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Embassy of Colombia in the United States

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## **Colombia Set to Welcome Vice President Pence**

### ***Cartagena Is First Stop on Vice President's Trip to South and Central America***

**Washington, DC** — In a sign of the strength of the U.S.-Colombia strategic partnership, Vice President Mike Pence will begin his trip to South and Central America next week by first visiting Colombia. He arrives in Cartagena on Sunday, August 13, where President Juan Manuel Santos will welcome him.

Shared economic interests are expected to top the discussion list as well as the status of the Colombian Peace Agreement implementation, which reached a major milestone last week when the United Nations collected the first container of additional FARC weapons. Shared security concerns will also be discussed during the Vice President's visit.

"Colombia is the strongest U.S. ally in Latin America, and it is our distinct honor and privilege to welcome Vice President Pence for the start of his South and Central American trip," said Ambassador of Colombia to the United States Camilo Reyes, who will be joining President Santos and the Colombian delegation welcoming the U.S. Vice President.

"Vice President Pence's trip comes at a historic time for Colombia, when, for the first time in more than 50 years, we are building a lasting peace," continued Reyes. "As a peaceful and stable nation, Colombia is an even stronger economic and security partner to the United States. The bipartisan support of the United States has been fundamental to Colombian transformation. We look forward to continuing to work together to achieve even more for both our nations and our citizens."

In addition to meeting President Santos in Cartagena, Vice President Pence will meet with Colombian Cabinet Ministers. Then, following a press conference, President Santos will host a dinner for the Vice President Sunday evening.

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