

COLOMBIA TODAY

July 9th, 2021

Vice President Leads Government, Private Sector Delegation for Visits with U.S. Officials | President Duque Meets with Bipartisan Group of U.S. Senators | President Biden Urged to Reaffirm Importance of U.S.-Colombia Relationship | ICYMI: COVID-19 Vaccines Depart the USA for Colombia | Join Us for an Upcoming Colombian Culture Event

Vice President Leads Government, Private Sector Delegation for Visits with U.S. Officials

- This week, Colombian Vice President and Foreign Minister Marta Lucía Ramírez led a group of government and private-sector officials in visits with American business and public policy leaders to strengthen commercial ties, investor confidence and relations with the United States. Minister of Finance José Manuel Restrepo joined her in leading the group. [Read more](#)



[Hear more](#) about the visit from Colombian Vice President and Foreign Minister Marta Lucía Ramírez (in Spanish).

- The delegation met with:
 - UN Women to discuss gender equality
 - Global Reporting Initiative
 - Inter-American Development Bank President Mauricio Claver-Carone
 - IDB Invest CEO James Scriven

- IDB Lab CEO Eric Parrado
- International Finance Corporation
- Atlantic Council
- Council of the Americas
- The delegation included:
 - Vice President and Foreign Minister Marta Lucía Ramírez
 - Minister of Finance José Manuel Restrepo
 - Ambassador to the United States Francisco Santos
 - High-level advisor to the President Juan Emilio Posada
 - ProColombia President Flavia Santoro
 - Ecopetrol Group President Felipe Bayón
 - Grupo ISA CEO Bernardo Vargas
 - Ardila Lülle Organization CEO Carlos Julio Ardila
 - ANDI President Bruce Mac Master
 - Grupo Bancolombia CEO Juan Carlos Mora
 - Grupo Aval CEO Luis Carlos Sarmiento
 - Grupo Bolívar CEO Miguel Cortés
 - Corona Organization CEO Roberto Junguito
 - Grupo Nutresa CEO Carlos Ignacio Gallego
 - Colombina CEO César Caicedo
 - Grupo Colpatria CEO Eduardo Pacheco
 - General Director of Public Credit and National Treasury César Arias



Vice President and Foreign Minister Ramírez with representatives from the International Finance Corporation



Ambassador Santos and members of the Colombian private-sector delegation

Top News from the Visit

- **POLITICO**

“We will work together with multilateral agencies and banks. That’s why we were here. That’s why we had meetings with the World Bank, with the Inter-American Development Bank, and yes also with the IMF. We are considering

the importance of IMF Special Drawing Rights and we're considering the importance of the flexible credit line,' Restrepo said."

[Read more](#)

- **Associated Press**

"... [T]his is a trip to show that there is a private sector in Colombia that is working hand in hand with the government to reactivate the economy and, most importantly, to create jobs," said Vice President Ramírez.

[Read more](#)

- **Bloomberg**

"[Colombian Finance Minister Restrepo is] stressing that the robust and established business community, along with the nation's strong institutions, make the country a safe place to invest.

"It is not only that we have had maybe the longest and strongest democracy in Latin America," Restrepo said. "It is also that we are working together, the public sector and the private sector. We have built a pro-business country."

[Read more](#)

[Watch the interview](#)

President Duque Meets with Bipartisan Group of U.S. Senators

- On July 8th, Colombian President Iván Duque met with a bipartisan delegation of U.S. senators in Colombia, including:
 - Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)
 - Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)
 - Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)
 - Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)
 - Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)



- They discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation on issues including trade, economic development, counternarcotic efforts and human rights.

[Read more](#)

Bipartisan Group of U.S. Senators Urge President Biden to Reaffirm Importance of U.S.-Colombia Relationship

- A bipartisan group of U.S. senators sent a letter to President Joe Biden in support of the U.S.-Colombia relationship on July 7th, 2021.
- The letter was signed by U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Bill Hagerty (R-TN), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), John Hoeven (R-ND), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rob Portman (R-OH) and Ben Ray Luján (D-NM).

“The Colombian people are facing an unprecedented combination of challenges and it is important that the United States demonstrate its unwavering support for them at this critical juncture,” [the Senators wrote](#) to President Biden.

“We urge you to expand engagement with our democratic partner as the Colombian government moves forward in protecting the rule of law and human rights for all Colombians, while striving to alleviate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the legacy of the longest civil war in the Americas.”

[Read more](#)



ICYMI: COVID-19 Vaccines Depart the USA for Colombia

[Click here to watch](#)



Join Us for an Upcoming Colombian Culture Event

- **July 15th and September 16th, 6:00PM ET: ENSÁLSALTE SALSA & PANELA**

Join us for a free salsa lesson with one of Colombia's professional dancers, Yoii Campo. Music by Codiscos.

[Register here](#) for the July 15th class at 6:00PM ET.

[Register here](#) for the September 16th class at 6:00PM ET.



- **July 27th, 6:00PM – 7:00PM ET: Learn to do Patchwork with Gretha Huffington from San Andres, Colombia**

This patchwork workshop is part of “**The Power of Women’s Hands: An Alliance that Works,**” a series that Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru are hosting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Pacific Alliance. The series focuses on the rich and diverse handcrafts created by women from the Pacific Alliance’s four member countries.

[Register here](#) for the Colombia Workshop.



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