

Andean Region Must Integrate to Face World Crisis, Leaders Say

By Stephan Kueffner
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Oct. 14 (Bloomberg) -- Leaders of the four-member Andean Community said their countries must step up integration and strengthen economic ties to weather the crisis triggered by the global meltdown in financial markets.

Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru must work together to soften the blow of a possible worldwide recession, said Presidents [Rafael Correa](#) of Ecuador and [Alan Garcia](#) of Peru today at the start of a summit in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

"We have to confront the global crisis through integration," Garcia said.

The presidents of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia are meeting today to try to re-start joint trade and political negotiations with the European Union. The European bloc has said the South American countries must agree to meet demands over financial deregulation and intellectual property before talks can resume.

Colombia is being represented by diplomats at the talks after President [Alvaro Uribe](#) canceled his attendance amid a spat with Correa. Ecuador in March severed diplomatic ties with its northern neighbor after Colombia destroyed a rebel camp inside Ecuador without informing or consulting with its government.

Uribe withdrew his participation after Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo quoted Correa as saying that the dispute with Colombia would never be resolved. Both Correa and the daily have since said that he was misquoted.

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