



NOTICE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS



The WA Forum and the LA-NZ Business Council are pleased to invite you to the following address.

Speaker	Ximena Astrid Valdivieso Rivera , Consul-General of Colombia
Topic	<i>Colombia and the “Convention on Biological Diversity”: Why Biodiversity Matters</i>
Date & Time	Thursday 12 December 2024 from 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm
Location	Betty Wark Room, Ellen Melville Centre, 2 Freyberg Place, High St, Auckland CBD

Synopsis Biodiversity assures the production of the wide variety of goods and services that are key in the modern world for food security, health, business and employment, and disease prevention. Without it, the current world economy could not be supported.

Over the last 50 years, direct and indirect drivers have accelerated the diminution of biodiversity. Extinction of flora and fauna presents a danger for all Mankind.

Cooperative action is the path to halt, and then reverse, the loss of biodiversity. To that end, the last meeting of the member nations of the “Convention on Biological Diversity” took place in October, in the Colombian city of Cali. Styled the *Conference of the Parties (COP) 16*, such meeting is the international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

As the planet’s most biodiverse country per square kilometre, Colombia viewed the meeting as a step towards the global goal of living in harmony with nature by 2050. Colombia’s aspiration was that it be the *COP of the people* and the start of a *Coalition for Peace with nature*. A focus is the ability of individuals to help to protect the planet.

Biographical Details Consul-General Valdivieso is a career Diplomat, with more than 14 years of service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Bogota, she has served in the Division for each of Regional Integration; Europe and Eurasia; and Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs. Abroad, she served as Consul in Thailand for 5 years.

She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Finance and International Relations, and a Master’s degree in Analysis of Contemporary Political, Economic and International Problems.

She has served as an undergraduate and graduate teacher in international relations. Further, she has been a Counsellor at the Diplomatic Academy of Colombia.

Currently she is enrolled for the Master of Public Policy degree at the University of Auckland.

The Forum provides a space and an opportunity for discussion and consideration of topics of international affairs. The meeting is open to the public, without charge or seat reservation.