



Miami-Dade County  
Board of County Commissioners  
International Trade Consortium



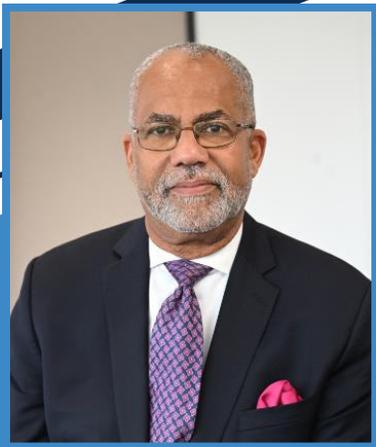
# 2024/25

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ITC

# Executive Director

On behalf of the International Trade Consortium (ITC), I am honored to present our Annual Report covering the fiscal year from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. I am pleased to convey that Fiscal Year 2024–2025 marked another extraordinary and impactful year under the esteemed leadership of ITC Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, and ITC Vice Chairman Juan Carlos Bermudez. Throughout the year, the ITC Board and staff worked tirelessly to advance Miami-Dade County's global engagement, strengthen international partnerships, and promote our region as the premier Global Gateway for trade, investment, and innovation.

Over the course of the year, the ITC participated in and hosted a record number of international events, briefings and meetings, underscoring Miami-Dade County's growing influence on the world stage. A total of 63 major international events were held or attended, highlighting Miami's pivotal role as a hub for diplomacy, trade, and cultural exchange. These included strategic collaborations with consulates, trade organizations, and international chambers of commerce, fostering new opportunities across emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, sustainability, tourism, logistics, and creative industries.

ITC welcomed 31 inbound delegations from around the world—including high-level visits from Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Serbia, Costa Rica, Thailand, Kenya, Haiti, and the European Union—further enhancing Miami-Dade County's reputation as a destination for global business and innovation. Many of these visits resulted in direct partnerships, new investment dialogues, and strengthened Sister Cities relationships. Notably, ITC hosted the 27th InterAmerican Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities in collaboration with Florida International University (FIU), convening over 300 government officials and 40 mayors from 21 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference culminated in the signing of a Sister Cities International Agreement with Georgetown, Guyana, and a Memorandum of Understanding with Minas Gerais, Brazil, advancing cooperation in innovation, trade, and sustainable development.

ITC also led and participated in four outbound trade missions to La Romana (Dominican Republic), Copenhagen (Denmark), Argentina, and France, each focused on expanding Miami-Dade's economic partnerships and promoting our region's leadership in key global industries such as technology, urban mobility, and tourism. These missions—organized in collaboration with local partners including the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau—provided Miami businesses and institutions new platforms for investment and collaboration abroad.

At home, ITC continued to build strategic alignment across the County's international trade ecosystem through six ITC Board and Committee meetings, including meetings of the Sister Cities Committee, Missions Committee, and Board of Directors. These sessions ensured continued transparency, strategic planning, and unified direction for ITC's expanding portfolio of initiatives. Together with the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MIA), PortMiami, and other County partners, ITC played a central role in advancing Miami-Dade's position as a hemispheric leader in international trade, logistics, and economic development.

I extend my sincere gratitude to ITC Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, ITC Vice Chairman Juan Carlos Bermudez, every member of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, and the ITC Board of Directors for their steadfast leadership and guidance. I also wish to recognize the dedicated support of our institutional partners, including Miami International Airport (MIA) and PortMiami, whose collaboration has been critical in expanding Miami-Dade County's reach across global markets.

Finally, I commend the exceptional ITC team for their commitment, professionalism, and tireless efforts throughout the year. Together, our work has strengthened international cooperation, driven economic growth, and reinforced Miami-Dade County's role as the Global Gateway to the Americas and beyond. I look forward to building upon these achievements as we continue advancing trade, innovation, and shared prosperity in the years ahead.

*Gerard Philippeaux*

**Gerard Philippeaux, Executive Director**  
Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium



# Introduction

Established by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on November 19, 2002, the office of the International Trade Consortium (ITC) serves as Miami-Dade County's primary liaison to foreign governments and as a one-stop information and referral resource on international trade and investment for local businesses and organizations that require assistance. The ITC office provides staff support to the consortium – an advisory board of 14 member organizations from public and private sectors of economic development agencies in the community and 16 members appointed by the Mayor and County Commission.

Together with the consortium, the ITC office advises the County's elected officials on international trade issues and helps promote Miami-Dade as a global trade hub. The ITC office works closely with Miami-International Airport and PortMiami, as well as other strategic trade partners including foreign diplomatic and trade offices, bi-national chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and local, state, and federal government agencies. As primary liaison to the diplomatic community, the ITC office plans the County's official outbound trade and business development missions, supports inbound trade missions, and manages the Sister Cities program of Miami-Dade County.

# Mission Statement

*To promote Miami-Dade County as a "Global Gateway" to international trade and enhance access to economic development opportunities for local companies.*

## Objectives

The objectives of the ITC are to:

- Advocate and support the development of Miami-Dade County as a premier hemispheric platform for two-way trade
- Promote Miami-Dade County as a Global Gateway both locally and abroad by developing and expanding trade opportunities with Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere
- Establish and maintain a database of local businesses involved in international trade to foster import and export opportunities
- Recommend trade policies to the Board of County Commissioners
- Administer and cultivate relations with Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities
- Represent and advocate Miami-Dade County's economic development and international trade interests at the local, state, and federal level
- Coordinate and act as a proactive liaison between the County and the Consular Corps of Miami, Trade Offices, and Chambers of Commerce
- Submit an annual report to the County Commission detailing the ITC office activities, goals, outcomes, and statement in all its accounts
- Perform any other such functions reasonably related to ITC Office responsibilities





# Outreach, Marketing & Protocol Events

The International Trade Commission (ITC) seeks to reinforce the County's standing as a premier "Global Gateway" for international trade by fostering strong partnerships with foreign governments and collaborating agencies. Through these efforts, the ITC advances international relations, promotes cross-cultural understanding, and facilitates trade opportunities. Additionally, the ITC team organizes and participates in courtesy protocol meetings and National Day or trade-related events to cultivate and strengthen relationships within the diplomatic community.

**ITC PARTICIPATED AND SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING 63 EVENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-25.  
BELOW IS A SELECTION OF KEY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FISCAL YEAR:**

## **OCTOBER 3, 2024**

ITC hosted the ProBarranquilla event at the Miami-Dade Beacon Council, focusing on key trade and investment opportunities in Colombia. Discussions highlighted Barranquilla as a leading industrial hub, Medellin's growing tech industry, and Cartagena's strategic port infrastructure for transshipment opportunities.

## **OCTOBER 15, 2024**

ITC had the pleasure of attending the International Trade and Business Expo (ITBE), organized by the Collectif Cooperation Export Martinique (CCEM). This two-day event hosted by U. Desmond Alufohai from Miami International Airport (MIA) highlights Miami-Dade's position as a key hub for fostering international business between the Caribbean and African regions. ITC led a roundtable discussion about ITC's role and how to do business with Miami-Dade County. Attendees also gained insight on business opportunities in the Caribbean and Africa with The Honorable Darrel Montrope, Consul General of St. Lucia in Miami, and The Honorable George Hamilton, Consul General of Sierra Leone in Miami.

## **OCTOBER 16, 2024**

ITC held a Meet and Greet meeting with The Honorable Gilbert Boustany, Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda in Miami and Dean of the Consular Corps in Miami. We discussed potential areas of collaboration between Miami-Dade County and Antigua and Barbuda as well as the Miami Consular Corps, with focus on strengthening trade relations and exploring collaboration in areas such as AI, sports diplomacy, and food and beverage. Our partnership is designed to drive economic growth and tackle global challenges together. We look forward to working together to enhance our multilateral trade ties.

## **OCTOBER 21, 2024**

ITC joined Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III to kick off Day 1 of WTE Miami, a travel and tourism conference that brings together decision-makers from airlines, tourism bureaus, tour operators, travel agents, and other professionals in the industry. This two-day event promotes outbound destinations and provides the opportunity for companies to showcase their latest products/services, attract new customers, take advantage of advertising opportunities, expand distributor network and contacts, and meet face to face with international professionals. For the second year in a row, ITC had the pleasure to connect with representatives from all regions of the world fostering new opportunities for collaboration. Global Engagement Officer Phillipa Valencia represents the ITC in the WTE Miami Planning Committee

## **OCTOBER 22, 2024**

As Miami-Dade County's lead liaison to the Consular Corps, ITC was invited to attend the 2024 Consular Corps & Community Leadership Luncheon hosted by American Jewish Committee (AJC) Miami Chapter. The Honorable Kazuhiro Nakai, Consul General of Japan and Acting Dean of the Miami Consular Corps, provided welcome remarks, and Mayor Daniella Levine Cava highlighted the importance of solidarity. This event shined light on the importance of strengthening connections and pursuing solutions in challenging times.



