

FRANCISCO SANTOS

Former Vice President of Colombia and leading authority on geopolitics, democracy, and hemispheric security

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- Former Vice President of Colombia (2002–2010) and former Ambassador to the United States
- One of Latin America's leading geopolitical and security analysts
- Kidnapping survivor who founded País Libre, the world's first NGO dedicated exclusively to fighting kidnapping
- Trusted advisor to governments, multinational corporations, and investors on political risk and regional stability
- Delivers powerful insights on democracy, organized crime, global security, and resilient leadership

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Francisco Santos Calderón is the former Vice President of Colombia, former Ambassador to the United States, journalist, and one of Latin America's foremost experts on geopolitics, hemispheric security, and democratic governance. Throughout more than four decades in public service, diplomacy, and journalism, he has become one of the region's most respected voices on political risk, regional security, and international affairs.

As Colombia's Vice President from 2002 to 2010, he led major initiatives on human rights, international cooperation, counterterrorism, narcotics policy, and transnational organized crime while working closely with the U.S. government, Congress, the European Union, and international organizations. Later, as Colombia's Ambassador in Washington, D.C., he strengthened bilateral relations and helped shape international understanding of Venezuela's crisis and the geopolitical challenges facing the Western Hemisphere.

His leadership was profoundly shaped by personal experience. In 1990 he was kidnapped by Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel. After his release, he founded País Libre, the world's first NGO exclusively dedicated to fighting kidnapping, becoming one of Colombia's leading voices for human rights and civil society.

Today he advises governments, multinational companies, and investors on geopolitical risk, democratic stability, and Latin America's evolving strategic landscape while speaking internationally on leadership, resilience, democracy, and global affairs.

TEMAS

Francisco tailors each presentation to the needs of his audience and is not limited to the topics listed below. Please ask us about any subject that interests you:

- Latin American Geopolitics
- Democracy and Authoritarianism
- Global Security
- Political Risk
- Organized Crime
- U.S.–Latin America Relations
- Leadership Under Pressure

- Resilience in Times of Crisis

PROGRAMAS

Francisco Santos helps leaders understand the geopolitical forces reshaping Latin America and their implications for business, investment, and global security. Drawing on decades of experience as vice president, ambassador, journalist, and policy advisor, he translates complex international dynamics into practical strategic insights. His deeply personal story of resilience, combined with his frontline experience in government and diplomacy, makes his presentations both intellectually compelling and profoundly inspiring.

The Cost of Freedom: Leadership, Resilience, and Purpose Under Pressure

After being kidnapped by the Medellín Cartel and held captive for eight months, Francisco Santos turned one of the most difficult experiences of his life into a defining moment. Those months transformed his understanding of freedom, purpose, and the human capacity to endure. He later founded País Libre, mobilized millions of Colombians against kidnapping, and went on to serve as Vice President of Colombia.

In this deeply personal keynote, Francisco shares the decisions, lessons, and convictions that enabled him to transform adversity into action. A story of resilience, purpose, and leadership that demonstrates that, even in moments of profound uncertainty, we cannot always choose what happens to us, but we can choose what we do with it. An invitation to recognize that freedom, whether personal, institutional, or collective, can never be taken for granted: What cause would you be willing to give everything for?

Latin America in a Changing World Order

An insider's analysis of how China, Russia, Iran, organized crime, and shifting global alliances are reshaping Latin America's strategic future and what business and government leaders should expect.

Democracy Under Pressure

An examination of the rise of authoritarianism, democratic erosion, and hybrid threats affecting Western democracies, offering practical lessons for today's leaders.

Venezuela and the Future of the Hemisphere

A strategic assessment of Venezuela's evolution and its impact on regional security, migration, business, and geopolitics.

Leadership Under Fire

A deeply personal keynote exploring resilience, courage, and leadership through the extraordinary journey from kidnapping survivor to vice president and international statesman.

CONDICIONES

- **Travels from:** Bogotá D.C., Colombia
- **Fee Range:** Please Inquire