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A BATKIN INTERNATIONAL LEADERS FORUM WITH
PRESIDENT OF CHILE MICHELLE BACHELET

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PARTICIPANTS:

Introduction:

TED PICCONE
Acting Vice President and Director, Foreign
Policy
The Brookings Institution

Keynote Address:

H.E. MICHELLE BACHELET
President of Chile

Moderator:

HAROLD TRINKUNAS
Senior Fellow and Director, Latin American
Initiative
The Brookings Institution

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P R O C E E D I N G S : Q & A

MR. TRINKUNAS: President Bachelet, thank you for joining us here at Brookings. It's wonderful to have you here with us. We have a few minutes now for an opportunity for some discussion and I'd like to take the moderator's privilege to lead off with asking the first question.

I'd like to turn back to some of the foreign policy questions you raised in your speech. As you know Chile is currently once again serving on the U.N. Security Council and it is a time of rising global insecurity, tensions in Europe and Asia and the Middle East. I'm wondering if you could talk to us a little bit about how you envisioned Chile's role playing out in the Security Council during this term?

PRESIDENT BACHELET: Well, we see ourselves as always we have seen ourselves, as a country who has the respect for the rule of law and respect multilateral institutions and respect a peaceful way of solving problems when it's possible. Of course it's not usually the kind of things that Security Council has to deal with. But we will be ensuring that the principles and values that Chile was represent and that we share with the United States will be the ones who every time we have to discuss case to case will be put there as the more important issues. But we also I think -- and we were talking with President Obama about that -- I think we need to discuss much me on the way we're dealing with conflicts, the way what -- which is the role and the -- I mean -- and if peacekeeping operation needs more support and needs to see what else we have to do. I mean my opinion not only as President of the Republic but having worked in the U.N. and having -- I mean as Minister of defense we send -- I really push a lot on Chile's I

would say very active participation on peacekeeping operation, but after being in many countries, visiting many refugee camps, visiting peacekeeping operation sides, I think we need to make a stronger thought and assessment and see what else we can do because I'm not sure we're winning the battle and we need to do much more about that.

MR. TRINKUNAS: Thank you, President Bachelet. I think we have time to take a few questions from the audience. If you could please wait for the microphone. Raise your hand if you wish to ask a question, and if you would identify yourself and your institutional affiliation.

While we wait for the crowd to collect its thoughts (laughter) I wonder if you could talk just a little bit more about your government's thoughts on the Trans-pacific Partnership. I know there's been -- some doubts have been raised about the direction of the negotiations and I'm wondering if you could elaborate on what direction do you see Chile taking in the negotiations as they go forward.

PRESIDENT BACHELET: As you may know this all started with the P4 when Chile was part of it. And then we -- as with Singapore, Grenada, Salaam, and New Zealand, and looking at the way -- because in APEC all the economies -- it has been very difficult to think on the free trade agreement of the whole Asia Pacific area and we do believe that is a good idea, we have been pushing towards that. So when we were in the P4 we start inviting many other nations to be part of it. So that's why it came to a P7 and P8 and now it will be -- it will use the former name, it will be like a P12. So Chile has been part of this very strongly. The thing is that when we are talking about the TPP we need to see the result has to be better than what we have today

because we have already free trade agreements with all the rest of the 11 countries. So what we are negotiating if I may say or analyzing, what it would mean, in which terms, and how we can ensure -- I mean we really want a free trade agreement with the highest standard of quality level standards but we need to ensure that those standards are also respecting the national interests. So that's the kind of thing -- I'm not going to go into the technicalities. There are some issues we need to discuss further and we are in that doing so. So we hope we can be able to get a good solution, for a sort of a win-win solution for everyone because we believe that this really could be a very important perspective on trade and economic relations between the 12 countries.

MR. TRINKUNAS: Yes, Richard.

MR. FEINBERG: Richard Feinberg, Brookings and the University of California, San Diego. Madam President, thank you for your very inspiring and persuasive remarks. You spoke of Chile as a potential bridge among counties. In the western hemisphere right now perhaps two of the most difficult problems are the polarization in Venezuela and the issue of change in Cuba. I wondered if you could specifically indicate what role Chile might play as a bridge in those two ongoing problems?