## **OCTOBER 23, 2024**

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ITC joined Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, at the 25th Annual U.S. Africa Trade and Investment Conference/Expo, better known as “AfriCANDO”, where he provided welcome remarks and highlighted the importance of bilateral trade between Miami-Dade County and the African and Caribbean regions. ITC also moderated a panel discussion with representatives from PortMiami, MIA, and Beacon Council to discuss what efforts are being made to create new market access with Africa.

## **OCTOBER 23, 2024**

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ITC participated in the CEPAL Trade Perspectives Report Launch, which explored global economic trends, structural changes in international trade, and key growth areas. The event analyzed how these changes are shaping the region formerly known as Latin America and the Caribbean in the global economy.

## **OCTOBER 23, 2024**

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ITC participated in the GoGlobal Program at Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus, hosting a Chilean delegation showcasing companies focused on sustainability and carbon footprint reduction.

## **OCTOBER 25 - 26, 2024**

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ITC represented Miami-Dade County at Florida’s 42nd Annual MEDWeek Financial Power Lunch & B2B Matchmaker Conference. Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency, this event supports the local small and minority business community that are looking to enter/expand the global market. We extend our thanks and congratulations to M. Gill & Associates for the invitation and this year’s event. The following evening, ITC Global Engagement Officers Phillipa Valencia and Eduardo Cuadra were joined by ITC Board Member Brenda Betancourt at the MEDWeek Gala & Awards Ceremony held on Saturday evening.

## **OCTOBER 29, 2024**

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ITC was proud to support Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Commissioner Raquel Regalado, and Commissioner Juan Carlos “JC” Bermudez, at the 2024 Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) Annual Meeting. We look forward to continuing working together with the GMCVB to promote Miami-Dade County as a prime arts and culture, convention, and leisure travel destination.

## **NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

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ITC participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the inaugural Volaris Airline flight to San Salvador, El Salvador, at Miami International Airport. ITC attended the event with key leaders, including Miami’s new Consul General of El Salvador, Karla Elizabeth Jubis de Miguel. This new route will bring additional opportunities for trade and cultural exchange.

## **NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

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ITC joined Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, at the Western Hemisphere Nearshoring event, hosted by Miami Dade College., designed to foster dialogue on key issues impacting economic development and trade relations between Miami and Latin America. This event featured prominent speakers from the public, private, and academic sectors, including U.S. Congressman Carlos A. Gimenez, Chairman Oliver Gilbert, Miami International Airport (MIA)’s Marketing Director Emir Pineda, and representatives from PortMiami and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC). Kirk Laughlin from Nearshore Americas served as moderator. Amid the rising trend of nearshoring in the Americas, the panels covered topics such as enhancing trade ties between the U.S., Miami, and Latin America; expanding supply chain opportunities; positioning Miami as a strategic hub; recognizing Latin America’s role as a vital partner for Miami; and exploring international collaboration to secure technical and financial support for projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This event was coordinated by ITC in collaboration with MIA, PortMiami, Nearshore Americas, GMCC, TTT Networking Inc., Xstrategy US LLC, KatoenNatie, and HSBC. We extend our thanks to all speakers and participants for their support.

## **NOVEMBER 8, 2024**

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ITC organized a key meeting with Entre Islas, the Central American Tourism Agency, to discuss potential collaborations in organizing trade missions to Central America. The discussion was centered on promoting Miami as a hub for tourism-related investments and trade. The session aimed at strengthening the region’s economic ties with Central America, emphasizing the role of local tourism agencies and companies in the trade missions. ITC is working to facilitate partnerships between Central American companies and Miami-based businesses to drive tourism and commercial exchanges.

## **NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

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ITC joined Commissioner Marlein Bastien and the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF) for the “Celebrating Community Champions” event. Consul General Antonio Reginald Victor-Louis and HACCOF recognized Mr. Gerard Philippeaux, Executive Director, ITC, for his years of service to the community.

## **NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

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ITC met with Carla P. Hibbert, Principal Management Consultant of Aura Creatives Global Development Group and International Ambassador of ACT Africa, to discuss areas of collaboration in promoting trade between Miami-Dade County and the Caribbean as well as revitalizing the Sister Cities relationship between Miami-Dade County and the Cayman Islands.

## **NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

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ITC met The Honorable Seheli Sabrin, the new Consul General of Bangladesh in Miami and opportunities for enhanced trade, cultural exchange, and economic partnerships.

## **NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

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ITC participated in the CINTEL Colombia event (ANDICOM) at the Beacon Council with Angela Camacho. Discussions included potential collaborations with universities and consul generals to establish a stronger presence in Miami and enhance access to the Latin American market directly from Miami-Dade County.

## **DECEMBER 6, 2024**

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ITC attended the State of the Ports 2024, hosted by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SFLHCC). This important event highlighted the achievements and future of PortMiami and Miami International Airport (MIA), two critical gateways for global trade and Miami-Dade County's key economic engines.

## **DECEMBER 12, 2024**

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ITC attended the State of the Ports 2024, hosted by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SFLHCC). This important event highlighted the achievements and future plans of PortMiami and Miami International Airport, two critical gateways for global trade and Miami-Dade County's key economic engines.

## **DECEMBER 9-14, 2024**

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ITC attended the Connected Caribbean Summit (CCS) 2024, organized by CARICOM, where nations in the Caribbean engaged in discussions centered around this year's theme "Collaborating for Caribbean Solutions." The conference, which began on Monday, December 9, in Miami, brought together distinguished leaders, including The Honorable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and Chairman of CARICOM, who delivered a keynote speech highlighting his vision for a more integrated and prosperous Caribbean.

## **DECEMBER 19, 2024**

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ITC attended the Consular Corps of Miami Luncheon.

## **JANUARY 24, 2025**

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ITC met and welcomed the new Consul General of Japan in Miami, The Honorable Junya Nakano, to discuss strengthening economic and cultural ties.

## **JANUARY 29, 2025**

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ITC met with the leadership of the American Jewish Committee South Florida to discuss collaboration opportunities.

## **FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

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Intrade Committee Meeting: ITC hosted the Intrade Committee meeting at the Stephen P. Clark Center. Key stakeholders from Miami's trade and commerce sectors, including representatives from local businesses and trade offices, participated. Discussions included how Miami could improve its participation in international trade events, attract foreign delegations, and further promote Miami as a prime destination for investment and trade conferences. ITC focused on enhancing Miami's role as a global business hub by bringing in delegations from Latin America and other key markets to Miami-based conferences. This meeting highlighted Miami's importance for international companies looking to enter the U.S. market.

## **FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

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ITC attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners Vice Chairman Kionne McGhee of the 2025 Miami International Boat Show.

## **FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

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Discussions with Companies from Mexico: ITC organized discussions with representatives from several Mexican companies. The main focus was on inviting these companies to participate in the Emerge and South Summit Conferences in Miami. During the meeting, companies such as Grupo Bimbo, a major player in the food industry, and Softech, a global IT services company, were identified as key prospects to expand their operations into the U.S. market. ITC showcased how these conferences could serve as platforms for these companies to build strategic partnerships, access new markets, and explore opportunities for growth in the U.S.

## **FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

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ITC celebrated with European American Chamber of Commerce (EACC) South Florida its 5th anniversary! Over the past five years, EACC South Florida has been instrumental in strengthening transatlantic trade, investment, and business collaboration between South Florida and Europe. This milestone celebration also featured an engaging discussion on Tech Policy in the EU and US, where industry experts explored the evolving regulatory landscape, AI advancements, and the impact of policies on global trade.

## **FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

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Presentation and Tour of PortMiami with Costa Rican Trade Office: ITC organized a detailed presentation and tour of PortMiami with the Costa Rican Trade Office. The event highlighted PortMiami's logistics and infrastructure capabilities, which are key for facilitating trade between Costa Rica and the U.S. Costa Rican companies such as LAFISE, a leading financial services provider, were introduced to PortMiami's facilities, emphasizing opportunities for smoother export-import operations. The tour was a key step in strengthening the bilateral trade relationship and fostering a deeper connection between Costa Rican exporters and Miami-based logistics services.

