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*This is your official invitation to the Economic Freedom network meeting. Come with your ideas and your thoughts for action, and share them with thinkers and doers from around the world.*

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**Annual Conference**  
**ECONOMIC FREEDOM OF THE WORLD NETWORK**

Hotel Sercotel Panama Princess, Panama City, Panama

**September 7 – 9, 2018**

**“The Free Market Response to Populism”**

Hosted by

**Fundacion Libertad**

And

**The Fraser Institute**

Come with your ideas and thoughts on the topic from **“The Free Market Response to Populism”** and share them with like-minded people from around the world.

Join us in Panama City, for the Economic Freedom of the World Network Meeting! Panama is world-famous for its 48-mile canal that connects the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic Ocean. Each year, over a million people visit the Panama Canal and are able to witness this engineering marvel at work. Panama City is the most cosmopolitan capital in Central America, Panama City is both vibrant metropolis and gateway to tropical escapes. Many worlds coexist here. Welcoming both east and west, Panama is a regional hub of trade and immigration. The resulting cultural cocktail forges a refreshing 'anything goes' attitude, more dynamic and fluid than its neighbors.

**Conference deadlines**

**Hotel booking:** Registration and Payment, July 15, 2018

**Conference registration:** July 15, 2018

**Paper title and abstract submission:** August 7, 2018

**Paper submission:** August 17, 2018

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference theme, “**The Free Market Response to Populism**”, will focus our discussion. Papers are invited especially on this topic, but papers on any topic related to the nature, measurement, causes, and consequences of economic freedom will be considered. Paper titles and abstracts should be submitted to Fred McMahon at [fred.mcmahon@fraserinstitute.org](mailto:fred.mcmahon@fraserinstitute.org) by August 7.

## CONFERENCE LOCATION

This year’s Economic Freedom of the World Network meeting will be held in Hotel Sercotel Panama Princess, a beautiful business hotel with 4-star rating that is conveniently located in Panama City, in the heart of the financial district, close to both the historic Old Town in the city center, as well as to the Panama Canal. <https://www.sercotelhotels.co.uk/hotels/panama/Panama/panama-princess/>

The event will be hosted by Fundacion Libertad, a nonprofit organization established in Panama since 2001. Their mission is to disseminate and defend the principles of individual freedom and expand their spaces to promote a society of free and responsible people.

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

### Friday, September 7

08:00 – 10:00 am	(Optional and free) Conference on Economic Freedom Pillars. Hosted by Alianza para Centroamerica – Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
12:30 – 04:30 pm	(Optional and free) Conference on “Customs Integration: a step towards economic freedom in Central America”. Hosted by Alianza para Centroamerica – Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
07:00 pm – 09:00 pm	Reception cocktail

### Saturday, September 8

09:00 am – 12:00 pm	Session 1
12:00 pm – 02:00 pm	Lunch break
02:00 pm – 05:00 pm	Session 2
07:00 pm – 09:30 pm	Dinner (Location TBC)

### Sunday, September 9

09:00 am – 12:00 pm	Session 3
12:00 pm – 02:00 pm	Lunch break
Afternoon	(Optional) Excursion to Panama Canal Miraflores Locks

\*Panama also offers many tourist opportunities. More info: <http://www.visitpanama.com/?lang=en>

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Conference registration has been set at USD 160.00 and includes the following:

- Academic program
- Conference materials
- Opening Reception on Friday
- Lunch on Saturday and Sunday
- Dinner on Saturday
- Hot and cold beverages during meeting breaks

Registration is required to attend any of the events. In order to register for the event, please complete the form in this link <https://bit.ly/2J4ZvDq>. There are no refunds, except in cases where a visa application has been denied. Registration deadline is July 15.

Payments options: Credit card or wire transfer. For wire transfer an additional cost of USD 37.45 should be considered.

You are responsible for your own accommodation and travel expenses.

### **HOTEL RESERVATION**

You will be responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements. You can reserve your room at the Sercotel Princess at the exceptional rate of 55 USD per night (Wi-Fi, breakfast and tax included). If you want to book a room at this special rate, contact Marissa Krienert at [info@fundacionlibertad.org.pa](mailto:info@fundacionlibertad.org.pa). Please, let us know if you would like to remain at the hotel for a bit longer at this low rate. Reservations must be made and paid for by July 15 to take advantage of this rate. If you want to book by [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) this hotel accept free cancellation up to two days prior your arrival.

Other nearby hotels are Hotel Riu Plaza a 3-minute walk away from the meeting venue, Global Panama (8 minutes) and Hard Rock Hotel (10 minutes).

### **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Panama City is served by Tocumen International Airport (PTY) at Tocumen, is only 21 km /13 miles from the Hotel Sercotel Panama Princess. A taxi will cost \$30 – 35, Uber will depend on your arrival time and it takes 25 - 30 minutes. There is no convenient bus or metro service from Tocumen International Airport.

### **VISITOR VISA**

Each participant is responsible for checking with the Panamanian embassy or consular office in their country or their country's embassy or consular office in Panama if they need a visa. If you need a letter of invitation, contact Marissa Krienert [info@fundacionlibertad.org.pa](mailto:info@fundacionlibertad.org.pa) after registering for the conference. If for any reason, the visa application is declined; your registration fee will be refunded. You can also check your requirements at <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/PA-Panama-passport-visa-health-travel-document-requirements.htm>

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

The dress code is business casual. The weather in Panama in September is generally 85°F /30°C humid and rainy. You don't need to check [weather.com](http://www.weather.com), it will rain.

This area of Panama is safe; however, the usual precautions against petty crime are advised, especially when using public transportation.

Information on the Economic Freedom Network is available at:  
[www.freetheworld.com](http://www.freetheworld.com)