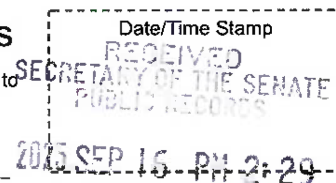


RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**



Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):

The Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc

Travel Dates:

August 18, 2025- August 25, 2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):**Relationship to Traveler:****Total Expenses**

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$1587.14	\$1329.6	\$420.51	\$789.67: \$713.3 interpretation service ; \$76.37 logistics Palenque visit

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

Date

9/11/25

Printed Name of Traveler

RYAN MURGUIA

Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/15/25

Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Date/Time Stamp

ETHIC JUL17'25PM 4:18

Name of Traveler:

Ryan J Murguia

Employing Office/Committee:

U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Private Sponsor(s):

The Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

Destination(s):

Bogota, Colombia and Cartagena, Colombia

Travel Dates:

08/18/2025 to 08/25/2025

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

The trip will provide a deeper understanding of U.S.-Colombia relations, including though direct engagement with Colombian officials grappling with how to strengthen democratic institutions like election administration, which will inform better policy recommendations.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? Name and Relationship to Traveler:

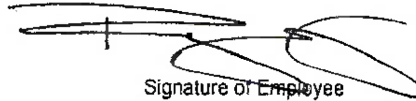
☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7/16/20

Date



Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Senator Alex Padilla

Ryan Murguia

hereby authorize

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

7/17/25

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	\$1587.15	Actual transportation costs were below the pre-approved estimate of \$1,800, including \$1,410.71 for economy airfare and \$176.43 per person for private car transportation
Lodging	\$1326.6	Actual lodging costs were lower than the pre-approved estimate of \$2,100.
Meal expenses	\$420.51	Costs were below the \$1050 estimate. Breakfasts were included with lodging. One lunch was hosted by ANDI and one dinner by the Colombian Army as part of programming, both at no cost to the sponsor.
Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses	\$789.67	Actual additional expenses surpassed the \$750 estimate, including \$713.30 for simultaneous interpretation service and \$76.37 for local support during Palenque visit (local guide, 2 museums, audio)

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

08/19- The Mayor of Bogota was unavailable due to an emergency meeting, so we met with his team
 08/20- 1. The meeting with the Vice Minister of Defense was delayed by traffic, so we met with her team upon arrival 2. Due to the delayed start with the Ministry of Defense, the meeting with General Triana had to be cancelled to accommodate lunch. Since he was unable to meet the delegation at a later time, he asked Brigadier General Ricardo Sánchez Silvestre, Director of the Antinarcotics Department, Colombia's National Police, to attend the briefing at CASOB
 08/21- 1. lunch with Jaime Asprilla was moved to the next day due to his schedule 2. The Commander of the Colombian Navy, Juan Ricardo Roza Obregón, joined the briefing with the navy as he happened to be in town
 08/22- Dinner with the Mayor of Cartagena did not take place as it could not be scheduled within the delegation's available timeframe.
 08/23- To accommodate down time following the visit to San Basilio de Palenque, the final briefing was moved to occur over dinner.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation:

Trip Name: Atlantic Council Study Trip to Colombia

Organization Information

Organization Name:

The Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?☒ Yes ☐ No**If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:**☐ Private Foundation ☒ Public Charity**Address:**

1400 L St. NW, 11th Floor

Phone Number:

202-778-4952

City, State, Zip:

Washington DC

Organization URL:<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/>

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

The Atlantic Council has previously sponsored many Congressional trips, most recently to the Western Balkans and Saudi Arabia-Bahrain-UAE in 2025, and Poland-Ukraine and Turkey in 2024.

Educational Activities

Describe the educational activities performed by your organization other than sponsoring congressional travel.

The Atlantic Council regularly hosts events for attendance by the general public, publishes reports that are freely available to the public, and posts educational social media content.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status (Select one):☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.☐ I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.**Foreign Agent Registration Status (Select one):**☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.☐ I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Must select all):

I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.



I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.