## **FEBRUARY 19-20, 2025**

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ITC was joined by ITC Board Member Lynare Robbins at the Outlook on the Americas Conference, which was hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean (AACCLA). As the first major hemispheric business event of the year, the conference fostered open dialogue on the key economic and political issues that will shape hemispheric trade and investment in 2025. During the event, ITC engaged with business executives, political leaders, including H.E. Roberto Alvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, as well as American Chamber of Commerce representatives from across the Americas.

## **FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

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ITC attended World Trade Center Miami's Stakeholders Meeting. The discussion centered around upcoming trade events, collaborations and strategic partnerships.

## **FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

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ITC met with the new Honorary Consul of Czechia Jitka Putra. Ms. Putra wants to focus on promoting the Sister Cities relationship between Prague and Miami-Dade County.

## **FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

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ITC met with Eduardo Torres and Isabel Davila from the US Commercial Service to discuss partnership opportunities. ITC is discussing collaboration with them on upcoming events like the visit of the EU Trade Commissioners to Miami in March and the US-Caribbean Business Conference in May.





## **FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

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ITC attended the Dominican Independence Day Lighting Ceremony Celebration, organized by Latinos United and the Hispanic Coalition. ITC presented a proclamation to the event organizers, declaring February 27, 2025, as “Dominican Independence Day” in Miami-Dade County.

## **MARCH 4, 2025**

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ITC met with The Honorable Antonio Reginald Victor-Louis, Consul General of Haiti in Miami, to discuss areas of collaboration and help build stronger ties between Miami-Dade County and Haiti.

## **MARCH 5, 2025**

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ITC met with the Vice Consul of the Consulate General of India in Atlanta to discuss a potential networking meeting in Miami in April involving Indian businesses and the diaspora.

## **MARCH 7, 2025**

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ITC met with Polish companies looking to explore Miami as a business destination. ITC to introduce these companies to strategic partners.

## **MARCH 12, 2025**

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Meeting with Colombian Consul General Oscar Fernando Marmolejo: ITC met with the newly appointed Colombian Consul General, Oscar Fernando Marmolejo, to explore opportunities for collaboration in infrastructure development, technology, and community engagement with Miami’s Colombian diaspora. The discussion focused on strengthening business ties between Colombia and Miami-Dade County by facilitating trade delegations and investment initiatives. This meeting aims to enhance bilateral cooperation and identify key sectors for future partnerships.

## **MARCH 12, 2025**

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Intrade Committee Meeting with European Consuls: ITC hosted an Intrade Committee meeting at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, extending invitations to Vice Consuls from the European region and other consular representatives who had not previously engaged with Intrade. The session introduced the committee's initiatives and an overview of the benefits of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce membership. Newly engaged diplomatic representatives included the Consulates of Argentina, Italy, Romania, Canada, Germany, France, and Bolivia. These consulates expressed strong interest in the Intrade group and have committed to participating in future engagements to enhance international trade and investment collaboration.

## **APRIL 1, 2025**

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ITC met with Roxana Silvera, President and CEO of the Doral Hispanic Women Chamber of Commerce, for a productive and insightful discussion. The conversation focused on the role of ITC in fostering global economic growth and the key initiatives that contribute to strengthening international relationships, particularly the benefits of the Sister Cities Program.

## **APRIL 10, 2025**

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ITC organized a courtesy visit to welcome the new Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago in Miami, The Honorable Bruce Lai. The discussion focused on ways ITC can support the Consulate's mission, with an emphasis on strengthening cultural bridges and fostering meaningful exchange. Consul General Lai expressed keen interest in partnership around disaster management and resilience efforts, as well as highlighted the importance of bringing the vibrant cultural experiences already present in other parts of the region into Miami-Dade County.

## **APRIL 27, 2025**

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ITC attended the National Day celebrations of the Netherlands hosted by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Miami.

## **MAY 8, 2025**

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ITC, in partnership with the American Society for AI and Miami Dade College, hosted a Roundtable on the Impact of AI on International Trade. The discussion brought together brilliant minds from academia, the public and private sectors, startups, and innovators to explore how AI is transforming global trade.



## **MAY 13-14, 2025**

ITC represented Miami-Dade County at the 2025 U.S.–Caribbean Business Conference, held May 13-14 in Miami. Organized by the South Florida District Export Council, in collaboration with the U.S. Commercial Service, the event brought together U.S. diplomats, government officials, trade experts, and private-sector leaders to explore new opportunities for expanding business across the Caribbean. ITC Senior Global Engagement Officer Sudeshna Chatterjee moderated a forward-looking panel on AI and innovation, highlighting how emerging technologies are transforming strategies across sectors and creating new opportunities for regional collaboration. ITC also promoted Miami-Dade's position as a global trade hub through a tabletop exhibit, engaging attendees and showcasing the County's strengths in logistics, innovation, and international business.

## **MAY 16-17, 2025**

ITC attended the International Trade and Development Forum 2025 which was organized by the Dominican International Business & Tourism Chamber, Inc. The two-day event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, trade professionals, and policy leaders from across the Americas to explore opportunities in real estate, commerce, finance, tourism, and international investment in Dominican Republic.

## **MAY 22, 2025**

ITC hosted a luncheon briefing for members of the Consular Corps and trade commissioners representing Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the event was to engage in a dialogue about the upcoming 27th InterAmerican Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities, scheduled for September 29-30, 2025, in Miami, Florida. The luncheon served as an opportunity to share preliminary conference details, including objectives, themes, and partnership opportunities.

## **JUNE 11, 2025**

ITC attended the Global Sales Mission organized by The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation—an event focused on strengthening ties with key international partners. We welcomed Deputy Prime Minister the Honorable I. Chester Cooper and Director General Latia Duncombe to Miami-Dade County, reaffirming the strong relationship between our communities. The mission highlighted ongoing collaboration in tourism, economic development, and cultural exchange. Special thanks to the Consulate General of The Bahamas in Miami for the invitation and continued partnership.

## **JUNE 25, 2025**

The Center for International Trade Development-Miami (CITD) Magazine's latest edition carries an article on ITC forging powerful connections with African cities and institutions, from Johannesburg to Dakar, building bridges for global cooperation and economic growth. The article is authored by ITC's Sudeshna Chatterjee.

## **JULY 3, 2025**

ITC had a productive meeting with the Consul General of India in Atlanta, The Honorable Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan, to explore new avenues of collaboration between India and Miami-Dade County. The conversation touched on several exciting opportunities — including the potential for a direct flight, strengthening education and research linkages, exploring synergies in the cruise and tourism industries, and tapping into the cutting-edge innovations emerging from India's thriving tech sector.

## **JULY 11, 2025**

ITC attended the State of the Port 2025 hosted by World Trade Center Miami, featuring Ralph Cutie, CEO of Miami International Airport (MIA), and Hydi Webb, CEO of PortMiami, providing presentations highlighting their performances in terms of travel and trade statistics, as well as updates on capital improvement programs and infrastructure investments. The event is significant as it showcases the economic impact of these ports, which collectively generate over \$75 billion and sustain over 610,000 jobs.

## **JULY 11, 2025**

ITC attended the Thai Festival, celebrating the rich flavors, stories, and cultural influence of Thailand at the “Timeless Thai Taste” reception in Miami on July 11. The event, organized by the Thai Trade Center Miami, spotlighted Thai cuisine, Y Series pop culture, and storytelling as a powerful tool of cultural diplomacy and commerce. ITC Board Member Ms. Preeya Disyanan helped coordinate the event. ITC Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux delivered remarks underscoring the importance of deepening bilateral relations between Thailand and Miami-Dade County—through trade, tourism, and creative exchange.

## **JULY 14, 2025**

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ITC attended the National Day celebrations of France hosted by the Consulate General of France in Miami.

## **JULY 14, 2025**

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ITC hosted the Sister Cities Committee Meeting. The Committee discussed ITC's ongoing initiatives with existing Sister Cities and the pipeline.

## **JULY 18, 2025**

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ITC met with Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco in Miami, The Honorable Chafika El Habti. Discussions covered a wide range of collaborative opportunities — from exploring Sister Cities agreement with Casablanca and deepening bilateral trade through inbound and outbound missions, to Morocco's potential participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup hosted in Miami, the upcoming 250th Anniversary celebrations in 2027, and future cultural exchange initiatives.

## **JULY 18, 2025**

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UTSAV 2025 brought a vibrant celebration of Indian art, music, and culture to the heart of Miami-Dade County! Utsav, meaning festival, beautifully showcased the richness of the Indian heritage. Mayor Daniella Levine Cava congratulated the Miami Association of Indian Americans for Culture and Arts (MAIACA) for organizing the event and emphasized the vital role that art and culture play in connecting communities and fostering unity. Representing ITC, Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux and Senior Global Engagement Officer Sudeshna Chatterjee spoke about the role of cultural diplomacy in expanding bilateral trade and strengthening international ties.

