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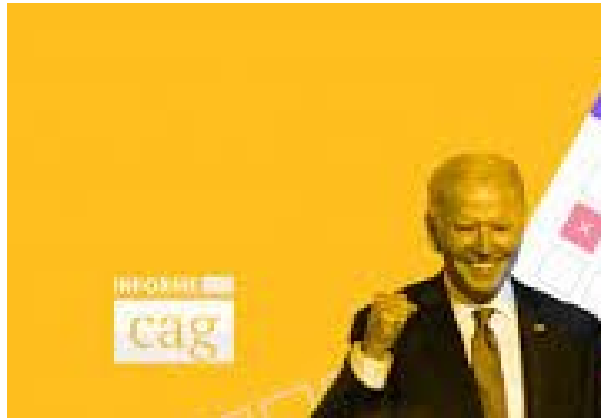
European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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17.07.2022

## ***Biden's Diplomatic Agenda for Latin America***

U.S. diplomacy in the region has been active— though not very visible — with an emphasis on issues such as migration, trade, climate change and conflict in Ukraine.

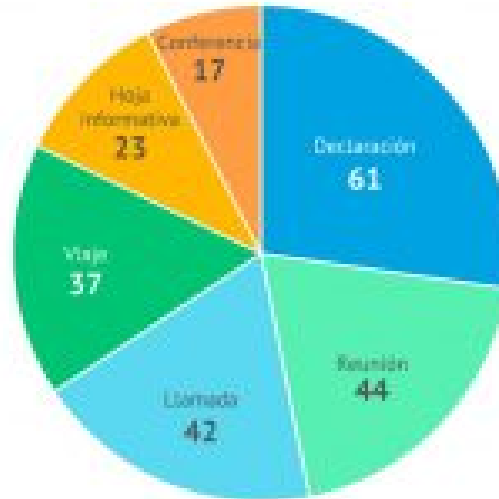


The following report systematizes a series of data on the official agenda of Joe Biden's bilateral diplomacy towards Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), considering: i) meetings, telephone calls, statements, communiqués and trips of U.S. (U.S.) officials; (ii) the topics addressed; (iii) the most relevant officials involved in these tasks.

The information has been taken from official State Department publications (in particular, Press Office publications). It is estimated that these data could provide an indication of the degree of U.S. connection with different LAC countries in bilateral affairs, as well as an overview of the main diplomatic guidelines towards the region and its way of operating through official channels.

GRÁFICO 1

### Contactos diplomáticos bilaterales del gobierno Biden con ALC 2021-2022

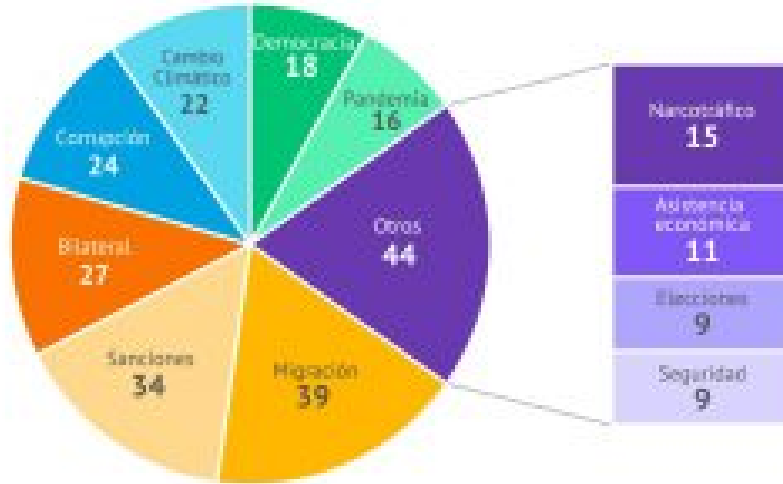


FUENTE: Elaboración propia con datos del Departamento de Estado

colleg.org

Since Biden assumed the presidency in the US, the priority issues in reports, calls, statements and trips that are establishing an agenda with the region have been: migration, sanctions, various issues of bilateral relations, corruption, climate change, attention to the pandemic, democracy, among others.

**GRÁFICO 3**  
**Temas prioritarios en las relaciones bilaterales**  
**EEUU-ALC 21-22**



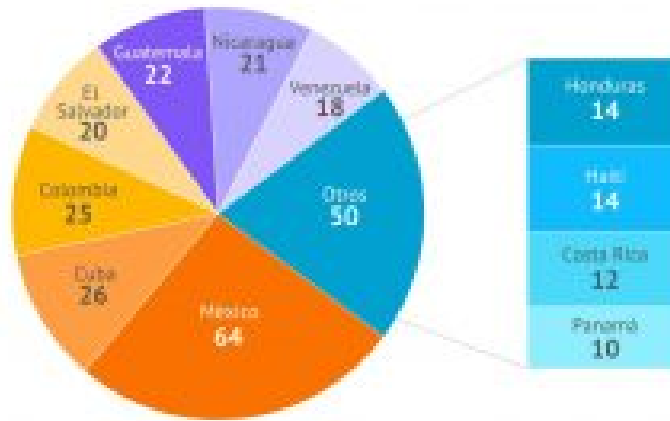
FUENTE: Elaboración propia con datos del Departamento de Estado



These issues have been dealt with mainly in countries that make up the Greater Caribbean, including Mexico, Cuba, Colombia and the Northern Triangle of Central America.