I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

- This study trip to Colombia is a fact-finding study trip under the auspices of the Atlantic Council, designed to provide a first-hand perspective on economic and security challenges in the country as a result of the rising power and presence of illegal armed groups and transnational criminal organizations.
- The trip will convene a delegation of Washington experts and Congressional staffers for an in-depth look at Colombia's security landscape, economic conditions, and the impact of criminal actors on stability, governance, and development.
- The itinerary will include stops in Bogotá and Cartagena. In Bogotá, the delegation will engage in high-level meetings with officials from the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Colombian military and national police, as well as with key private sector representatives and regional security and commerce experts. In Cartagena, participants will gain greater insight into the port security environment and include meetings with Drug Enforcement Administration, the Colombian Navy and other government agencies.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

- The trip aligns with the Atlantic Council's mission to strengthen U.S. global leadership and promote cooperative solutions to critical regional challenges. It aims to deepen understanding of Colombia's security and economic environment, assess the threats posed by illegal armed groups and transnational criminal organizations, and evaluate the broader implications for U.S.-Colombia relations and hemispheric security.
- By facilitating direct engagement with Colombian officials, military leaders, private sector stakeholders, and local experts, the visit provides Washington-based participants with a grounded perspective to inform policy discussions. The trip will generate analysis and actionable recommendations that contribute to more effective and collaborative strategies among the United States, Colombia, and regional allies in addressing shared security and development priorities.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If No, describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

The Atlantic Council is a nonpartisan organization whose Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center is dedicated to strengthening regional cooperation among the United States and Latin American countries. The Atlantic Council is primarily responsible for the planning, organizing, and conducting of the trip and will cover part of the expenses associated with the trip. The Luminate Foundation has provided a gift to the Atlantic Council that will be used by the Atlantic Council to help cover expenses associated with the trip. The Luminate Foundation had no role in selecting tripparticipants or inviting them on the trip.

If there are multiple sponsors, each sponsor must submit Organization Information (Page 1 of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form) and a Signature Page Form.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

If you have a Grantmaking Organization, you must attach a Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

With or Without Regard to Congressional Participation (Select one):

- ☐ The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.
- ☒ The trip is arranged or organized with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing (Must select all):

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ☐ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ☒ No sponsor retains or employs a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principle, the trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Required if selecting the third option in either column - Please explain why the second overnight stay is practically required and necessary to accomplish the purpose of the trip.

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol (Must select all):

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees list

- ☒ A list of all Senate invitees is attached to this form (required).
- ☒ Members and staff from the House of Representatives will also receive invitations.

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:

August 18, 2025



Trip End Date/Time:

August 25, 2025

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?



Yes



No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: \$ \$1800 Accompanying Family Member: \$)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Economy	\$1200
Private car transportation		\$600

Details (optional)

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: \$ \$2,100 Accompanying Family Member: \$)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
8/18/25	8/21/25	JW Marriot	Bogota		Colombia
Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
3	\$180.00	No			

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
8/21/25	8/24/25	Casa La Factoria by Faranda Boutique	Cartagena		Colombia
Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
3	\$260.00	No			

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		

Meals (Member/Officer/Employee: \$ 1050 Accompanying Family Member: \$)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
8/18/25	25	50	51		126.00	Bogota		Colombia	N
8/19/25	25	50	51		126.00	Bogota		Colombia	N
8/20/25	25	50	51		126.00	Bogota		Colombia	N
8/21/25	38	50	62		150.00	Cartagena		Colombia	N
8/22/25	38	50	62		150.00	Cartagena		Colombia	N
8/23/25	38	50	62		150.00	Cartagena		Colombia	N
8/24/25	38	50	62		150.00	Cartagena		Colombia	N

If costs exceed the federal per diem, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses

(Member/Officer/Employee: \$ 750 Accompanying Family Member: \$)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Taxis and/or Ubers	\$250	
Interpretation	\$500	

Additional Details (optional)

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: Atlantic Council Study Trip to Colombia

Travel Date(s): 08/18/2025 to 08/25/2025

Travel Destination(s): Bogota, Colombia and Cartagena, Colombia

Sponsor: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

Julie Varghese

(printed name of sponsor representative)

Chief Operating Officer

(title)



(signature of sponsor representative)

7/3/2025

(date)

10. Detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

Monday, August 18 – Washington, DC (all times in local time)

Dress code: Casual for Travel

3:30am ET	Arrival to Dulles International Airport
6:00 am ET	Atlantic Council delegation departs from Dulles International Airport (IAD) <i>Delta Airlines: Economy, Airbus A319, Flight: DL 2550</i>
1:40 pm COT	Atlantic Council Delegation arrives in Bogota, Colombia
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Transit to hotel in private transport
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Hotel Check-in JW Marriot (Cl. 73 #8-60, Chapinero, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia)
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Dinner with key Atlantic Council Colombia stakeholders based in Colombia (Members of the US-Colombia Advisory Group) Location: Club Nogal (Ak 7 #78-96, Bogotá, Colombia)