## **JULY 19, 2025**

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The Consulate General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in Miami hosted a Diplomatic Dinner under the distinguished patronage of The Honorable Frederick A. Mitchell, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas, and led by Consul General Tyson K. McKenzie. The event celebrated the 52nd Anniversary of Bahamian Independence and the 52nd anniversary of the founding of CARICOM: Caribbean Community. The evening brought together an esteemed gathering of diplomats, elected officials, and community leaders to foster dialogue and regional cooperation. Guests included Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, The Honorable Bruce Lai, Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago in Miami, The Honorable Kerry Frank, Deputy Consul General of Grenada in Miami, and Gerard Philippeaux, Executive Director of the ITC, among others. ITC's presence underscored the strong economic and institutional ties between Miami-Dade County and The Bahamas, supported by agreements such as the Sister Cities International partnership, a Sister Seaport agreement between PortMiami and the Bahamas Port Department, and a Memorandum of Understanding between Miami-Dade County and the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation promoting collaboration in film, education, and related sectors. Throughout the night, attendees engaged in meaningful discussions on Caribbean unity, trade, and cultural ties, highlighting the shared history and goals of CARICOM member states. The dinner also strengthened diplomatic relations between The Bahamas, the United States, and South Florida partners. The evening was marked by warm exchanges, formal recognitions, and a spirit of collaboration — a fitting tribute to both The Bahamas' Independence and CARICOM's enduring legacy.

## **JULY 30, 2025**

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ITC had the pleasure of attending the Kingdom of Morocco's Throne Day Reception in Miami. ITC Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux delivered remarks highlighting the strong and growing relationship between Miami-Dade County and Morocco—including trade ties, cultural exchanges, and a sister seaport agreement with the Port of Casablanca. The office of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners presented an official proclamation commemorating Throne Day and reaffirming our shared commitment to diplomacy, partnership, and mutual prosperity.

## **AUGUST 22, 2025**

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ITC Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux joined distinguished panelists at Florida Memorial University's Global Summit 2025 on August 12, for the discussion on Economic Development & Bilateral Trade – From Dialogue to Deal Flow. During the panel on Economic Development & Bilateral Trade – From Dialogue to Deal Flow, Mr. Philippeaux emphasized that while bilateral trade between the U.S. and South Africa exceeds \$25 billion annually, much of its potential remains untapped. He highlighted new opportunities in renewable energy, technology, agribusiness, and creative industries, as well as Miami-Dade County's role in advancing infrastructure projects like the upcoming Future-Ready Phytosanitary Treatment and Cold Chain Processing Facility at PortMiami and Miami International Airport (MIA)—a \$141 million investment that will help African exporters reach U.S. markets more efficiently.



## **AUGUST 26, 2025**

ITC organized a courtesy visit to welcome the new Consul General of The Bahamas in Miami, Mr. Tyson Mckenzie. The discussion focused on identifying areas of mutual interest and exploring how ITC can support the Consulate's mission to strengthen bilateral relations.

## **AUGUST 27, 2025**

ITC was honored to take part in a thoughtful conversation hosted by the World Affairs Council featuring Ambassador Mayorga, focusing on U.S.–El Salvador relations. Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of the strong bilateral relations between El Salvador and Miami-Dade County.

## **AUGUST 29, 2025**

ITC was honored to welcome ProPanama to Miami-Dade County for a dynamic visit that included tours of Interport Logistics and the City of Doral, as well as a networking reception hosted by the World Trade Center Miami. The visit highlighted opportunities to strengthen trade and investment between Panama and our region.

## **AUGUST 29, 2025**

ITC Director Gerard Philippeaux joined Consul General María Virginia Tebot Denis in celebrating this important occasion and reaffirming the strong economic, commercial, and cultural ties between #Uruguay and Miami-Dade County.

## **SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

ITC was honored to attend the award ceremony recognizing Berta Soler Fernández, a courageous Cuban human rights activist and leader of the opposition group Ladies in White, at The Biltmore Hotel on September 2, 2025. The ceremony highlighted Ms. Fernández's remarkable efforts in advocating for freedom and human rights, and although she was not allowed to travel, her strong presence was felt across the room. Distinguished guests included the US Secretary of State, The Honorable Marco Rubio and Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Radosław Sikorski. ITC was privileged to be part of this important moment in the fight for justice. Later, ITC participated in a reception hosted by Ambassador Mark Wallace and Dr. Hiva Wallace in honor of the Ladies in White and Deputy Prime Minister Sikorski.

## **SEPTEMBER 5, 2025**

The DR–Miami-Dade Economics and Investment Opportunities Forum 2025, hosted by the Dominican International Business & Tourism Chamber and the Dominican Republic Consulate in Miami, brought together leaders from government, business, and trade to explore new avenues of collaboration between Miami-Dade County and the Dominican Republic. ITC Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux participated in Panel 1 alongside Miami-Dade County Government Senior Advisor for Economic Opportunity Manny Cid, Beacon Council Vice President of Business Development Nidia Martinez Quezada, and Miami International Airport - MIA Section Chief for Cargo Development Dimitrios "Jimmy" Nares. In this exchange on the current state and future outlook of trade, Mr. Philippeaux underscored Miami-Dade's \$8.1B trade relationship with the Dominican Republic, emphasized Miami-Dade's unique role as the Global Gateway, and highlighted how the Dominican Republic is well-positioned to benefit from nearshoring as long as it continues to strengthen its infrastructure. He also spoke about the importance of logistics modernization, digital trade, and expanding opportunities for small businesses to participate in international commerce. The discussion also addressed how ITC connects Miami-Dade businesses with international partners, the role of infrastructure such as PortMiami and Miami International Airport in sustaining growth, and how bilateral cooperation can unlock new investment opportunities. Following Panel 1, Mr. Philippeaux was invited to continue contributing to Panel 2, where the dialogue turned to supply chain resilience, cargo development, and investment in aviation and maritime trade. Drawing on his background in seaport strategy and intergovernmental affairs, he emphasized that nearshoring will thrive only if both Miami-Dade and the Dominican Republic continue to invest strategically in their ports, airports, and logistics networks. ITC's participation at the Forum reflects its mission to champion Miami-Dade's role as the Global Gateway while fostering enduring and mutually beneficial ties with the Dominican Republic.



# Trade Missions

During the fiscal year, the International Trade Commission (ITC) coordinated several inbound and outbound trade missions, further reinforcing Miami-Dade County's position as a global business hub.

## INBOUND TRADE MISSIONS

involve reciprocal visits from cities previously engaged by Miami-Dade County or initiated through invitations from consulates, trade offices, and partner organizations, both domestic and international. The ITC welcomes these delegations, coordinates agendas with local government and economic development entities, and provides logistical support.

## OUTBOUND MISSIONS

include meetings with senior government officials and economic development agencies abroad to promote Miami-Dade County's stature as a "Global Gateway" and the "Gateway to the Americas" for international trade.

ITC HOSTED A TOTAL OF **31** INBOUND TRADE MISSIONS AND ORGANIZED **4** OUTBOUND MISSIONS IN FY 2024-25 AS FOLLOWS:

### OCTOBER 23, 2024

ITC teamed up with IMPACTIFI's international program to host a tech delegation from Chile in collaboration with ProChile USA. The opportunity for these companies to connect with the tech ecosystem in Miami-Dade County provided valuable insights and help in adopting emerging technologies. This exposure can also assist them in understanding the potential compatibility of their solutions within our community. Moreover, learning about public-private partnerships investing in tech companies in the region can offer significant growth opportunities for these companies. ITC was pleased to participate and witness initiatives fostering global connections and innovation within the tech industry.

### NOVEMBER 8, 2024

ITC organized a key meeting with Entre Islas, the Central American Tourism Agency, to discuss potential collaborations in organizing trade missions to Central America. The discussion was centered on promoting Miami as a hub for tourism-related investments and trade. The session aimed at strengthening the region's economic ties with Central America, emphasizing the role of local tourism agencies and companies in the trade missions. ITC is working to facilitate partnerships between Central American companies and Miami-based businesses to drive tourism and commercial exchanges.

### NOVEMBER 12, 2024

ITC hosted the Chile Inbound Tech Delegation for meetings centered on technology sector opportunities. In collaboration with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, ITC positioned Miami-Dade County as an attractive hub for emerging technology investments.

