

For Immediate Release

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Relmagina Report Authors Brief Media and Capitol Hill on Puerto Rico Recommendations



Left: Juan A. Gonzalez Moscoso & Malu Blázquez Arsuaga (Resilient Puerto Rico Advisory Commission), and Jennice Fuentes (BoricuActivatEd); Right: Mike Soto-Class (Center for a New Economy)

Washington, D.C. - This week, the authors of the newly released [“Relmagina Puerto Rico” Report](#) briefed reporters, congressional staff, federal agency personnel, Members of Congress and Senators on the report’s 97 specific and actionable recommendations for a stronger and more resilient Puerto Rico.

Malu Blázquez Arsuaga, Executive Director for the Resilient Puerto Rico Advisory Commission and one of the authors of the report, said: “We are proud to have the opportunity to share our recommendations with many of the decision makers who can help us rebuild Puerto Rico in a way that makes the island stronger physically, economically, and socially and better prepared to confront future challenges. We are not just talking about how to prepare Puerto Rico for the next hurricane, but how to change its trajectory so it’s a better place to live for all citizens moving into the future. This ability to use a catalyzing moment as a way to affect long-term positive change is what is known as resilience, and that is what we’re hoping to build here.”

In authoring its [report](#), the Commission participated in more than 77 meetings with more than 748 individuals, including subject matter experts and other representatives from academia, private and public sector, and community leaders and NGOs. Actions proposed range from establishing reliable and diversified backup energy systems for vulnerable individuals and critical facilities, such as hospitals, schools, and emergency shelters and services facilities to updating the Island’s digital land cadaster and developing feasible models to establish land tenure and community ownership in informal housing.

Juan A. Gonzalez Moscoso, Project Manager for the Relmagina Puerto Rico Report, said: “The report’s recommendations are a baseline of what is needed—a first step in a long recovery process after the

impact of Hurricane Maria. It took a long time for some to realize that you have to combine federal efforts, political efforts, and private efforts together with one vision to execute strong long-term recovery process. It is time we bring everyone together—business leaders, local and federal government officials, and community based organizations—to push Puerto Rico forward.”

In addition to a press conference at the National Press Club, the authors also met with federal officials at the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the congressional offices of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez (NY-7) Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez (PR), Senator Dick Durbin (IL), Senator Marco Rubio (FL), Senator Bob Menéndez (NJ), Senator Susan Collins (ME), Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) and Senator Bill Nelson (FL).

Video of the press conference is [available here](#). For any additional information, or to request an interview, please contact Daniel Herrera at dherrera@rabengroup.com or 202-930-6805.

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The Resilient Puerto Rico Advisory Commission (Commission) was created in November 2017 as an independent and inclusive body led by Puerto Ricans. Locally led, and supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, and the Ford Foundation, the Commission’s ReImagine Puerto Rico (RePR) project will offer recommendations to help rebuild Puerto Rico in a way that makes the island stronger – physically, economically, and socially – and more prepared to confront future challenges.