Tuesday, August 19 – Bogotá, Colombia (all times in local time)

Dress code: Business Professional

REMINDER: Please bring your passport for entrance into the US Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Breakfast at the hotel (*Breakfast is included in your room reservation. Please enjoy in the hotel lobby at your convenience.*)

8:30 am	Meet in hotel lobby
8:30 – 9:00 am	Transit to Embassy of the United States in Bogotá, Colombia
9:00 – 11:00 am	MCT Briefing at the Embassy • Samanthe Eulette, International Affairs Unit Chief, Political Section • Daniel Alberto Durazo, Division Deputy for Organized Crime & Counternarcotics (OCCN), International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL) • Ann M. Hardman, Political Counselor • John McNamara, Chief of Mission
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Transit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Meetings at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Location: Palacio de San Carlos, Cl. 10 #5-51, Bogotá, Colombia

- **Ivan Jaramillo**, Vice minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Colombia
- **Adriana Maldonado**, Director for the Americas, Republic of Colombia

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Transit to Club Nogal**

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Lunch and discussions with AMCHAM Colombia and ANDI**
Location: Club Nogal (Ak 7 #78-96, Bogotá, Colombia)

- **Maria Claudia Lacouture**, Executive Director, Amcham Colombia
- **Bruce MacMaster**, President, ANDI
- **Karim Lesina**, Executive Vice President, Millicom
- **Jose Miguel Linares**, President, Drummond
- **Sandra Eslava**, Cisco System Colombia Ltda
- **Mariano Diaz de Vivar**, Direct TV
- **Mario Javier Benitez**, IFF Sabores y Fragancias
- **Edgar Sánchez**, Ernst & Young S.A.S
- **Santiago Angel**, General Motors Colmotores S.A
- **Eduardo Jaramillo**, General Electric
- **Ana Dolores Roman**, Pfizer
- **Leonardo Espitia**, Amgen
- **Luis Fernando Mejia**, Executive Director, Fedesarrollo

3:45 – 4:30 p.m. **Transit to Mayor of Bogotá Office**

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. **Meeting with Bogotá Mayor**
Location: a 10-99, Cra. 8 #10-1, Bogotá, Colombia

- Carlos Galán, Mayor of Bogota
- Maria Lucia Villalba, Chief of Staff, Mayor of Bogota

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Transit to dinner with Senator Cepeda**

7:00 – 9:00 pm **Dinner with Senator Efraín Cepeda and Commission of Congressional friendship group between Colombia and the United States**
Location: Restaurante Brasserie, Kr 13 #85-35, Bogotá, Colombia

- Efraín Cepeda, President of the Colombian Senate
- Senator Berenice Bedoya
- Senator Lorena Ríos
- Senator Honorio Henríquez
- Senator Juan Carlos Garcés
- Senator Mauricio Gómez
- Senator Nicolás Echeverry

Wednesday, August 20 – Bogotá, Colombia (all times in local time)

Dress code: Business for briefings, meetings, and dinner.

Breakfast at the hotel (Breakfast is included in your room reservation. Please enjoy in the hotel lobby at your convenience.)

