

COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

October 16, 2015

From September 25 through October 1, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos joined global leaders in New York City for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In case you missed it, here are just a few of the highlights from his trip.

President Santos: 'Time for Peace' Is Near



*Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos addresses world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly.
Photo Credit: César Carrión*

On September 29, President Santos delivered remarks during the general debate, highlighting the strides the country has made toward achieving lasting peace – including recent agreements reached during negotiations in Havana, Cuba.

“Peace, in summary, allows us to better meet the sustainable development goals, which are already law of the Republic and we have adopted in the Agenda 2030. Today, I invite all Colombians, without exception, and all citizens of world to give you a generous opportunity for

peace. The most valuable legacy that we can leave to our children and future generations is peace.”

Colombia Commits to UN Agenda 2030



Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos addresses world leaders at the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda Summit.

Photo Credit: César Carrión

On September 25, President Santos delivered a speech during the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda Summit, where he reaffirmed Colombia’s commitment to the UN Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals focused on eradicating poverty and inequality and strengthening universal peace.

“I am honored to participate, on behalf of the Colombian people, at this summit to affirm, with conviction and determination, our commitment to the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that set out therein. ...

“My country celebrates and welcomes these objectives because we are aware that they are also conditions for building peace, and in turn, peace in Colombia will have high dividends precisely economically, socially and environmentally. It will be a virtuous circle. ...

“We know that tomorrow is not a thing of the future, but is built today, with the effort now. So it fills us with hope that the United Nations proclaims – in its 70th year – this 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with which Colombia not only identifies, but feels absolutely committed. We all have to contribute. We all have to act and profoundly transform our countries, and Colombia today raises its hand and says ‘present’ to this call for a better future and a more human future.”

Earlier in the day, President Santos announced Colombia would be one of the countries in the High Level Group to Support the Sustainable Development Goals. The group includes Germany, Brazil,

Liberia, Sweden, Tanzania and East Timor. During a meeting of the leaders of the member countries, President Santos said the group will have the “responsibility to promote and verify compliance globally of the objectives of sustainable development.”

President Santos Delivers Remarks at Peacekeeping Summit



President Santos delivers remarks at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping. Photo Credit: César Carrión

President Santos participated in the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, a discussion convened by President Barack Obama and Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon which gathered more than 34 heads of state. During the Summit, the world leaders recommitted to modernizing and strengthening United Nations peacekeeping operations [in a declaration](#).

In his remarks, **President Santos said:**

“Colombia has had a successful experience in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, counterinsurgency, transnational crime, and we are ready to share it with the world.

“The missions of peacekeeping face challenges in strategy, operational matters and tactics. And Colombia has valuable experiences to share on those fronts.

“Today we affirm our willingness to contribute to the UN to fulfill its mandate to ensure world peace and security, and I do so with the following commitment: Colombia’s contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations will be gradual and implemented in the short, medium and long term. Given, first, the advances in the peace process in Colombia to end the longest

armed conflict in the entire Western Hemisphere, whose success will enable greater availability of military and police forces for this task. ...

“We want peace in Colombia, we want peace in the world, and we are here to support where needed.”



Leaders of the Pacific Alliance Meet in New York

On September 27, President Santos joined the other leaders of the Pacific Alliance countries – Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Peruvian President Ollanta Humala – to discuss the value of increasing economic integration and investment opportunity and to highlight the success of the Pacific Alliance as an example for other regions around the world.

Established in 2011, the Pacific Alliance aims to foster the growth, development and competitiveness of its member countries through increasing the free movement of goods, services, capital and people. Combined, the Alliance countries comprise an integrated market of 217 million consumers with a GDP of nearly \$2.2 trillion.

President Santos joins Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet and Peruvian President Ollanta Humala – the leaders of the Pacific Alliance countries – for a discussion during UNGA. Photo Credit: César Carrión

For more information on the Pacific Alliance, visit <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/>

Santos Discusses Peace and Progress with Leading Journalists

While in New York City, on Wednesday, September 30, President Santos was the special guest during a *Reuters* ‘Newsmaker’ event moderated by Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler. The event, which was promoted on billboards in New York City’s Time Square, centered on Colombia’s progress with respect to economic growth, foreign investment and trade, as well as the latest developments in the peace process. The event was broadcast live in more than a hundred countries around the world. To watch the event, click [here](#).

President Santos also had the opportunity to sit down for an interview with *CNN* Chief International Correspondent Christiane Amanpour, during which he primarily discussed the latest developments in the peace process with the FARC. To watch the interview, click [here](#).



President Santos participates in Reuters event. Photo Credit: César Carrión



President Santos sits down with Christiane Amanpour for an interview, which aired on Wednesday, September 30. Photo Credit: @camanpour

Atlantic Council Honors President Santos with 2015 'Global Citizen Award'

On October 1, President Santos attended The Atlantic Council's 2015 Global Citizen Awards, where he was honored as a recipient of the Global Citizen Award. Each year, the Atlantic Council recognizes global leaders who, through their work, have strengthened the transatlantic relationship. President Santos was honored for his efforts to achieve lasting peace in Colombia.

Previous award recipients include U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Henry Kissinger and actor, film director and producer Robert De Niro, among others.



President Santos and Ambassador Pinzón greet former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Atlantic Council. Photo Credit: César Carrión



President Santos receives an Atlantic Council Global Citizen Award from U.S. Vice President Joe Biden. Photo Credit: César Carrión

AS, COA & Colombian American Association Co-Host Discussion with President Santos



On September 30, during a luncheon discussion co-hosted by the Americas Society / Council of the Americas and the Colombian American Association, President Santos discussed the recent progress made during peace talks in Havana. During the conversation, moderated by Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, international correspondent for *CNBC*, President Santos said that after three years of negotiations, “everything is positive because this war has had a huge cost to Colombia.”

*President Santos discusses the recent peace agreement with Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, international correspondent for *CNBC*. Photo Credit: César Carrión*

On the Sidelines of UNGA

While in New York City for UNGA, President Santos held several bilateral meetings with members of the diplomatic community, U.S. government officials and international leaders, including Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon; U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry; President of Paraguay Horacio Cartes; President of Portugal Anibal Cavaco Silva; Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab; President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald Lauder; President of the World Bank Group Jim Yong Kim; former mayor of New York City Rudolph Giuliani; Inter-American Development Bank President Luis Alberto Moreno; President of Raintree Ventures and former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt; and Chairman Emeritus and Co-Founder of The AES Corporation Roger W. Sant. During the meetings, the officials discussed a range of issues – from economic growth to investment and security.



On September 29, President Santos held a bilateral meeting with Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, moments before speaking at the 70th Ordinary Session of the Assembly General body. Photo Credit: César Carrión



On October 1, President Santos met with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues important to the U.S.-Colombia bilateral relationship, including cooperation, economic growth and the recent progress toward lasting peace, among others. Photo Credit: César Carrión

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