

# COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

February 7, 2018

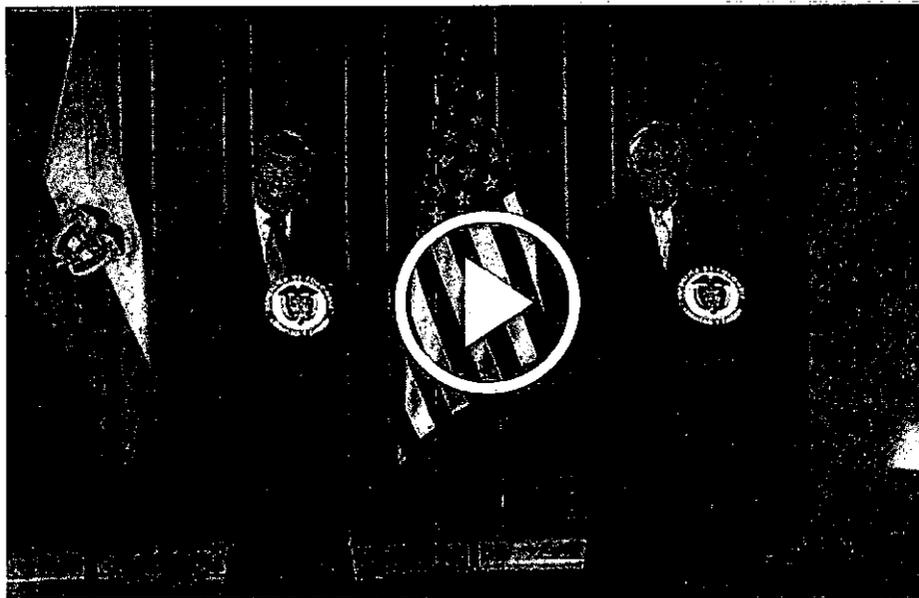


## U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Visits Colombia

*Peace Agreement Implementation, Colombia's Accession to the OECD and U.S.-Colombia Counternarcotics Efforts Topped the Agenda*

On the sixth day of his first multicountry trip to Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited Colombia. He arrived in Bogotá yesterday afternoon, where he met with President Juan Manuel Santos, Minister of Foreign Affairs María Ángela Holguín and U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Kevin Whitaker.

Topping the agenda were Colombian Peace Agreement implementation, U.S. support for Colombia's accession to the OECD, advancing the bilateral economic partnership and shared responsibility in the fight against drugs. Following their meeting, President Santos and Secretary Tillerson participated in a joint press availability, which you can click on the image below to watch.



**President Santos stated:**

***"Colombia – you have been able to see it firsthand - is making progress in the construction of peace. This is a complex process - a process that takes time - and, although we have enormous challenges ahead, the fruits are being seen.***

***"... Throughout this process we have had the firm and determined support of the United States, a bipartisan, effective and unwavering support. ... Colombia is beginning to take advantage of its full potential. We have a long way to go, but we have made very important progress on crucial issues such as the fight against poverty, the development of infrastructure and the growth of our economy.***

***"We want to continue advancing along the path of development, and a very important element of that process is our entry into the OECD. We thank Secretary Tillerson for his support in completing our accession process.***

***"Colombia and the United States share the values of democracy and freedoms that our forefathers left us from their respective homelands, as well as the interest of consolidating an increasingly prosperous and increasingly secure region.***

***"We have a broad and diverse agenda, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and the Administration of President Trump to further deepen our great relationship - a relationship that is more than friends and partners rather than allies and partners."***

**Read more of President Santos's remarks [here](#).**

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**Secretary Tillerson stated:**

***"The United States knows in Colombia we have first and foremost a partner who shares our democratic values and also a partner that is very capable as well. And I am grateful for this opportunity to say a few words about our priorities and things that we talked about today that are important in the bilateral relationship.***

***"We did discuss our concerns about the surge in coca cultivation and cocaine production in Colombia, but the President also gave me a very good report of the steps that are being taken, the progress that's being made, and he just spoke to much of that. And we are quite encouraged by what we hear, and we will continue to work with Colombia to support these efforts where we can be of assistance as well. This is a shared challenge for both of our nations as well to work together to undermine the transcriminal organizations that create the networks that are devastating for citizens in Colombia, and they're devastating to the American people as well. And so we look forward to continuing that cooperation.***

***"As you highlighted, we have had many, many years of joint law enforcement efforts and have very strong laws in Colombia that help us deal with those who are apprehended as well. And we thank you for that. The U.S. Government does continue to support Colombian police and military forces, having trained over 13,000 law enforcement here in the hemisphere as well. And we appreciate what Colombia has done for Central America as well, as you've mentioned too.***

***"Colombia has been a key player in the hemisphere's efforts to restore democracy in Venezuela, and the President spoke extensively about that, and we had a very extensive exchange on how we can work together, along with others in the region, through the Lima Group, ultimately through the OAS, to restore democracy in Venezuela."***

Read more of Secretary Tillerson's remarks [here](#).

