

Think Tanks Dialogue: Challenges and Perspectives facing Brazilian Think Tanks

Partnership Proposal – October, 2019

Date: December 10th, 2019 (*to be confirmed*)

Venue: Rio de Janeiro (*venue to be decided*)

Public: Open to public

Objective

The **Brazilian Center for International Relations – CEBRI** is an independent think tank that contributes to the public debate on the main challenges facing Brazil at the international level. Over the last twenty one years, the institution has engaged in promoting plural and action-oriented debate on the international landscape and Brazilian foreign policy. CEBRI focuses not only on providing a venue for high-level discussions, but also on putting forward recommendations that can have an impact on public policies in areas with the greatest potential to leverage the international projection of Brazil onto the global order.

In the context of the 2020 Global Think Tank Summit and Forum Program, CEBRI is organizing an event about the “**Challenges and Perspectives facing Brazilian Think Tanks**” in partnership with the **Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania**, the institution responsible for elaborating the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report.

The event will gather Brazilian think tanks in Rio de Janeiro in order to contribute to the establishment of a local network of think tanks and to enhance the debate on key issues related to policy and organizational challenges that these institutions are facing or may face in the present and in the years to come. It will be an opportunity to share experiences and discuss strategies to strengthen the role of think tanks in Brazil.

The Think Tanks Dialogue will be composed by a diverse set of panelists, taking into account think tanks’ thematic agendas and categories (independent, government affiliated, university affiliated, for-profit public policy research organization etc.) in order to cover a wide range of opinions, experiences and best practices.

Preliminary Program

Think Tanks Dialogue: Challenges and Perspectives facing Brazilian Think Tanks

08:30 – 09:00: WELCOME COFFEE

09:00 – 09:15: OPENING

- **José Pio Borges**, Chairman of CEBRI's Board of Trustees
- **James McGann**, Senior Lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute, Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania and Senior Fellow of the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Representative(s) from Sponsor(s)

09:15 – 10:00: TALK SHOW: The impact of Think tanks on public policies and their role in face of Global Challenges

- Interviewer: **Ambassador Benoni Belli**, CEBRI's Senior Fellow and Director of the Department for the USA of the Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Interviewee: **James McGann**, Senior Lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute, Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania and Senior Fellow of the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

10:00 – 11:10: PANEL 1: How can Think tanks be more effective and offer action-oriented recommendations to both the government and society

Key issues to drive the debate:

1. Capacity building

- How can think tanks improve their capacity to act as a bridge between the academic and policymaking communities and between states and civil society within a context of loss of trust, political polarization and policy paralysis?
- How can we leverage the potential of think tanks to support and sustain democratic governments and civil societies around the world through independent action?

2. Impact and relevance

- How to measure the value think tanks add to public discourse and public policy?
- Political changes can be challenging to think tanks' activities. How can think tanks maintain its impartiality and assure the visibility of strategic long-term agendas in contexts of rapid and sometimes disruptive political and economic changes?
- How can think tanks use innovation to add value to their policy proposals?

Moderator: **CEBRI**

Panelists:

- **Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)** (10 min)
- **Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA)** (10 min)
- **Conectas Direitos Humanos (CDH)** (10 min)
- **Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)** (10 min)

Debate open to the public (30 min)

11:10 – 11:40: COFFEE BREAK

11:40 – 12:30: PANEL 2: New Business Models for Think Tanks

Key issues to drive the debate:

1. **Interdisciplinarity.** Global solutions demand a holistic view and interdisciplinary approach in order to generate systemic solutions.
 - Can you give an example of your institution interdisciplinary approach to a policy issue, explaining the importance of this approach to the success of the policy proposal?
2. **Public Engagement.**
 - What are the main challenges for Brazilian think tanks, considering that the think tanks' role is unfamiliar to the majority of the Brazilian society?
 - How can communication and big data analysis be used in an ethical way to impact and engage civil society?
3. **Funding challenges**
 - In a scenario of dwindling funds for policy research from public and private donor, what is role of innovation in management and how can think tanks pursue it?
 - How can technology and innovation contribute to new fundraising strategies?

Moderator: **Fundação Konrad Adenauer Brasil (KAS Brasil)**

Panelists:

- **Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI)** (15 min)
- **Instituto Escolhas** (15 min)
- **International think tank of reference** (15 min)

Debate open to the public (25 min)

12:30 – 13:40: PANEL 3: Technology, Disinformation and the Role of Think Tanks in Trust Building

Key issues to drive the debate:

1. Trust Building and disinformation.

- Disinformation has become a worldwide problem that affects society's trust and engagement with think tanks. What can think tanks do to prevent and combat disinformation?
- Is social media a threat or an opportunity for think tanks to reach their audience?

2. Technology and Monitoring.

- How can technology assist in the monitoring of governmental actions and public policy implementation?
- Can you give us an example of technology-driven initiative your institution has implemented?

3. Innovation and Connectivity.

- How to use technology to raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in government and civil societies around the globe?
- How can think tanks use connectivity to reduce the gap between knowledge production and policymaking?

Moderator: **James McGann**, Senior Lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute, Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania and Senior Fellow of the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

Panelists:

- **Instituto Igarapé** (10 min)
- **Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro (ITS Rio)** (10 min)
- **Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)** (10 min)
- **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** (10 min)

Debate open to the public (30 min)

13:40 – 14:00: CLOSING REMARKS

- **José Pio Borges**, Chairman of CEBRI's Board of Trustees

- **James McGann**, Senior Lecturer, International Studies and Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania