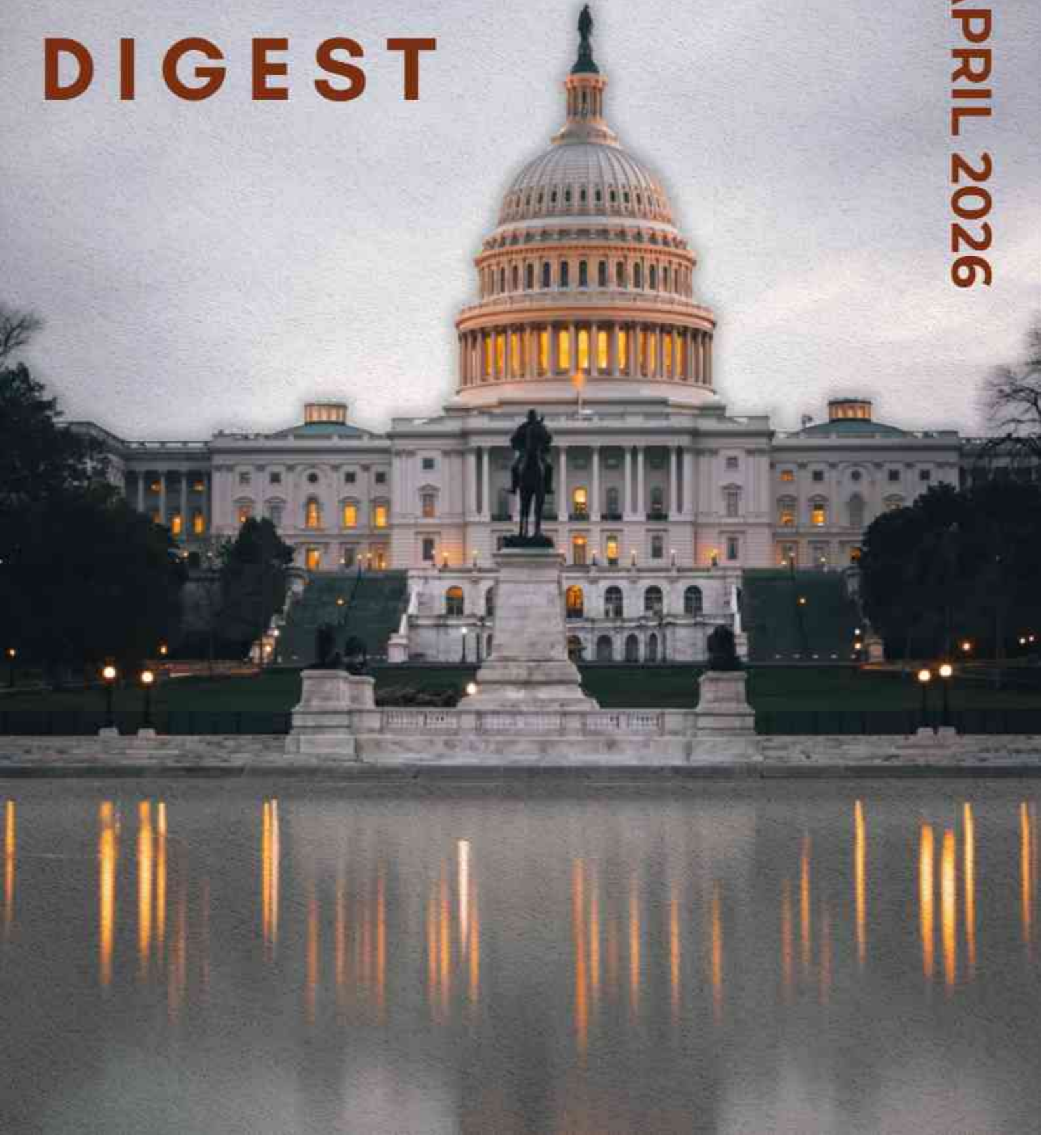




**Red Lantern
ANALYTICA**

THE AMERICAS DIGEST

APRIL 2026



Colombia Proposes \$4.4 Billion Tax Reform Plan

Colombia's government plans to propose a \$4.4 billion tax reform to congress before the legislative session ends. The initiative aims to strengthen public finances, address fiscal gaps, and support economic stability, though it faces political challenges and time constraints amid an approaching legislative deadline and competing priorities in parliament.



BRAZIL

AND

US

Launch

Joint

Crime-Fighting

Initiative

Brazil and the United States launched a joint initiative to combat organised crime, focusing on intelligence sharing and coordinated enforcement. The move reflects growing bilateral cooperation to address transnational criminal networks, drug trafficking, and security challenges affecting both countries and the broader Americas region amid rising concerns over cross-border criminal activities.



Macron Meets Venezuelan Opposition Leader Machado

French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, signalling continued European engagement in Venezuela's political crisis. The meeting highlights efforts to support democratic processes, address governance concerns, and encourage dialogue amid ongoing tensions between the opposition and the Maduro government in Venezuela's evolving political landscape.





Canada Suspends Fuel Tax to Ease Economic Pressure

Canada announced a temporary suspension of federal fuel taxes on diesel and gasoline to reduce costs for consumers. The measure aims to alleviate economic pressures linked to global energy disruptions, reflecting government efforts to manage inflation and support households amid rising fuel prices and broader economic uncertainty.

Venezuela Urges Full Removal of US Sanctions

Venezuela called for the complete removal of US sanctions, arguing that partial licenses are insufficient for economic recovery. Officials emphasised the need for broader relief to stabilise the economy, revive oil production, and improve domestic conditions amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and international restrictions affecting the country's financial and energy sectors.





World Bank Supports Argentina Debt Refinancing Plan

The World Bank is planning up to \$2 billion in guarantees to help Argentina refinance its debt. The move aims to stabilise the country's financial position, restore investor confidence, and support ongoing economic reforms amid persistent fiscal challenges and external vulnerabilities facing Argentina's economy.

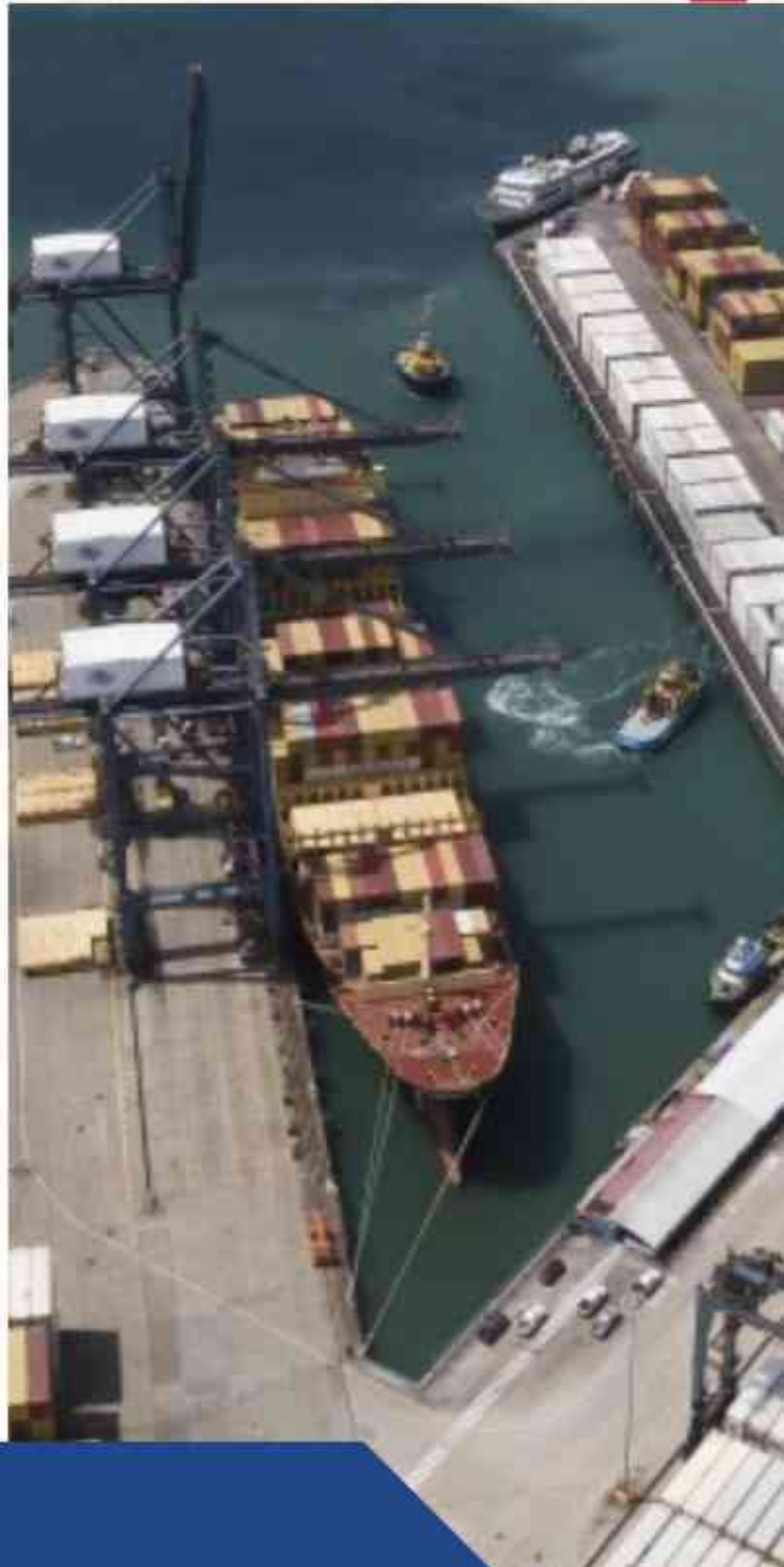
The image features a diagonal split background. The top-left and bottom-right corners are teal, while the center is white. On the left, a Chilean flag flies on a tall pole against a clear blue sky. Below the flag, the top of a classical building with a balustrade is visible. On the right, the main title is written in large, bold, black sans-serif font. At the bottom, the top of a similar classical building is visible against a blue sky.

