

COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

December 10, 2013

Get to Know...

New Ambassador of Colombia to the United States Luis Carlos Villegas



Photo: Ambassador Villegas presents his credentials to President Obama; Photo Credit: The White House

The new Colombian Ambassador to the United States, **Luis Carlos Villegas**, presented his credentials to President Barack Obama at the White House on Tuesday, December 3. President Juan Manuel Santos appointed Ambassador Villegas on November 13, 2013. Villegas most recently served as President of National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI), a position he held for more than 17 years. In addition, Villegas is a member of the Colombian government's negotiating team in the ongoing peace talks with FARC. Throughout his career, Villegas has been a leader in both the public and private sectors, having served in the following positions, among many others:

- President of the National Business Council (1998-1999) and (2002-2012)
- President of the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Reconstruction and Social Development for the Coffee Belt (FOREC) (1999-2000)
- President of the Association for CEE/Latin American Business Cooperation (ACE) and the Andean Business Advisory Council (1998 to 1999)
- Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations (1987-1989)
- Governor of Risaralda department (state) of Colombia (1985 and 1986) and Senator, Risaralda Colombia (1990 to 1992)

Click [here](#) to read Ambassador Villegas' full bio.

What's News

Ambassador Villegas Pens *Miami Herald* Op-ed: "Colombia's Opportunity for Lasting Peace"

Excerpt: "The opening decades of the 21st century have witnessed the dawning of a new Colombia. The nation has turned the tide on a long-running terrorist insurgency to achieve a level of security and stability that has given birth to one of the region's most dynamic economies. Colombia moved from isolation to regional leadership. Despite this dramatic progress, Colombia still carries on its shoulders an internal conflict half a century old. But today, there is a real opportunity for lasting peace," wrote Villegas. Read the full text [here](#).

Get to know Colombia.

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