## DECEMBER 2, 2024

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ITC attended the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Miami-Dade County and the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments and Aviation. The signing ceremony included Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Senator Rene Garcia, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Minister Ginger Moxey, and Consul General Curt Hollingsworth. The MOU was established by and through the Bahamas Film and Television Commission, a unit of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments and Aviation, and the Miami-Dade Office of Film and Entertainment. In 2024, Film Miami launched the successful High Impact Film Fund Program, championed by Senator Rene Garcia. As key hubs for the international community and as Sister Cities, Miami-Dade County and The Bahamas will leverage this partnership to enhance the region's appeal and attract more projects.

## DECEMBER 9-14, 2024

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ITC attended the Connected Caribbean Summit (CCS) 2024, organized by CARICOM, where nations in the Caribbean engaged in discussions centered around this year's theme "Collaborating for Caribbean Solutions." The conference, which began on Monday, December 9, in Miami, brought together distinguished leaders, including The Honorable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and Chairman of CARICOM, who delivered a keynote speech highlighting his vision for a more integrated and prosperous Caribbean.

## FEBRUARY 2, 2025

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ITC hosted a productive business roundtable with the Croatian delegation led by His Excellency Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia. Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in technology, increased connectivity, trade, tourism, and building on the existing ties between Croatia and Miami-Dade County. MIA, PortMiami, SelectFlorida, Beacon Council and European American Chamber participated in the briefing. ITC introduced the Minister to Vice Mayor of North Bay Village, The Honorable Goran Cuk. In the evening, ITC joined the delegation and other members of the local Croatian community for a welcome reception hosted by the Croatian American Cultural Center in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

## FEBRUARY 5, 2025

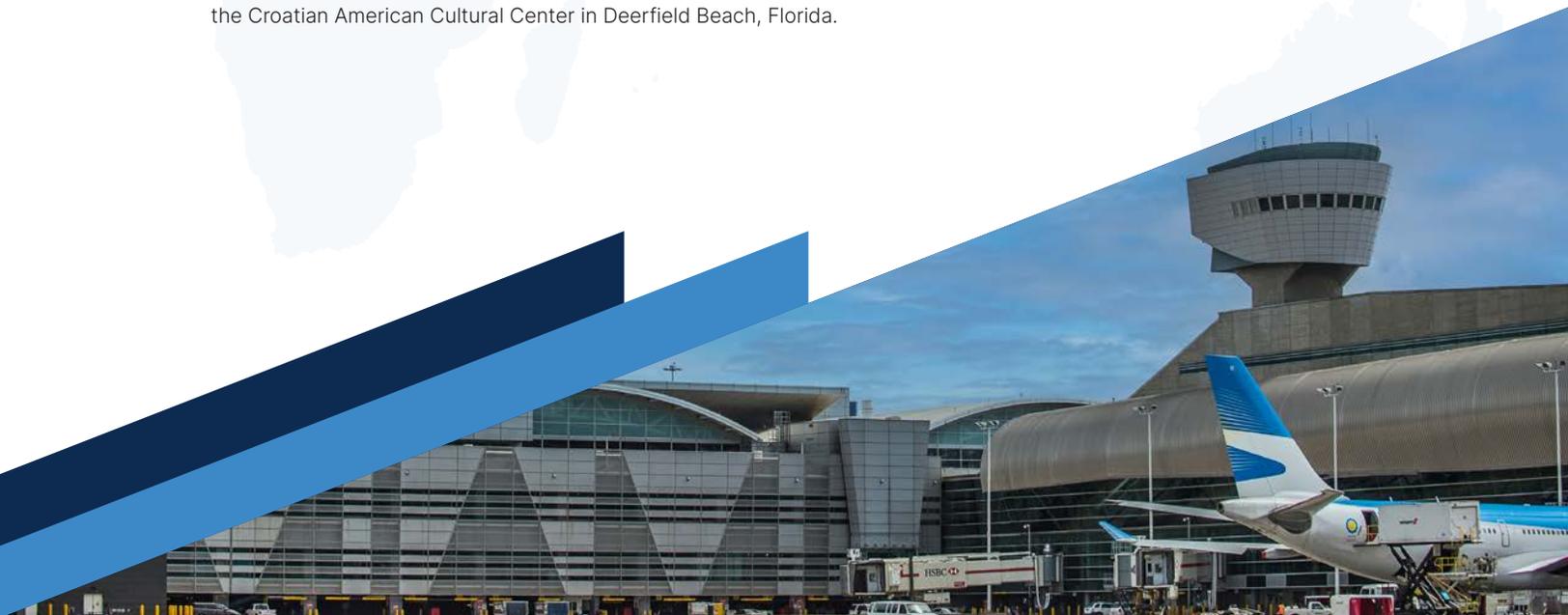
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ITC hosted the Intrade Committee meeting at the Stephen P. Clark Center. Key stakeholders from Miami's trade and commerce sectors, including representatives from local businesses and trade offices, participated. Discussions included how Miami could improve its participation in international trade events, attract foreign delegations, and further promote Miami as a prime destination for investment and trade conferences. ITC focused on enhancing Miami's role as a global business hub by bringing in delegations from Latin America and other key markets to Miami-based conferences. This meeting highlighted Miami's importance for international companies looking to enter the U.S. market.

## FEBRUARY 7, 2025

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ITC hosted a productive business roundtable with the Croatian delegation led by His Excellency Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia. Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in technology, increased connectivity, trade, tourism, and building on the existing ties between Croatia and Miami-Dade County. ITC also facilitated meetings with PortMiami and Vice Mayor of North Bay Village, Goran Cuk. In the evening, ITC Global Engagement Officer Phillipa Valencia joined the delegation and other members of the local Croatian community for a welcome reception hosted by the Croatian American Cultural Center in Deerfield Beach, Florida.



## **FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

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ITC organized discussions with representatives from several Mexican companies. The main focus was on inviting these companies to participate in the Emerge and South Summit Conferences in Miami. During the meeting, companies such as Grupo Bimbo, a major player in the food industry, and Softech, a global IT services company, were identified as key prospects to expand their operations into the U.S. market. ITC showcased how these conferences could serve as platforms for these companies to build strategic partnerships, access new markets, and explore opportunities for growth in the U.S.

## **FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

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ITC organized a detailed presentation and tour of PortMiami with the Costa Rican Trade Office. The event highlighted PortMiami's logistics and infrastructure capabilities, which are key for facilitating trade between Costa Rica and the U.S. Costa Rican companies such as LAFISE, a leading financial services provider, were introduced to PortMiami's facilities, emphasizing opportunities for smoother export-import operations. The tour was a key step in strengthening the bilateral trade relationship and fostering a deeper connection between Costa Rican exporters and Miami-based logistics services.

## **FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

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ITC met with The Honorable Sophie Joissains, Mayor of Aix-en-Provence, leading a distinguished delegation focused on expanding collaboration between our regions. Discussions centered on partnerships in innovation, tourism, food & beverage, air connectivity, and education, reinforcing the shared commitment to economic and cultural exchange.

## **MARCH 6-7, 2025**

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ITC participated for the third time in the 60 Million Congress. ITC Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III gave remarks during the opening ceremony, emphasizing the importance of Poland in terms of regional security and as an emerging economic hub.

## **MARCH 10, 2025**

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ITC organized a meeting between ITC Vice Chairman Juan Carlos Bermudez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, and The Honorable Angie Moreno, Vice Mayor & Delegate for Tourism and Culture of the Seville City Council and delegates from the City of Seville Tourism Board.

## **MARCH 10, 2025**

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ITC met with the leadership of AICEP, Portugal Trade & Invest to discuss emerging sectors, business delegations and potential areas of collaboration. ITC introduced the delegates to Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and facilitated a meeting between the two.



## **MARCH 12, 2025**

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ITC organized a briefing session for His Excellency Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy, and Minister for Transport, Ireland. ITC briefed the delegation about bilateral trade opportunities between the two regions and invited TPO, MIA and PortMiami to join the discussion.

## **MARCH 18, 2025**

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ITC welcomed His Excellency Georg Sparber, Ambassador, Embassy of Liechtenstein in the United States of America, on the occasion of the first official visit of the Principality of Liechtenstein to Miami and Gerard Philippeaux, Executive Director spoke about opportunities of bilateral trade.

## **MARCH 20-21, 2025**

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ITC hosted the EU Trade Counselors Delegation to Miami-Dade County on March 20–21, 2025 for a high-level exchange on strengthening transatlantic trade ties. Organized by ITC, the visit brought together representatives from the Embassy of the European Union in Washington and Trade Counselors from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia, Portugal, Austria, and the Netherlands - each offering unique expertise and new opportunities for collaboration.

