration between LAC countries and regions of the Russian Federation with respect to automation and mechatronics?

What role will be played by key partners – entrepreneurs, government, the private sector, scientific research institutions, and design and experimental institutes – in implementing this collaboration?

What potential strategic steps must be taken in order for collaboration to be implemented in the near future?

**13:00–14:00**

Lunch

**14:00–16:00**

**Cooperation between LAC and the Russian Federation: Success stories**  
Session for ministers of economics, trade and industry, leading business representatives, and heads of LAC export promotion agencies (UNIDO LAC session).

## **Humanitarian and Cultural Programme (IBBA):**

- Placement of a memorial plaque at the ruins of missile storage sites in Artemisa province
- Placement of a memorial plaque at the National Capitol Building in Havana
- Russian film screening (Russia Television and Radio broadcast)

### **Day 2**

**09:00–10:00** Participant registration, welcome coffee

**10:00–10:30** Forum opening ceremony

Opening addresses (speakers to be confirmed)

**10:30–12:00** **Plenary session**

#### **Russia and Latin America: increasing the pace of cooperation in a changing world**

Following the significant changes that have affected the global economy in recent years, Russia and the countries of Latin America have, to one extent or another, ‘reconfigured’ their external economic relations, rectifying the geographical scope and structure of their foreign trade and investment activities. In these conditions, new areas of growth for cooperation have emerged, together with new opportunities for undertaking joint projects to strengthen expanding mutual interests in a variety of areas.

What areas could play a driving role in relations between Russia and Latin America? Is it possible to speak of prerequisites for increasing the sustainability of economic and trade relations in the context of external risks, in order to give them a stable, long-term character?

**12:00–12:30** Briefing for Russian and Latin American journalists, interviews

**12:30–13:30** Business lunch

**13:30–15:00** **Panel session**

#### **Infrastructure development programmes in Latin American countries: How Russian companies might participate**

The governments of Latin American countries are devoting ever more attention to the development of infrastructure – one of the key factors in ensuring sustainable economic growth. Large-scale programmes are being devised and implemented, involving the construction of power stations, roads, and railways and the modernization of airports and port facilities. Could Russian

technologies and skills in the field of infrastructure be in demand in Latin America? Could the experience of Latin American countries be of interest to Russia? What areas and what forms of cooperation are considered to be most effective?

**13:30–15:00**

**Panel session**

**Financing export and import operations and joint Russian–Latin American projects: Key sources and instruments**

In the course of developing foreign trade and investment projects, both Russian and Latin American business must overcome the problem of obtaining loans, a challenging prospect in the current context. The governments of Russia and Latin American countries are devoting a great deal of attention to creating instruments to provide financial support for exports and stimulate foreign investment.

What sort of obstacles does the business community encounter when searching for sources of financing? Could Russian and Latin American credit and financial institutions join forces to overcome these problems? What is the secret to effective, relevant export credit agencies?

**15:15–16:45**

**Panel session**

**Intergovernmental and international cooperation as a key factor in supporting initiatives from the Russian and Latin American business communities**

Although business plays the major role in developing trade and economic relations, governments can also do much to help improve conditions for business collaboration. In the context of cooperation between Russia and the nations of Latin America, intergovernmental commissions are among the most effective instruments.

In what ways can high-level political dialogue be used to serve the interests of strengthening trade and economic links?

Does the potential exist for the work of intergovernmental commissions to be made more effective still? In what ways can the work of intergovernmental and international commissions be made to benefit Russian and Latin American companies?

15:15–16:45

Panel session

**Transport and logistics support for foreign trade between Russia and Latin America: How can costs be minimized?**

The geographical distance between Russia and Latin America is traditionally considered to be one of the factors impeding the development of trade and economic relations. Transport costs affect the price of foreign trade contracts and, in turn, the competitiveness of goods.

Is it possible to optimize the transport and logistics costs associated with trade between Russia and Latin America? Which routes and delivery methods are the most effective?

17:00–18:30

Humanitarian session

Dedicated to the significance of Fidel Castro's legacy for international relations

17:00–18:30

Panel session

**Realizing the potential of and transitioning to a qualitatively new level of agricultural cooperation between Russia and LAC countries (UNIDO LAC)**

One of the fastest-growing areas of trade between Russia and LAC countries is in the agricultural industry. The comparative advantages of the two regions, and in particular the abundance of resources in LAC countries and Russia's innovative and market potential, are contributing to the emergence of new business opportunities. It is essential to move away from traditional export and import relations, and to transition to a new level of cooperation in trade and production, in order to make more effective use of resources.

What mechanisms and instruments are essential for creating a value chain and for localizing joint ventures in the agricultural industry?

How can the innovative potential of countries for creating products be combined with high added value?

What role and functions should the various interested parties fulfil to ensure successful cooperation?

20:00–22:00

Evening reception for Forum participants