## In Tweets: Secretary Tillerson's Visit

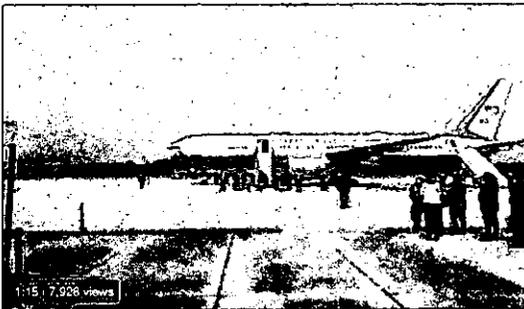


Embajada De Colombia  
@ColombiaEmbUSA

Following

This visit is a symbol of the deep and strong partnership between Colombia and the USA.  
@StateDept

Department of State



Secretary Tillerson Arrives in Bogota

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrives in Bogota, Colombia, on February 6, 2018. - Department of State

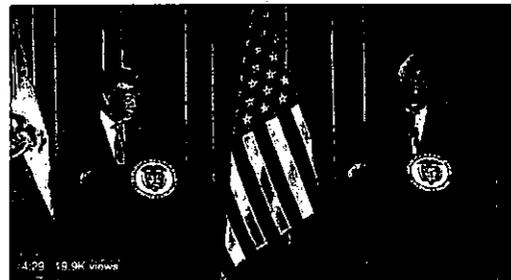
6:11 PM - 6 Feb 2018



Department of State  
@StateDept

Following

Secretary Tillerson with @juanmansantos in Bogota: The United States knows in #Colombia we have first and foremost a partner who shares our democratic values and also a partner who is very capable as well.



Secretary Tillerson Gives Remarks With Colombian President Santos

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos hold a joint press conference in Bogota, Colombia, on February 6, 2018. - U.S. Department of State

7:56 PM - 6 Feb 2018

US Embassy Bogotá  
@USEmbassyBogota



El Secretario de Estado Rex Tillerson llegó a #Bogotá como parte de su gira por la región. Fue recibido por el Embajador Kevin Whitaker, la Viceministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia Patti Londoño, y el Embajador de Colombia en Estados Unidos, Camilo Reyes.

↳ Translate from Spanish



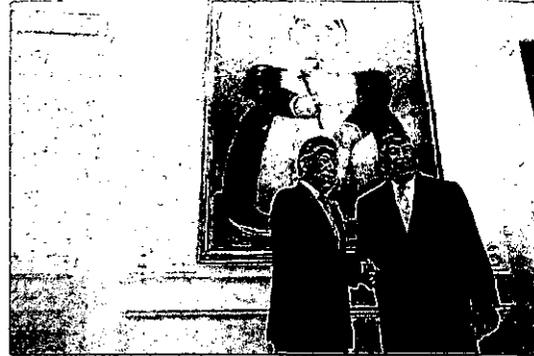
3:10 PM - 6 Feb 2018

Juan Manuel Santos  
@JuanManSantos



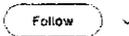
Nuestra agenda bilateral va mucho más allá de la lucha contra las drogas y la promoción de la seguridad. Seguiremos profundizando esta relación con la administración de @realDonaldTrump, porque más que aliados, Colombia y EE.UU. son naciones amigas.

↳ Translate from Spanish



8:37 PM - 6 Feb 2018

Embajada De Colombia  
@ColombEmbUSA



It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of the official welcoming of U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Bogotá yesterday. The special U.S.-Colombia partnership continues to expand and grow stronger, as evidenced by this important visit. - CR



1:45 PM - 7 Feb 2018

## What We're Reading

Catch up on these recent stories about Colombia:

- [Associated Press: "Tillerson: US encouraged by Colombia Efforts to Reduce Coca" | February 6, 2018 \(Read\)](#)

- *Bloomberg View*: "Six Steps on the Path to a Latin America Strategy" | Op-ed by James Stavridis, retired U.S. Navy Admiral and former Military Commander of NATO and Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University | February 6, 2018 ([Read](#))
- *PGATour.com*: "Club Colombia Championship Features Mix of Young Stars, Local Players" | February 7, 2018 ([Read](#))
- *The Independent*: "Colombia's Long-hidden Wonders Open up After Years of Violence" | February 5, 2018 ([Read](#))
- *Associated Press*: "Colombia Opens Border Shelter for Venezuelans Fleeing Crisis" | February 3, 2018 ([Read](#))

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