## **MARCH 28, 2025**

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ITC met with The Honorable Eduardo Kery Metivier, Mayor of City of La Romana, Dominican Republic, who was accompanied by Riky Garcia, Founder and Director, Global Surgical Volunteers Inc., to discuss collaboration and the future of bilateral trade between Miami and La Romana. The Mayor's visit to our office is a direct follow up of the December 2024 travel launch of Miami International Airport's direct flight to La Romana, during which the ITC, along with Chairman Anthony Rodriguez, and ITC Vice Chairman Kevin Marino Cabrera, met with the city's leadership to strengthen ties.

## **APRIL 11, 2025**

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ITC partnered with the Embassy of Estonia in the United States, to host His Excellency Kaupo Läänerand, Deputy Minister for Maritime and Water Affairs of Estonia, and a delegation of 11 Estonian maritime companies for a high-level roundtable in Miami-Dade County. These innovative companies are actively seeking strategic partnerships in South Florida's maritime, logistics, and cruise sectors, exploring collaboration opportunities in technology, sustainability, and infrastructure.

## **APRIL 22, 2025**

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ITC partnered with Global Ties Miami to host ten European leaders, focused on safeguarding economic growth through effective foreign investment screening. The delegation met with Gerard Philippeaux, Executive Director, and Sudeshna Chatterjee, Sr. Global Engagement Officer. They discussed Miami Dade's approach to international diplomacy and trade policy. Delegates also heard from Sophia Cunningham, Assistant Director of Compliance at the Strategic Procurement Department.

## **MAY 2, 2025**

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ITC welcomed Consul General of Lithuania in New York, The Honorable Dovydas Spokauskas and Mr. Giedrius Galkauskas, Deputy Consul General to Miami for a productive meeting. The discussions highlighted opportunities in key sectors such as fintech, biotech, aerospace, and semiconductors, where Lithuanian companies have strong potential to expand not only into Florida and Miami's dynamic innovation ecosystem but also as a strategic gateway to the broader Latin American market.

## **MAY 7, 2025**

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ITC met with Mr. Mohamed Elfane, President of the Moroccan Franchise Federation, and Ms. Khadija Rezgani, Vice-President, a meeting initiated by Consul General Chafika El Habti Mawahibi and joined by Vice-Consul Lalla Hind Boughanbour from the Consulate General of The Kingdom of Morocco in Miami.

## **MAY 20, 2025**

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ITC welcomed the International Management students from the University of Galway's J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics to Miami-Dade County for a special session on "Miami-Dade County as a Gateway to Latin America." Now in its third year, this annual briefing hosted by the ITC continues to strengthen our academic and global ties with Ireland. Students heard directly from leaders in international business, trade, and diplomacy, including Vice Consul Dara Mac Gabhann, Consulate General of Ireland in Miami, Dean Pamela Fuertes Berti, Miami Dade College, Jaime Silva, ProChile, and Sudeshna Chatterjee from ITC, who presented on the County's trade relations, innovation economy, and global engagement efforts.

## **MAY 27, 2025**

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ITC had a productive meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Serbia and the Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium (ITC). The Serbian delegation was led by Secretary General Dušan Kozarev, joined by Deputy General Secretary Nebojsa Radojicic and team. Representing Miami-Dade County were ITC's Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux, and Senior Global Engagement Officer Sudeshna Chatterjee. Mr. TJ Villamil, President of Business Development at eMerge Americas also took part in the meeting.

## **JUNE 23-24, 2025**

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ITC hosted a high-level delegation from our Sister City, the City of Cape Town, South Africa, for a two-day diplomatic and knowledge exchange visit, aimed at deepening bilateral collaboration and municipal-to-municipal engagement. The delegation, consisting of Mr. Lungelo Mbandazayo, City Manager, Ms. Nonqaba Phila Mayisela, Strategic Transversal Projects Executive, and Dr. Denver Christopher Van Schalkwyk, Manager of International Relations, met with Commissioner Gilbert, Miami-Dade County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization's signature Project the I-395 Bridge.

## **JULY 16-17, 2025**

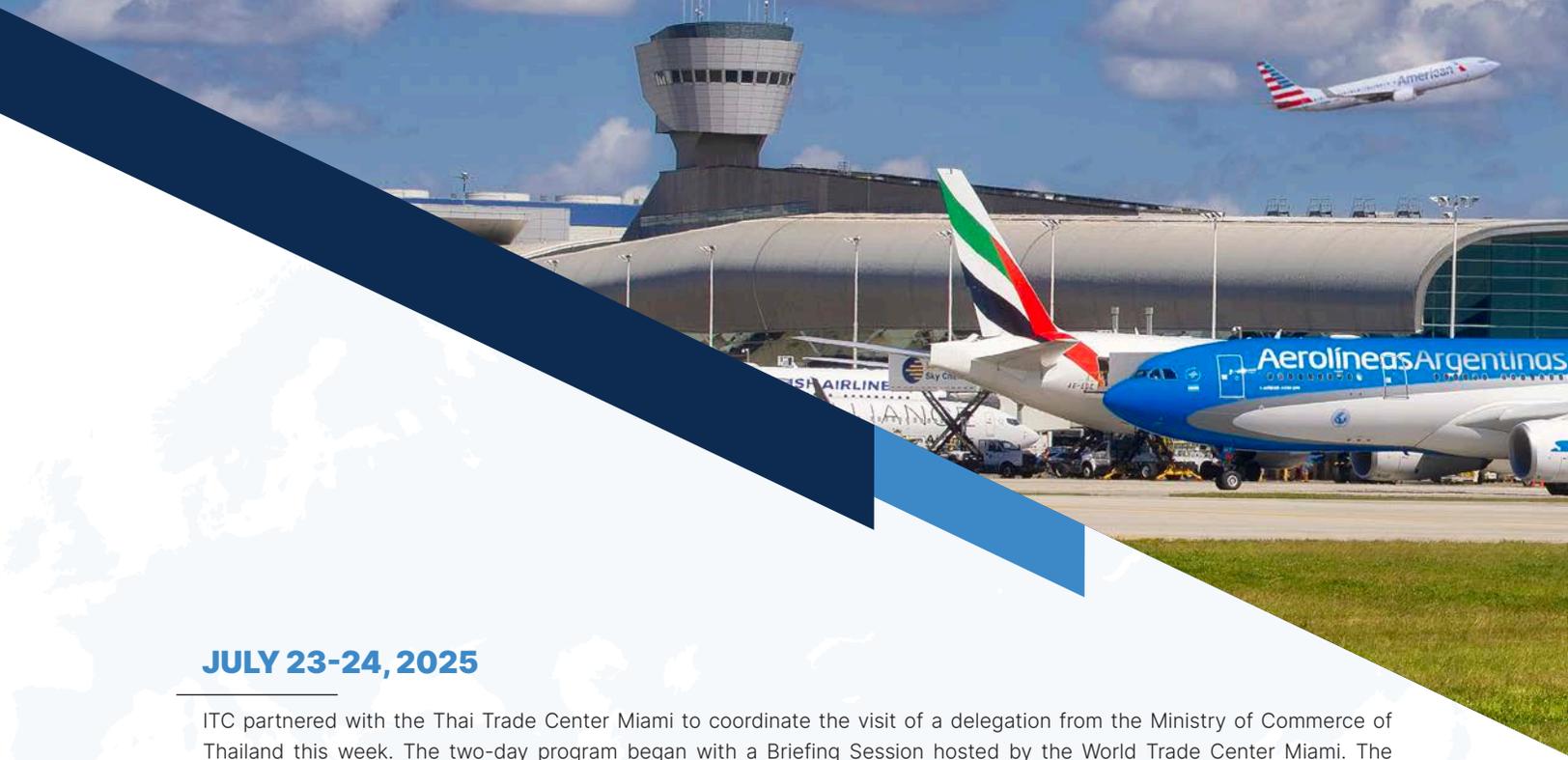
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ITC hosted an inbound delegation from Les Cayes, Haiti, for a strategic engagement aimed at fostering collaboration and partnership across key sectors including logistics, infrastructure, tourism, trade, and economic development. The delegation participated in high-level discussions with prominent South Florida institutions, including the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC), the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF), Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce (MDCC), Miami International Airport (MIA), and IBC Airways. Key topics included strengthening tourism ties, improving air and sea connectivity, and exploring joint trade and infrastructure development initiatives. The visit also featured a site tour of PortMiami, highlighting the region's advanced logistics capabilities and potential areas for collaboration.