PRESIDENT BACHELET: Well, I would say as a matter of fact we not only envision we have been doing things about that. In the case of Venezuela what we have done and during my inauguration days the Minister of Foreign Affairs had a meeting with the rest of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of UNASUR and we believe that public statements are good but are not sufficient. So instead of having a big public statement we thought it would be better to put people in action. So we decided to send a mission of Foreign Ministers to Venezuela. And it

was I would say at the beginning pretty successful because it permitted for the first time government and opposition get together, sit together and talk, and dialogue. And there has been other visit with different -- and some progress made. And the last time I believe probably it's a little bit slow, but the only thing that I believe is we know it's not easy, it's a very polarized society as you mentioned. But we have had in the past when I was president of UNASUR for temporary because every year is a new president of UNASUR, we had a situation in Bolivia and I personally handle it and we could avoid to get into a worse possibility. So we truly believe that through dialogue that probably we need to make bigger efforts so we can see a solution. That I have to say is the Venezuelans who have to solve their internal issues. And what we need to do is to support them with the Vatican, The Vatican is also part of this process -- to support all the process of dialogue and hopefully a peaceful solution to the internal conflict.

We are also very active in the case of Columbia and the relationship with the FARC and now with the ALN, that their government started the negotiations to. We have been very helpful in that too and President Santos has recognized us and we'll be continuing looking forward to support all the efforts that President Santos is doing to bring peace into Columbia.

And in the case of Cuba, of course we will always be able to building bridges. We haven't had yet any visit to Cuba or something like that but we are looking forward if we can do any process in supporting whatever is needed, we will do that.

MR. TRINKUNAS: Thank you. We'd like to take a question from our overflow room. This turned out to be a very popular event and we want to give them a chance to ask questions as well. We have a question here regarding the Indigenous communities of Chile and

what policies in your government do you foresee in terms of their role in Chile and the question of land I understand is one of the issues that is at hand.

PRESIDENT BACHELET: Yes, he was asking about the Indigenous (laughter) communities in Chile (applause). But the important thing is that I heard the question so I can answer it. This is it. The thing is that we have said that we need to -- let me see -- sort of a new pact with the Indigenous communities because we do have historic political depth if I may say with them. So we have a whole agenda of different things from ensuring political participation of the Indigenous group but also economic development, all the land and so on, cultural measure, et cetera, et cetera, so they can really be integrated but within their own specificities, diversity of their own culture. Chile can be a multicultural country and we have many different Indigenous groups, it's not only one. We have from the north, Aymara, to the Kawashkar and Yamanas in the south, and of course Rapa Nui and Mapuches, and the Yaghitas and Collas, and Quechuas, et cetera. And so it's very important that we have a whole agenda that has been worked with them too, but also what we have been doing and it's very important I believe, and we were talking about social permits, it's also linked to that, is that we have approved -- as a country we have ratified the Convention 169 of ILO and in that convention states that all kinds of projects, administrative, political, or economic projects, that affect directly the communities should go to consultation with the communities. So for example I have in my program a Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, an agenda, a council of Indigenous people, I have the Ministry of Culture, and so on. But I didn't send those projects to the Parliament until we do the right process of consultation. And that should be -- in many other situations they should be part of at least in a

consulting way to be part of giving their opinion on what and how do they feel and what would like in some issues or institutions that were represented. So I would say it's a new way of doing things on one hand, but also in a very active agenda dealing with the -- I would say shortcomings that we have had with them and some challenges that we have had. And I know that we will be able to in that sense also to diminish some conflicts that we have in some part of the country. And also with a lot of social protection because in many of the Indigenous areas are the places we have higher rates of poverty or higher rates of some diseases and that it's linked with poverty. So we need to I would say pay more attention with them but with respect to their own values and culture.

MR. TRINKUNAS: Thank you very much, President Bachelet. I'm afraid that we've come to the end of our time. Thank you for being so generous and sharing with us.

PRESIDENT BACHELET: I'm so sorry, I spoke too much. (Laughter)

MR. TRINKUNAS: Thank you. Please join me in thanking President Bachelet. But I would also like to ask the audience if you could please remain seated until President Bachelet and the members of her delegation that are accompanying her to her next meeting have a chance to clear the building so that we can try to keep you on schedule.

PRESIDENT BACHELET: Thank you.

MR. TRINKUNAS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

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