8:00 am **Meet in hotel lobby**

8:00 – 9:00 am	Transit to Colombian Congress
9:00 – 10:30 pm	Meeting with Colombia's Legal Commission of Afro Colombian, Colombia's House of Representatives Location: National Capitol, Carrera 7 No. 8-68 en Bogotá, D.C. • Orlando Castillo Advincula, President • Gilma Diaz Arias, Vice President • Jorge Luis Utria Pino, Secretary
10:30 – 11:30 am	Transit to Ministry of Defense Colombia
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Meeting with Ministry of Defense Location: Cra. 54 #26-25, Bogotá, Colombia • Pedro Sánchez Suárez – Minister of Defense • Juliana Coronado Neira – Acting Vice Minister for Defense and Security Policies • Luis Edmundo Suárez Soto – Vice Minister for Strategy and Planning • Ana Catalina Cano Londoño – Vice Minister for Veterans and the Social Business Group of the Defense Sector (GSED)
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch break
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Transit to School of National Police
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Meeting with Bogotá National Police Location: Calle 111A N°64C-350 Barrio Boyacá las brisas • Carlos Fernando Triana Beltrán – Major General, Director General of the National Police • Arnulfo Rosenberg Novoa Piñeros – Brigadier General, Deputy Director General of the National Police
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Observation Activity: Grupo Contra el Crimen Organizado (See sharing information on real time, and how suspects and illegal cargo are identified)
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Transit back to hotel and break
7:30 p.m.	Meet in hotel lobby
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner with Colombian Civil Society NGOs Location: Storia D'Amore, Kr 13 #82-36, Bogotá, Colombia • Wilson Castaneda Castro, Director, Caribe Afirmativo • Sebastián Lanz, Co-Executive Director, Temblores Colombia • Mary Luz Barragan, Executive Director Dejusticia • Maria Victoria Llorente, Executive Director, Ideas para la Paz • Camilo Posso, INDEPAZ • Marco Romero Silva, Director, CODHES

Thursday, August 21 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)*Dress code: Dressy Casual, light clothes (jeans are acceptable)*

5:45 – 6:00 am	Meet in hotel lobby for check out
6:00 – 6:40 am	Transit to Bogota Airport
7:05 – 8:38 am	Flight from Bogota to Cartagena Flight: LATAM, Economy, Airbus. A320, LA 4092
10:00 – 11:00 am	Private transport to hotel in Cartagena
11:00 – 11:30 am	Hotel Check-in <u>Hotel:</u> Casa La Factoría by Faranda Boutique (Cra. 3a #36-13, El Centro, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia)
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Break
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Transit to lunch with Mayor of Cartagena
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Lunch with Dumek Turbay, Mayor of Cartagena Location: Alcaldia Mayor de Cartagena de Indias Cra. 2 #36-86, El Centro, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia • Dumek Turbay, Mayor of Cartagena de Indias • Bruno Hernández, Interior Secretary • Maria Patricia Porras, General Secretary • Teresa Londono, Tourism Secretary • Monica Villalobo, Concejal
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Transit to Drug Enforcement Agency
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Meeting with Officials from the US Drug Enforcement Agency Location: Drug Enforcement Agency Resident Office, Cartagena (Exact location is confidential to maintain security)
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Transit to UNITAS Maritime Operations Center (MOC)
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Observation Activity: UNITAS Maritime Operations Center (MOC) • Hub for planning, coordinating, and executing maritime operations.
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Transit back to hotel and break

7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Transit to dinner

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Dinner: Traditional Colombian food and Folkloric Dance

Location: Restaurante Candé, San Diego, Cra 10, Cl. de la Serrezuela #No 39-02, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

Friday, August 22 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)

Dress code: Dressy Casual, light clothes (jeans are acceptable)

Breakfast at the hotel (Breakfast is included in your room reservation. Please enjoy in the hotel lobby at your convenience.)

8:30 am Meet in hotel lobby

8:30 – 9:00 am Transit to Naval Base ARC Bolivar (Naval Academy)

9:00 – 10:00 am Briefing with Colombian Navy

Location: a 21a-169, Tv. 54 #21a-15, Cartagena de Indias, Bolívar, Colombia

- Rear Admiral Carlos Hernando Oramas Maldonado
Commander of the Caribbean Naval Force
- Vice Admiral Alejandro Cuerda Lorenzo
Chief Admiral of the Cartagena Naval Arsenal (ALARCART)
- Captain Francisco José Castañeda Angulo
Commander of the Caribbean Surface Fleet
- Commander Javier Enrique Gómez Torres
Harbor Master of Cartagena
- Commander Liliana Ortiz Reyna
Commander of the Missile Frigate ARC "Independiente"

10:00 – 11:30 am operations Tour of the Naval Academy and Observation of joint US-Colombia

Location: a 21a-169, Tv. 54 #21a-15, Cartagena de Indias, Bolívar, Colombia

11:30 – 12:00 pm Transit to lunch

12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch

Location: Club de Pesca (Manga – Fort San Sebastian del Pastelillo)

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Transit to Chamber of Commerce in Cartagena

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Meeting with Chamber of Commerce in Cartagena

Address: Cl. 28 #27-23, Manga, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

- Nidia Maria Pitalúa, President, Board of Directors
- Andrea Pina Gomez, Executive President