Chile Announces Reforms Including Corporate Tax Cuts

Chile's President Jose Antonio Kast unveiled a series of economic reforms, including a reduction in corporate tax rates. The measures aim to boost investment, stimulate growth, and improve competitiveness as the government seeks to strengthen economic performance and attract business activity amid regional and global economic uncertainties.

Panama Canal Denies Reports of Priority Auction Payments

The Panama Canal Authority downplayed reports of a \$4 million payment for priority passage, amid increased traffic. Officials stressed transparency and normal operations, highlighting the canal's strategic importance as global shipping patterns shift due to disruptions and rising demand for alternative maritime routes.



Haiti and Dominican Republic to Reopen Airspace

Haiti and the Dominican Republic agreed to reopen airspace in May, marking a step toward restoring connectivity and normalcy. The decision reflects improving coordination between the two countries and efforts to stabilise regional transport links following disruptions caused by security and political challenges.





Brazil's Lula Calls for UNSC Reform

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva urged permanent members of the UN Security Council to change their behaviour. His remarks reflect growing calls from Global South countries for reforms in global governance structures to make them more representative, accountable, and responsive to contemporary international challenges.



Brazil, Mexico, Spain Pledge Aid to Cuba

Brazil, Mexico, and Spain committed to increasing humanitarian assistance to Cuba. The move highlights international efforts to support the island amid economic difficulties, energy shortages, and external pressures, reinforcing cooperation among partner countries to address humanitarian needs and stabilise conditions.



Germany and Brazil Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

Germany's leadership and Brazil's President Lula emphasised closer cooperation across economic, political, and strategic domains. The engagement reflects efforts to strengthen Europe-Latin America ties, enhance collaboration on global challenges, and deepen bilateral relations amid shifting geopolitical dynamics and shared interests.



Chile and US Sign Mining and Security Agreements

Chile and the United States agreed to sign agreements covering mining cooperation and security. The partnership aims to strengthen supply chains for critical minerals and enhance strategic collaboration, reflecting shared interests in resource security and geopolitical alignment.

Chad Expands Military Deployment to Haiti

Chad plans to deploy 1,500 troops to Haiti, with 400 already on the ground. The move supports international efforts to stabilise Haiti amid ongoing security challenges, highlighting growing African involvement in global peace and security operations.





Japan and Mexico Strengthen Energy Cooperation

Japan and Mexico agreed to enhance energy cooperation in response to supply disruptions caused by the Iran conflict. The partnership aims to ensure energy security, diversify supply sources, and strengthen bilateral ties amid global market volatility.

Peru Advances F-16 Deal Amid Political Tensions

Peru made its first payment in an F-16 fighter jet deal despite ministerial resignations linked to internal disputes. The development reflects ongoing defence modernisation efforts amid political instability and governance challenges.





Colombia and Venezuela Boost Security Cooperation

Leaders of Colombia and Venezuela agreed to enhance intelligence-sharing and discussed electricity cooperation during talks in Caracas. The meeting reflects improving bilateral relations and efforts to address security concerns, economic coordination, and cross-border challenges.





Brazil Plans Critical Minerals Regulation Without Incentives

Brazil aims to regulate its critical minerals sector without offering tax incentives. The policy approach focuses on maintaining state control while ensuring sustainable development of resources amid growing global demand and competition.

Argentina Renews Claim Over Falkland Islands

Argentina called for renewed negotiations with the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands. The move reiterates longstanding sovereignty claims and highlights ongoing diplomatic tensions surrounding the disputed territory.



A large cargo ship is docked at a port. The ship's deck is visible, showing various structures and equipment. In the foreground, a group of workers wearing hard hats and safety vests are standing on the pier, looking towards the ship. The scene is illuminated by warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

Panama Canal Traffic Surges Amid Middle East Conflict

A large cargo ship is docked at a port. The ship's deck is visible, showing various structures and equipment. The scene is illuminated by warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

The Panama Canal reported a surge in vessel traffic as global shipping reroutes due to Middle East conflict disruptions. The increase underscores the canal's strategic importance in global trade and shifting maritime logistics.

Mexico Mandates Use of Local Steel in Public Projects

Mexico announced that federal infrastructure projects must use domestically produced steel, responding to US tariffs. The policy aims to support local industry, protect jobs, and reduce dependence on imports amid rising trade tensions.





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