

COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

March 5, 2018



High-Level Partnership Dialogue Continues to Advance U.S.-Colombia Alliance



Representatives from the United States and Colombia gather for seventh annual High-Level Partnership Dialogue. Photo Credit: Op Chancery.

On Thursday, March 1, the United States and Colombia advanced the longstanding strategic alliance between the two countries at the VII U.S.-Colombia High-Level Partnership Dialogue held in Bogotá, Colombia. Chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs María Ángela Holguín, Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon and Deputy National Security Adviser General Ricky Waddell, the Dialogue has been critical to deepening relations between Colombia and the United States since it began in October 2010. The Dialogue aims to advance and expand the U.S.-Colombia alliance, particularly focusing on five key areas: economic and social opportunities; education, culture and sports; energy; the environment; and democracy, good governance and human rights.

This convening of the Dialogue proved successful, resulting in outcomes ranging from launching an education exchange initiative to deepening U.S.-Colombia energy sector cooperation to a joint pledge to expand counternarcotics cooperation and strategy for the next five years. The U.S. State Department issued a press release listing all the major outcomes of the Dialogue, which can be read [here](#).

Minister of Foreign Affairs María Ángela Holguín stated:

"Today we carry out the VII High Level Dialogue between the United States and Colombia.

"This mechanism, which began in 2010, is a demonstration of the commitment and strength of the bilateral relationship. Today's dialogue is the first of a Colombia in peace, it is the last one of the government of President Santos and it is the first of the government of President Trump.

"With the benefits that it has brought to the bilateral relationship, I have no doubt that the next Colombian government will continue with the realization of this important high-level dialogue.

"... On the issue of security and the fight against the world drug problem, it continues to unite us and we know that working together we will be able to achieve a goal so that Colombia will one day be a country without drugs.

"... Today we have agreed to maintain our anti-drug plan for the next five years, which guarantees high levels of bilateral cooperation. In Colombia, we will remain committed to maintaining our fight against drug trafficking."

Read more of the Minister Holguín's remarks [here](#).

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon stated:

"Minister, as you mentioned, this seventh instance of our dialogue clearly shows the depth of our relationship, but also its nature of sustainability and the capacity to build a lasting relationship based on shared interests and values, but also on links between our society and our peoples, based on a common struggle that has achieved much success. And in this, your last High Level Dialogue, I would like to thank you and Minister Villegas for your leadership, but also to recognize the important leadership of President Santos and the great achievement of Colombia in reaching a peace agreement and our pride in being part of that process but also our commitment to be part of a successful peace that brings prosperity to all parts of Colombia.

"You mentioned some of the results of our dialogue today, I would like to highlight them in more detail if you allow me.

"First, a joint commitment by Colombia and the United States to expand counter-narcotics cooperation over the next five years in the recognition of shared interests and responsibilities to achieve a steady reduction in the trafficking of illegal narcotics. This effort includes the national implementation of a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that aims to reduce the estimated production of cocaine and coca crops by 50 percent by 2023 compared to current levels.

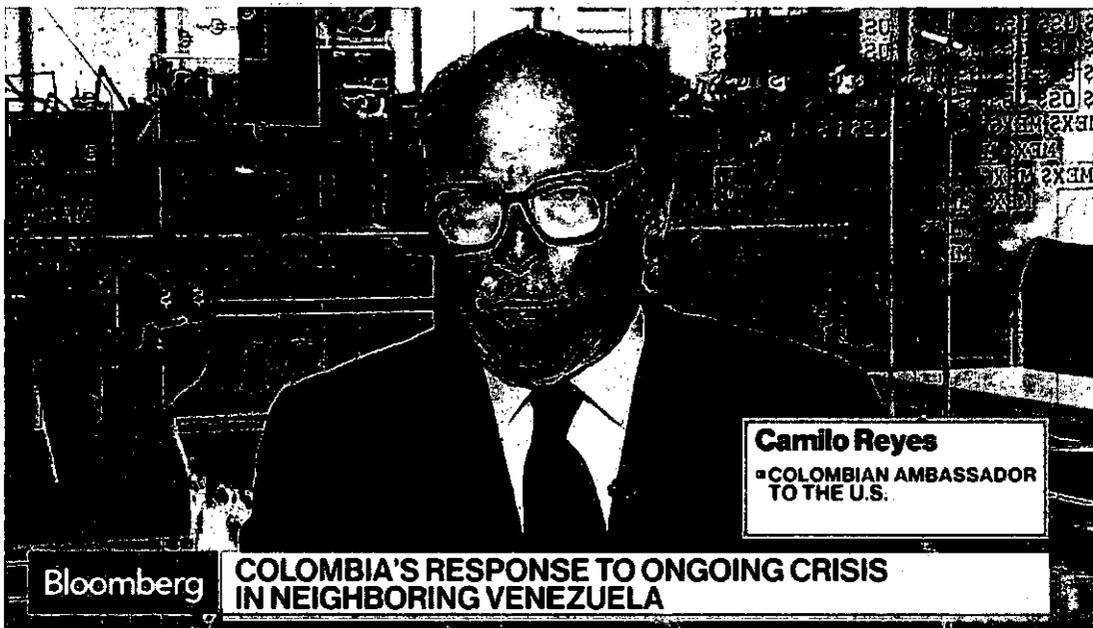
"The signing of a memorandum of understanding to combat illegal mining that damages the environment affects human health and finances transnational crime organizations.