GRÁFICO 3

**Países de ALC con mayor contacto diplomático con EEUU 21-22\***



\*El dato considera el número de viajes, llamadas, reuniones, conferencias conjuntas entre otras actividades en cada país.

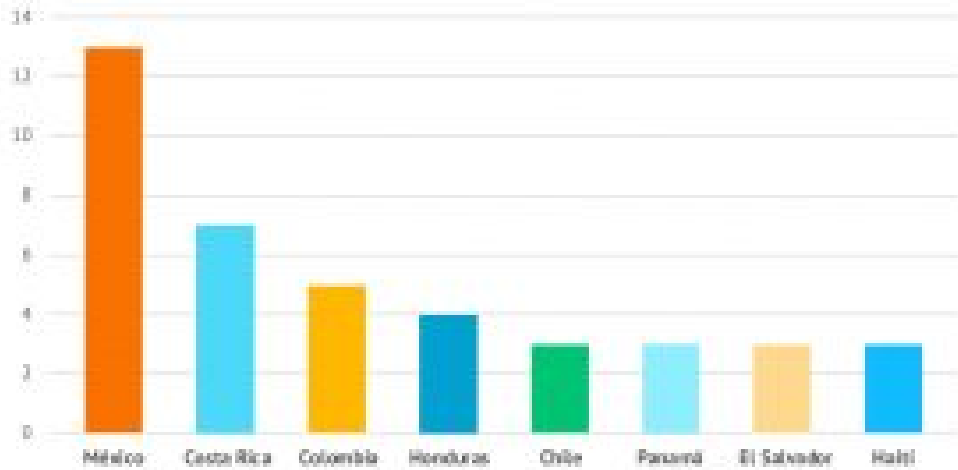
FUENTE: Elaboración propia con datos del Departamento de Estado.

[cepolg.org](http://cepolg.org)

Three LAC presidents have traveled to the U.S. to hold meetings with Biden: Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Mexico), Iván Duque (Colombia) and Guillermo Lasso (Ecuador).

There are 52 trips by Biden administration officials to LAC. The main destinations have been Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Chile, Panama, El Salvador and Haiti. They also add trips to Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela, with whom they have begun talks about eliminating sanctions on hydrocarbons, within the framework of the war in Ukraine.

**GRÁFICO 4**  
**Viajes de funcionarios del gobierno de EEUU 21-22\***



\*Se consideran únicamente los viajes de la Vicepresidenta, Secretarías, Subsecretarías y Asistentes del gobierno de EEUU y los países que tienen 3 viajes en adelante, no se considera los viajes del embajador al interior del país anfitrión.  
 FUENTE: Elaboración propia con datos del Departamento de Estado

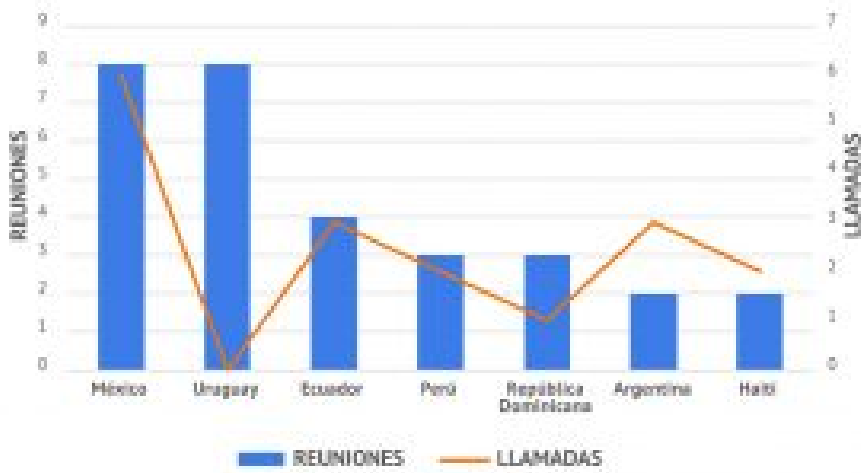


Biden has not toured the region. In return, it was First Lady Jill Biden who traveled through some LAC countries prior to the Summit of the Americas. Kamala Harris has made only one trip, which included Mexico and Guatemala.