- Jessica Ponce, Market and Communications Chief, Cartagena Chamber of Commerce

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Transit back to hotel in Cartagena

4:00 – 7:15 p.m. Break

7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Transit to dinner

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Dinner

Location: El burlador (Calle Santo Domingo, Cra. 3 #33-88, El Centro, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia)

Saturday, August 23 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)

Dress code: Dressy Casual, light clothes

8:30 am Meet in hotel lobby

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Transit to San Basilio de Palenque

10:00 – 2:00 p.m. Freedom Tour of Palenque with Lunch

- Miguel Obezo Miranda, Community Leader

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Transit back to hotel in Cartagena

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Local tourism

- Walk along Bocagrande Beach promenade
- Visit Plaza Santo Domingo (Address: Calle 32 #7-25)
- Explore historic Getsemaní neighborhood and street art tour

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Transit to Hotel

6:00 – 7:15 pm Break

7:15 p.m. Meet in hotel lobby

7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Transit to dinner

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Closing dinner

Location: La Vitrola (Cra. 2 #33-66, El Centro, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia)

Sunday, August 24 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)

Dress code: Casual for travel

8:30 am Delegation meets in hotel lobby to check out and depart for airport
Dress code: casual attire

8:30 – 9:00 am Transport to Cartagena Airport

11:24 pm – 12:21 am **Group Flight to Washington, DC**
Flight: (1) LATAM, Economy, Airbus A320, LA 4107 (To Bogotá)
(2) Delta, Economy, Boeing 757, DL 983 (to Atlanta)
(3) Delta, Economy, Airbus A220, DL 2549 (To IAD)

12:21 am ET **Arrive in Washington, DC on Monday, August 25 in the morning**
Arrival: Dulles International Airport (IAD)

Invited and attending**Cristian Figueredo, Legislative Director, Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR-2)**

- Cristian was invited due to his role as a senior advisor to a member of the House Judiciary and Natural Resources Committees, where issues related to rule of law, immigration, and border security intersect with the challenges Colombia faces with armed groups and narcotics trafficking. His participation will support greater understanding of transnational threats and legislative oversight responsibilities.

Gabriella Ghandour, Legislative Correspondent and Aide, Rep. John James (R-MI-10)

- Gabriella plays a key role in supporting Rep. James, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Her inclusion will contribute to strengthening bipartisan engagement on US-Colombia relations and offers her an opportunity to deepen her expertise on regional security and development policy.

Lisette Linares-Hernandez, Legislative Aide, Rep. Evans (R-CO-8)

- Lisette's portfolio includes international affairs and homeland security, positioning her well to engage on issues at the intersection of transnational crime, migration, and regional instability. Her participation offers a valuable perspective on how developments in Colombia impact US national security and immigration dynamics, especially in states like Colorado that are increasingly affected by hemispheric trends.

Matthew McLaughlin, Professional Staff Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee (Rep. Gregory Meeks, D-NY-5)

- Matthew is a senior staff member of the committee with jurisdiction over U.S. foreign assistance and diplomatic engagement in Latin America. His inclusion ensures the committee's perspectives are incorporated into briefings and enhances continuity with existing US policy priorities in Colombia and the region.

Ryan Murguia, Policy Director, Committee on Rules and Administration (Senator Alex Padilla, D-CA)

- Ryan advises Senator Padilla on a broad range of national and homeland security matters. His participation provides a Senate perspective and reflects the senator's commitment to hemispheric stability, especially given California's economic and demographic ties to Latin America.

Max Price, Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-25)

- Max advises a senior appropriator with a strong track record on foreign assistance and security cooperation. His insight into budget and oversight processes will enrich discussions on the effectiveness of US aid and security sector reform in Colombia.

Victoria Rivas, National Security Advisor, Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33)

- As National Security Advisor to a senior member of House leadership, Victoria brings a high-level strategic perspective to the trip. Her involvement ensures that security and governance challenges in Colombia are elevated within the Democratic caucus' broader national security priorities.

Clare Seelke, Specialist in Latin America Affairs, Congressional Research Service (CRS)

- Clare is a widely respected expert who provides nonpartisan analysis to Congress on Latin American political, economic, and security issues. Her participation will ensure substantive depth during the delegation's engagements and help translate field insights into CRS products for Congress.

Sean Smith, Legislative Director, Rep. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL-27)

- Sean serves as a member who chairs the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. His leadership role on Latin America issues and strong ties to the Colombian and broader Latin American community make him a critical voice in assessing US regional strategy.

