

# COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

June 1, 2018



## Colombian Presidential Candidates Advance to June 17 Runoff Election

Last Sunday, **54 percent of eligible Colombian voters participated** in the country's first Presidential election since the nation achieved a historic Peace Agreement in 2016. Emerging from the field are two candidates who will now advance to a **June 17 runoff election** – Iván Duque and Gustavo Petro. Duque secured 39 percent of the vote and Petro, 25 percent. In Colombia, if no candidate wins a majority (more than 50 percent) of the votes, there is a runoff.

**Iván Duque**



Party: Centro Democratico  
([Learn more](#))

**Gustavo Petro**



Party: Colombia Humana  
([Learn more](#))

One of these two men will be the first president in **Colombia's modern history to assume the role during a time of peace**. The new President will be **inaugurated on August 7, 2018**, for a four-year term that ends on August 7, 2022.

As is customary in Latin America's strongest and oldest democracy, Colombia's free and fair elections took place in a peaceful and orderly manner with complete transparency. The results were made known just a few hours after the polls closed on Sunday at 4:00pm local time.

## Colombia Accedes to the OECD

Colombia has acceded to the OECD, a major step forward for the nation and its economy. Entering the OECD will provide greater opportunities for economic development across Colombia, strengthen its position in the global economy and make the country an even stronger partner to the United States. Acceding to the OECD will also help consolidate the gains Colombia can achieve now that the nation is at peace for the first time in more than 50 years. With implementation of the Peace Agreement, opportunities for trade and investment have increased, and becoming a member of the OECD will maximize these benefits.

Along with accession comes the modernization and fortification of not only the Colombian economy, but also of its democratic institutions. The government of Colombia is deeply committed to the work that will continue to be carried out in the framework of the organization in order to maintain and improve our public policies according to the practices of the OECD countries.

U.S. State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert said:

***"The United States congratulates Colombia on its accession and completion of the process to become a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The United States commends Colombia's significant efforts over the past five years to meet the OECD's technical standards.***

***"Membership will bring benefits to the economy and people of Colombia, along with important responsibilities to level the playing field on trade and to enhance protections for investors. The United States looks forward to working with Colombia through the OECD to promote the economic and social well-being of people around the world."***

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