There were 43 meetings and 47 calls from U.S. officials with LAC. The main governments with which meetings were held, both physical and virtual, were: Mexico, Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Dominican Republic, Argentina and Haiti. The following issues/issues stand out: pandemic, migration, regional value chains, climate change, bilateral relations, trade and lately, the war in Ukraine and the implications for the region.

GRÁFICO 5

Reuniones y llamadas bilaterales del gobierno de EEUU con ALC 21-22



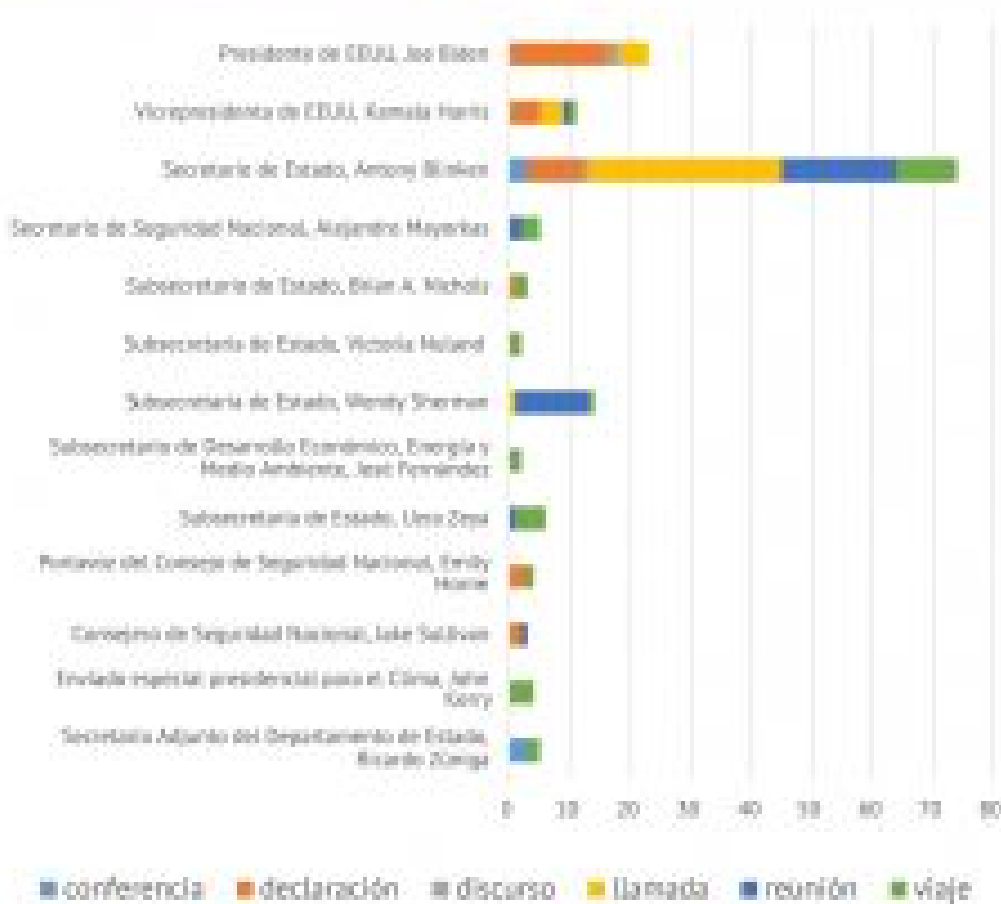
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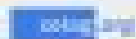
Among the most prominent officials for their constant presence in various bilateral diplomatic activities are Antony Blinken, Secretary of the Department of State, and several Undersecretaries of the same Department. Biden and Kamala have a less significant presence.

GRÁFICO 4

**Funcionarios y funcionarias que desempeñan tareas de relaciones bilaterales con ALC 21-22\***



\*Se incluyen funcionarios y funcionarias cuyas tareas fueron publicadas por el Departamento de Estado de EE.UU.



FUENTE: Elaboración propia con datos del Departamento de Estado.

Following what the data show, it could be said that the Biden administration has promoted a fairly dynamic bilateral diplomacy in the region. It highlights the assiduous and systematic contact with the AMLO government on various issues, with the migration issue being a priority, an issue that is also repeated in relations with Central America. Communication or contact decreases when it comes to South American countries, with the exception of Colombia and, lately, Uruguay, as well as Chile, Ecuador and Argentina – but the difference is important with respect to Mexico and Central America – 2012. It also highlights the place given to sanctions in foreign policy with respect to Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, within the framework of the promotion of democracy and human rights.



In short, Biden diplomacy is quite active in part of the region, obeying objectives set by the administration, such as the management of migration, the promotion of democracy and the fight against corruption. It has a smaller presence in South America and, in general, lacks visibility, with little media projection. Biden has not made a tour of the region and the vice president has sought a presence in Mexico and Central America. However, there is a significant number of officials of various ranks occupied by bilateral relations with countries in the region, marking a kind of continuous presence.

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*Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)*

*Source: [CELAG](#), July 10, 2022*

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