

CFR Convenes Conference to Encourage Diversity in International Affairs



Carmen Lomellin, U.S. permanent representative to the Organization of American States

In April, the Council, along with its partners, the Global Access Pipeline (GAP) and the International Career Advancement Program, hosted a Conference on Diversity in International Affairs. The two-day event was designed to connect professionals and students from underrepresented backgrounds with career opportunities in international affairs.

The conference—which drew nearly three hundred participants from across the country, including young and mid-career professionals and high school and college students—presented sessions on an array of topics, ranging from improving negotiation and presentation skills to resources for education, fellowships, and careers in foreign policy. Other plenary and breakout sessions from the conference included:

- a view from the State Department, with **Carmen Lomellin**, U.S. permanent representative to the Organization of American States; and **Kimberly McClure**, foreign service officer, U.S. Department of State, and GAP co-chair;
- international cooperation in space, with **Charles F. Bolden Jr.**, NASA administrator; and **Frank Klotz**, CFR senior fellow for strategic studies and arms control;
- U.S. education and global competitiveness, with CFR term members **Julia Levy**, cofounder, Culture Craver; **Curtis Valentine**, former executive director, MarylandCAN; and **Edith Bartley**, director of government affairs, United Negro College Fund;



Ashley M. Quarcoo of USAID with Emily Wei of Catholic Relief Services.



Audience members at a session with Carmen Lomellin on her view from the State Department.

- strengthening professional writing skills, with **Jan Mowder Hughes**, CFR vice president, human resources and administration; **Eleanor Monte Jones**, associate director, Georgetown University; **Amanda Taylor**, diplomat in residence, State Department; and **Sandra Rivera**, acting director, office of economics, U.S. International Trade Commission; and
- recruiting diverse talent in international careers, with **Crispian Kirk**, president and CEO, OIC International; **Teddy Taylor**, diplomat in residence, U.S. Department of State; and **Zarina Durrani**, director of diversity initiatives, Brookings Institution.

The conference was part of CFR's Expanded Diversity Initiative in Foreign Policy, which was made possible by the generous support of the Robina Foundation. Launched in 2012, the initiative complements the Council's other longstanding efforts to encourage members of underrepresented groups to participate in the foreign policy debate and consider careers in foreign policy.

Additional support for the conference was provided by the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, the NEA Foundation, and OIC International. *cfp*



Planned Parenthood's Latanya Mapp Frett presented the International Career Advancement Program award to the University of North Carolina's William H. Itoh, former U.S. ambassador to Thailand.