Murguia, Ryan (Rules)

From: Geoff Ramsey <GRamsey@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Murguia, Ryan (Rules)
Cc: Isabel Chiriboga
Subject: Decision Update | Atlantic Council Study Trip to Colombia | Sunday, August 17 to Saturday, August 23

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Thursday, June 5, 2025 4:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ryan,

On behalf of the Atlantic Council's [Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center](#) (AALAC), I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected to participate in the **2025 study trip to Colombia** from **Sunday, August 17 to Saturday August 23** as part of the [US-Colombia Congressional Fellowship](#). The trip will be funded by the Atlantic Council and will convene a delegation of Washington experts and legislative staff to provide a first-hand perspective on economic and security challenges in Colombia as a result of rising power and presence of illegal armed groups and transnational criminal organizations.

The delegation will depart from Washington, DC on Sunday, August 17, and return to Washington, DC on Saturday, August 23. All trip participants will be provided with round-trip airfare (economy), accommodation, and select meals on the ground. Please note that we will book a group flight from Washington, DC to Bogota with the expectation that the delegation transits on the same itinerary.

The full agenda of the trip is being finalized, but past trips have included high-level discussions with the Colombian government, including the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as officials from the Colombian military. In Bogota, we will meet with key private sector representatives, and other experts for discussions on regional security, defense, and commerce. In addition to our meetings in Bogota, we will travel to Cali where we will gain greater insight into the security environment in the northern part of the country. Travel to Cali will include meetings with the armed forces and field visits to crop substitution fields.

Given your expertise and interest in these issues, we would be delighted to have you join as a member of our senior delegation. Your perspectives, ideas, and recommendations would greatly contribute to discussions about hemispheric security and economic challenges. **If you are available to join us this summer on the study trip, please confirm your spot by reaching out to Isabel Chiriboga at Ichiriboga@atlanticcouncil.org by Friday, June 13 at COB.** We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Geoff

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 14, 2025

Ryan Murguia
Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Murguia:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel to the *Atlantic Council Study Trip to Colombia in Bogota and Cartagena, Colombia*, on August 18-24, 2025, sponsored by the Atlantic Council. Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the Atlantic Council in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.¹ You are employed as a Policy Director for the Committee on Rules and Administration, and Senator Alex Padilla is your supervising Senator. The Atlantic Council invited you to travel to the *Atlantic Council Study Trip to Colombia in Bogota and Cartagena, Colombia*, on August 18-24, 2025. The Atlantic Council certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses² related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. The Atlantic Council has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.³

Discussion

Privately sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's

¹ If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

² The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 10-13.

³ The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 15.

official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110–81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and employees to accept privately sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel (Travel Regulations)*. The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor foreign trips for up to seven days. The seven-day limitation means seven 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip, other than in a *de minimis* way.⁴ This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.⁵

The Committee has determined that § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are classified as private foundations, as opposed to public charities, may not pay for transportation from the United States to a foreign country.⁶ However, the Atlantic Council represented to the Committee that it is a § 501(c)(3) public charity, as opposed to a private foundation, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.⁷

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately Sponsored Travel**.

Consistent with these standards, Committee precedent, and the Atlantic Council's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the

⁴ The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-8.

⁵ See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-10.

⁶ See 26 U.S.C. § 4941 et seq. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code broadly defines non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organizations. These § 501(c)(3) organizations are then further defined or designated as "public charities" and "private foundations."

⁷ 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

Atlantic Council in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records).

Please be advised that the United States Constitution prohibits the acceptance of any gift, including a meal, from a foreign government without the consent of Congress. In the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), Congress consented to the acceptance by federal government officials of: (1) gifts of minimal value and (2) travel or the expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States, from a foreign government (which includes those acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government).⁸ The Senate has defined minimal value as \$100 or less. Further, pursuant to FGDA, there are certain reporting and procedural requirements that are imposed upon Members, officers, and employees who accept gifts from a foreign government. Please review the Committee's "Dear Colleague" letter of January 11, 2019, setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual⁹ on their financial disclosure report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$480 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their financial disclosure report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Employee Privately Sponsored Travel Checklist

⁸ 5 U.S.C. § 7342.

⁹ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$150,160 for CY 2025) or is a political fund designee and is required to file financial disclosure reports.