



The Latin American Companies Circle

WHO WE ARE

The Latin American Companies Circle is a unique initiative launched in May 2005 in Sao Paulo, Brazil at the recommendation of the Latin American Corporate Governance Roundtable, a network of public officials, investors, non-governmental institutes, stock exchanges and associations as well as others interested in corporate governance improvements throughout the region.

The Companies Circle brings together a group of leading Latin American companies who have adopted good corporate governance practices. Companies Circle members provide private sector input into the critical work of corporate governance development in the region and, importantly, share their experiences with each other and other companies in the region and beyond.

The Companies Circle includes firms spanning a wide range of sizes, sectors, governance structures, and experiences with corporate governance. As such, members have a lot to tell one another, companies in the region and beyond, regulators, investors, and other stakeholders. "We have been using the Companies Circle as a vehicle to expose the companies to international investors. Investors will be learning about the context of corporate governance in Latin America, and companies will learn from the demands of international investors," the chair of the Companies Circle has said.

WHAT WE DO

Through the Companies Circle, members showcase how leading Latin American companies can implement good corporate governance and the benefits their companies have experienced from undertaking these improvements. Most members of the Companies Circle are firms listed on local and international exchanges with significant presence in their capital markets. Their experience in boards of directors, shareholder and stakeholder relations, the control environment, transparency and sustainability / ESG also provide important lessons for closely-held private corporations, including family firms.

As at September 2018, the Latin American Companies Circle members are: Grupo Algar, Embraer, Natura and Ultrapar (Brazil); Grupo Argos and ISA (Colombia); Florida Ice & Farm Co. (Costa Rica), Buenaventura and Ferreycorp (Peru).

The Companies Circle is sponsored by IFC and it is supported by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

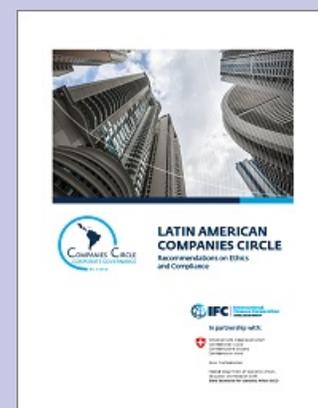


BACKGROUND

Corporate governance is defined as the structures and processes by which companies are directed and controlled. Good corporate governance helps companies operate more efficiently, improve access to capital, mitigate risk and safeguard against mismanagement. It makes companies more accountable and transparent to investors and gives them the tools to respond to stakeholder concerns. Corporate governance also contributes to development by helping facilitate new investment, access to capital, and long-term sustainability for firms, leading to economic growth and increased employment opportunities across markets.

LATEST PUBLICATION

[Latin American Companies Circle - Recommendations on Ethics and Compliance](#)



KEY MESSAGE AND THEMES

While market conditions may change, the message that good corporate governance delivers business value remains the same. These diverse and market-leading companies have been key influencers of change in the private sector, and they have the opportunity to play a similar role going forward, as they continue to advocate for corporate governance best practices.

The companies that make up the Latin American Companies Circle have a clear message that they want to spread: corporate governance works, in our company, in our country, in our region and market, in our culture, in good times and bad. They are confident that efforts to improve corporate governance practices at their companies and Latin America as a whole will contribute to economic development and sustainability in the region.

The Companies Circle is the only region-wide, company- to-company venue to exchange ideas and good practices in corporate governance. "You are learning from the successes of the companies, and you are learning from their failures. You are learning from the ones who did it," said Mr. Luiz Alberto Garcia, Chairman of Grupo Algar, Brazil.

As the members are spreading the word in the local languages - they are a source of corporate governance material and local success stories in Spanish and Portuguese - and in innovative ways, like webinars, to further expand the outreach.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

The Companies Circle prepared a 200-page Practical Guide, complete with personal testimonials, experiences, and practical tools. Corporate governance pioneer Ira Milstein, who has been championing corporate governance around the world for many years, said of the Guide, "a template for doing corporate governance around the world".

The success of the Latin American Circle has prompted IFC to consider replicating the initiative in other regions or individual countries.

THE LATIN AMERICAN COMPANIES CIRCLE MEMBERS ARE:



SELECTED ACHIEVMENTS

13 annual meetings held (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Washington, D.C.)

3 Chairmen & Independent Directors meetings

5 publications and in the process of updating the Practical Guide

6 awareness raising events for local business community

PUBLICATIONS

[Recommendations on Ethics and Compliance](#)

[Corporate Governance Recommendations for Company Groups](#)

[Board Evaluation Practices](#)

[Useful Practices to Consider for the Annual General Meetings](#)

[A Practical Guide to Corporate Governance: Experiences from the Latin American Companies Circle](#)

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