## **JULY 22, 2025**

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ITC welcomed with Deputy Chief of Mission, Ambassador Christopher Kirigua of the Embassy of Kenya in the US, to deepen Miami-Dade County's growing ties with the Republic of Kenya. ITC Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux talked about the role ITC can play to promote economic diplomacy between the two regions. Ms. Maria Dreyfus Ulvert from the Office of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Mr. Emir Pineda from Miami Dade Aviation Department, and Ms. Debra Owens and Mr. Nimrod Simeon from PortMiami, contributed extensively to the dialogue.



## **JULY 23-24, 2025**

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ITC partnered with the Thai Trade Center Miami to coordinate the visit of a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand this week. The two-day program began with a Briefing Session hosted by the World Trade Center Miami. The delegation, led by Ms. Sunanta Kangvalkulkij, Director General of Thailand's Department of International Trade Promotion, and joined by Mr. Chavanol Phivnil, Director of the Thai Trade Center Miami was briefed by ITC, and World Trade Center Miami. ITC also set up meetings with PortMiami and the Norwegian Cruise Lines Holding.

## **JULY 25, 2025**

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Through a new contact representatives of the State of Qatar reached out to the ITC to explore the possibility of establishing sister city relation between Miami-Dade County and the State of Qatar through its Ministry of Municipality. ITC Board members will be kept informed as the conversation progresses.

## **SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

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ITC hosted an informative Briefing Session for African Food & Beverage Companies. The session featured insightful briefings from Gerard Philippeaux, Executive Director of ITC, Jimmy Nares, Section Chief for Marketing at Miami-Dade Aviation Department and ITC Board Member, Baltazar Jacques, Chief Data Analyst at PortMiami, Gavin van der Burgh, CEO of US Africa Trade Desk, and Dr. Golden Mahove, Chief Executive Officer of Ndarama Works. Discussions centered on how to improve bilateral trade, the strategic advantages of utilizing Foreign Trade Zones, e-Commerce, Pharmaceuticals and the importance of cold chain processing facilities to ensure the safe transport of food products across borders. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our ties with African businesses and expanding trade and investment opportunities between Africa and Miami-Dade County.

## **SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2025**

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The Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium (ITC) successfully held the 27th InterAmerican Conference of Mayors & Local Authorities on September 29–30, 2025, bringing together over 300 government officials and institutional leaders, including more than 40 mayors from 21 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the ITC in collaboration with Florida International University (FIU), the event reaffirmed Miami-Dade County's leadership as a hemispheric hub for innovation, trade, sustainability, and good governance. Over two days of dialogue and collaboration, participants exchanged best practices and explored key themes including Artificial Intelligence for Public Sector Efficiency, Green Energy, Economic Development and Bilateral Trade, Tourism Growth, Aviation & Cruise Industry, Disaster Management, and other emerging trends shaping the future of local governance and regional development. Notable outcomes included the signing of a Sister Cities International Agreement between Miami-Dade County and Georgetown, Guyana, and a Memorandum of Understanding with Minas Gerais, Brazil, both designed to deepen cooperation in innovation, trade, and sustainable development. The conference concluded with a reaffirmation of ITC's commitment to building bridges between cities, nations, and ideas—promoting collaboration as the foundation for a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous future for the Americas.



## **DECEMBER 5-7, 2024**

ITC organized an economic development mission to La Romana, Dominican Republic in December 2024. The delegation, led by The Honorable Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and joined by The Honorable Kevin M. Cabrera, Commissioner, BCC, District 6, and Vice Chairman, ITC. With the launch of the new direct flight between Miami International Airport and La Romana Casa Campo International Airport on December 5, the delegates met with The Honorable Eduardo Kery Metivier, Mayor of La Romana and The Honorable Ivelise Mercedes Mendez, Provincial Governor of La Romana. This Mission further solidified Miami-Dade County's position as a "Global Gateway" and enhanced bilateral relations in trade and investment between the regions.

## **FEBRUARY 4-6, 2025**

ITC coordinated an Outbound Mission for ITC Chairman Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III to Copenhagen, Denmark. ITC set up meetings with State of Green, Director of ARC and a Tour of Amager Bakke.





## **MAY 11-16, 2025**

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ITC joined the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) and a 24-member delegation on a high-level business mission to Argentina, focused on strengthening international partnerships and exploring emerging economic opportunities. The mission offered a firsthand look at Argentina's economic resurgence, with real GDP growth projected at 6% for 2025 and anticipated annual USD-measured growth nearing 20% over the next two years. During the visit, the delegation engaged with key sectors including environmental solutions, technology innovation, and trade and logistics—building connections that support long-term collaboration between Miami-Dade and Argentina. This mission also highlighted existing ties between our communities. Miami-Dade County established a Sister Cities Agreement with the Province of Mendoza in 2001, and PortMiami maintains a Sister Seaports Agreement with the Port of Buenos Aires—underscoring the longstanding relationship between our regions.

## **JUNE 2025**

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ITC planned and coordinated an Outbound Mission to France, including VivaTech & Paris Air Show. The 25-member delegation was led by Chairman Anthony Rodriguez and ITC Chairman Commissioner Gilbert. The Mission was joined by Commissioner Bastien, Commissioner Cohen Higgins and Commissioner Senator Garcia, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, eMerge America, LSN Partners, Greenberg Traurig and other private organizations. The Mission focused on the emerging tech sectors, urban mobility, tourism and cultural ties.

# Sister Cities Program

Established in 1981 by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, the Sister Cities Program is administered by the Office of the International Trade Consortium (ITC). The program promotes international cultural understanding by developing initiatives that foster citizen diplomacy, build global goodwill, and advance the County's international trade objectives. Miami-Dade County has established Sister Cities relationships across South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Since its inception, the program has implemented innovative projects that have strengthened international cooperation and mutual understanding between the County and its Sister Cities. Sister Cities International, the overarching organization, was founded during President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, with the vision of fostering peace and prosperity through connections among global communities. The Sister Cities Program continues to advance this mission by creating and enhancing partnerships between the United States and communities worldwide through collaboration among local governments, cultural exchange, and economic development initiatives.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
HAS A SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT  
WITH THE FOLLOWING 34 CITIES:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asti Province, Italy</li> <li>2. Asuncion, Paraguay</li> <li>3. Cabildo of Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain</li> <li>4. Cape Town, South Africa</li> <li>5. Cayman Islands, UK*</li> <li>6. City of Grand Turk, Turks &amp; Caicos Islands*</li> <li>7. Commonwealth of the Bahamas</li> <li>8. County Cork, Ireland</li> <li>9. Curitiba, Brazil</li> <li>10. Dakar, Senegal</li> <li>11. Federation of St. Kitts &amp; Nevis Islands</li> <li>12. Georgetown, Guyana</li> <li>13. Iquique, Chile</li> <li>14. Kingston, Jamaica</li> <li>15. Lamentin, Guadeloupe*</li> <li>16. Maldonado, Uruguay</li> <li>17. Mancomunidad Gran Ciudad del Sur del Departamento de Guatemala, Guatemala</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Metropolis of Aix-Marseille-Provence, France</li> <li>19. New Taipei City, Taiwan</li> <li>20. Paramaribo, Suriname</li> <li>21. Pereira, Colombia</li> <li>22. Petit Goave, Haiti</li> <li>23. Prague, Czech Republic</li> <li>24. Province of Mendoza, Argentina</li> <li>25. Pucallpa, Peru*</li> <li>26. San Jose, Costa Rica</li> <li>27. San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic</li> <li>28. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia</li> <li>29. Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic</li> <li>30. Sao Paulo, Brazil</li> <li>31. State of Monagas, Venezuela</li> <li>32. Stockholm County, Sweden</li> <li>33. Veracruz, Mexico</li> <li>34. Viareggio, Italy</li> </ol> |
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\* Emeritus Status



# ITC Board Members

The International Trade Consortium (ITC) Board serves as an advisory body on matters pertaining to Miami-Dade County's international trade and economic development agenda. The Board is composed of 17 citizen volunteers from the public and private sectors, appointed by the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. In addition, 13 representatives are designated by key economic development agencies within the community, ensuring broad collaboration and alignment in advancing the County's global trade objectives.