"The launch of a \$300,000 initiative as part of "100,000 Strong in the Americas" to stimulate academic exchanges between Colombia and the United States that focus on peacebuilding through the development of rural education.

"...Colombia is a country of incredible trajectory, which has shown the importance of courage, determination and persistence and I have no doubt that the future of Colombia is a bright future and I am proud to have been part of that, but more that nothing proud and honored to have worked with you during this time."

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

Ambassador Reyes Discusses Economy, Venezuela on "Bloomberg Markets"



On Thursday, February 22, Colombian Ambassador to the United States Camilo Reyes appeared on "Bloomberg Markets" to discuss Colombia's economy, the U.S.-Colombia partnership and the situation in Venezuela. Watch his interview [here](#).

In Tweets: High-Level Dialogue



Department of State @StateDept

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The U.S. and #Colombia reaffirmed our enduring partnership and shared commitment to increase stability and prosperity as well as to create new opportunities for citizens of both our countries at today's bilateral High Level Dialogue held in Bogota.



U.S.-Colombia Dialogue Reaffirms an Enduring Partnership
state.gov

5:31 PM - 1 Mar 2018

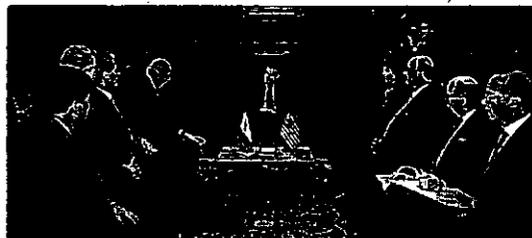


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Presidente @juanmansantos y Canciller María Ángela Holguín se reunieron con el Subsecretario de Estado para Asuntos Políticos DE EE.UU., Thomas Shannon.

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5:55 AM - 2 Mar 2018



Cancillería Colombia @CancilleraCol · Mar 1

Canciller María Ángela Holguín sostuvo una reunión bilateral con el Subsecretario de Estado para Asuntos Políticos DE EE.UU., Thomas Shannon.
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VII High-Level Dialogue in pictures #flickr



VII High Level Dialogue

The VII U.S.-Colombia High-Level Partnership Dialogue is under way in Bogotá. It is being chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs María Ángela Holguín, Assistant Secre...
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3:11 PM - 1 Mar 2018



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The High-Level Dialogue is an important platform for deepening relations between our two countries. Our partnership is strong and continues to expand.

Department of State @StateDept

The U.S. and #Colombia reaffirmed our enduring partnership and shared commitment to increase stability and prosperity as well as to create new opportunities for citizens of both our countries at today's bilateral High Level Dialogue held in Bogota. go.usa.gov/xnz4U

8:05 AM - 2 Mar 2018

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What We're Reading

DW: "US and Colombia aim to halve cocaine production in five years"

March 2, 2018

[\(Read\)](#)

Excerpt: *"Colombia is one of the leading producers and traffickers of cocaine and the United States is its main consumer. Trump said the US is the South American nation's 'best friend and ally' in the fight against illicit drugs. Colombia and the United States reached an agreement on Thursday to strengthen their cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. The two countries hope to achieve a 50 percent reduction in cocaine production and cultivation of its raw material coca by 2023."*

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