## FY 2024-25 ITC BOARD MEMBERS:

### **Oliver G. Gilbert, III**

**Chairman**

### **Juan Carlos Bermudez, Esq.**

**Vice Chair**

### **Gerald Zadikoff**

**Appointee of the Mayor**

### **Olga Ramudo**

**Appointee of the Mayor**

### **Kirk Wagar, Ambassador**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 1

### **Jeff Lozama**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 2

### **Brenda Betancourt**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 3

### **Michele Burger**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 4

### **Lynare Robbins**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 5

### **Eric Diaz-Padron, Esq.**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 6

### **Julian Linares**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 7

### **Alexander Heckler, Esq.**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 8

### **Vacant**

**Appointee of Board of County Commissioners**  
District 9

### **Anthony A. Rionda**

Appointee of Board of County Commissioners  
District 10

### **Jose Felix Diaz, Esq.**

Appointee of Board of County Commissioners  
District 11

### **Jacqueline Del Cristo Berens, Esq.**

Appointee of Board of County Commissioners  
District 12

### **Manuel Huerta**

Appointee of Board of County Commissioners  
District 13

### **Lenny P. Feldman, Esq.**

Appointee of Florida Custom Brokers and  
Forwarders Association

### **Alice E. Ancona**

Appointee of World Trade Center Miami

### **Jose "Joe" L. Chi**

Appointee of CAMACOL

### **Daniel Jacobson, Esq.**

Appointee of District Export Council of Florida

### **Drew McKinney**

Appointee of The Foundation for Democracy  
in Africa

### **Richard de Villiers**

Appointee of PORTMIAMI

### **Jimmy Nares**

Appointee of Miami International Airport

### **Andrew J. Markus, Esq.**

Appointee of The Beacon Council

### **Carlos Guerra**

Appointee of SelectFlorida

### **Christopher Rollins**

Appointee of the Greater Miami Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

### **Alejandra Collarte**

Appointee of the Greater Miami Chamber of  
Commerce

### **Wayne Shah**

Appointee of Florida International Bankers  
Association

### **Preeya Disyanan**

Appointee of the Miami-Dade County Asian  
American Advisory Board

### **Gloria Fonseca**

Appointee of the Miami-Dade Chamber of  
Commerce



PORTMIAMI

# ITC Board Committees

The International Trade Consortium (ITC) Board Committees advance the International Trade Consortium's mission of promoting Miami-Dade County as a premier global gateway. These committees collaborate with the Consular Corps, bi-national chambers of commerce, and other strategic trade and economic partners to strengthen international engagement and opportunities. The ITC Board Committees for FY 2024–25 was as follows:

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee maintains operational continuity; the ITC Board has an Executive Committee that acts on behalf of the ITC Board when the full ITC Board cannot meet. It is responsible for implementing ITC policies and certifying incoming and outgoing trade missions. This committee is composed of the following members:

- Oliver G. Gilbert, III, *ITC Board Chair*
- Juan Carlos Bermudez, *ITC Board Secretary (Elected)*
- Manuel Huerta, *ITC Board Treasurer (Elected)*

## Missions Committee

The Missions Committee identifies and recommends countries for trade promotion activities including regions for inbound or outbound business development to strengthen ties with Miami-Dade County leading trade partners. This committee is composed of the following members:

- Lenny P. Feldman, Esq., *Committee Chair*
- Jacqueline del Cristo, Esq., *Committee Vice Chair*
- Alejandra Collarte
- Alexander Heckler, Esq.
- Carlos Guerra
- Christopher Rollins
- Daniel Jacobson, Esq.
- Jeff Lozama
- Jimmy Nares
- Richard de Villiers

## Sister Cities, Consular Corps, and Protocol Committee

The Sister Cities, Consular Corps, and Protocol Ad Hoc Committee provides direction to the Miami-Dade County Sister Cities program and guides our relations with foreign governments. It is the official liaison to the Consulates General and Honorary Consuls in Miami-Dade County. This committee is composed of the following members:

- Jacqueline del Cristo, Esq., *Committee Chair*
- Alejandra Collarte, *Committee Vice Chair*
- Brenda Betancourt
- Gerald Zadikoff
- Gloria Fonseca
- Jose "Joe" L. Chi
- Lynare Robbins
- Preeya Disyanan

# ITC Meetings

THE FOLLOWING **SIX** MEETINGS WERE HELD IN **FY 2024-25**:

## **OCTOBER 17, 2024: Sister Cities, Consular Corps, & Protocol Committee Meeting**

ITC hosted a Sister Cities Committee Meeting to discuss updates and upcoming initiatives within Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities Program. The meeting brought together committee members and ITC leadership to review the progress of ongoing partnerships and explore new opportunities for international collaboration. Discussions centered on enhancing cultural, educational, and economic exchanges with Sister Cities around the world. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening global connections that promote mutual understanding and shared prosperity across communities.

## **OCTOBER 31, 2024: Missions Committee Meeting**

ITC held a Missions Committee Meeting focused on the ITC's inbound and outbound trade missions. Committee members and ITC staff reviewed recent mission outcomes, assessed opportunities for future engagement, and identified priority markets for expansion. The discussion highlighted the vital role of trade missions in promoting Miami-Dade County as a global business hub and strengthening partnerships that drive international commerce. The meeting underscored ITC's continued dedication to facilitating cross-border trade and economic development.

## **DECEMBER 3, 2024: ITC Board of Directors Meeting**

ITC hosted a Board of Directors Meeting which brought together ITC board members to review the organization's accomplishments over the year and discuss strategic priorities for the upcoming term. Highlights included updates on trade missions, international partnerships, and key initiatives designed to strengthen Miami-Dade County's role in global commerce. The board reaffirmed its commitment to advancing ITC's mission of fostering international trade and economic development in the region.

## **MARCH 21, 2025: ITC Board of Directors Meeting**

ITC hosted the first Board of Directors Meeting of the year, held under the leadership of The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Commissioner of Miami-Dade County, District 1, and Chairman of the ITC. ITC Chairman Gilbert welcomed back the reappointed board members and extended a warm greeting to Mr. Anthony A. Rionda, who joins the ITC Board as an appointee of The Honorable Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, and Commissioner of Miami-Dade County, District 10. ITC Executive Director Gerard Philippeaux provided key updates on the organization's latest activities, highlighting recent inbound delegations and upcoming outbound delegations aimed at strengthening international trade ties. Board members also took the opportunity to share insights on ongoing initiatives, business opportunities, and trade developments, reinforcing ITC's commitment to fostering global economic partnerships. The meeting set the stage for a dynamic and productive year ahead for ITC.

## **JULY 15, 2025: Sister Cities, Consular Corps, and Protocol Committee Meeting**

ITC hosted the Sister Cities Committee Meeting to review ongoing initiatives with existing Sister Cities and discuss the development of new partnerships in the pipeline. Committee members and ITC leadership shared updates on current collaborations, explored opportunities to deepen international engagement, and outlined strategies to enhance the impact of Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities Program. The meeting reaffirmed ITC's commitment to fostering global connections that advance cultural exchange, economic growth, and mutual cooperation.

## **JULY 29, 2025: ITC Board of Directors Meeting**

ITC hosted a Board of Directors Meeting led by The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Commissioner of Miami-Dade County, District 1, and Chairman of the ITC. The meeting convened ITC board members and leadership to review organizational progress, discuss strategic priorities, and evaluate upcoming initiatives designed to advance Miami-Dade County's global trade and investment agenda. Members exchanged insights on emerging opportunities and reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening international partnerships that drive sustainable economic growth.

# Account Balances of FY 2024-25

FUND DESCRIPTION	ENDING BALANCE
Jay Malina International Trade Consortium	\$ 131,447.82
Sister Cities 43rd Annual International Conference	\$ 1,344.57
Miami-Dade Sister Cities Scholarship	\$ 6,677.82
Miami-Dade Sister Cities Program	\$ 6,770.14
Trade Mission Center of the Americas Unrestricted Funds	\$ 21,140.93
Trade Mission Center of the Americas Restricted Funds	\$ 44,385.73





**Daniella Levine Cava**  
*Mayor*

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Anthony Rodriguez**  
*Chairman*

**Kionne L. McGhee**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Oliver G. Gilbert, III**  
*District 1*

**Marleine Bastien**  
*District 2*

**Keon Hardemon**  
*District 3*

**Micky Steinberg**  
*District 4*

**Eileen Higgins**  
*District 5*

**Natalie Milian Orbis**  
*District 6*

**Raquel A. Regalado**  
*District 7*

**Danielle Cohen Higgins**  
*District 8*

**Kionne L. McGhee**  
*District 9*

**Anthony Rodriguez**  
*District 10*

**Roberto J. Gonzalez**  
*District 11*

**Juan Carlos Bermudez**  
*District 12*

**Senator René García**  
*District 13*



Miami-Dade County  
Board of County Commissioners  
International Trade Consortium



# 24/25

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM (ITC)**  
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