



Celebration of Colombia's 210th Independence Day



Reflections of Her Excellency

Claudia Turbay Quintero Ambassador

Embassy of Colombia in Ghana and concurrent to West Africa, and Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Dear readers,

On 20th July 1810, 210 years ago, Colombia obtained its independence and since then, along with our history, and to date, each year, we celebrate our independence which allows us to keep strengthening our national identity.

Generally, we Colombians are happy people, we cultivate joy through creativity, dance, and music. We are moved by a deep patriotic feeling. Our national emblems, such as the anthem and our tricolour flag, all of which we value, reaffirms our nationality, our effort to build an ever better Colombia and to be able to share with others, our being, our

believes, our capabilities, and our values, all of which is embraced today in Ghana, as a result of our diplomatic representation established seven (7) years ago.

Today, thanks to the relationship we have with Ghana, we can identify common values which allows us to naturally integrate with a feeling of brotherhood and a common goal, thus reaffirming and paving the way to advance and reconnect with the aspects of our common identity that distinguishes us.

Often, when I listen to each of our Presidents, in the case of Colombia, His Excellency Iván Duque Márquez, and in the case of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, I recognize in

both Heads of State, Ghana and Colombia, the same assertions, the same commitment, and the same objective of leading our countries to perform optimally and comparatively to those that shape the international community. Both leaders are outstanding, and it is precisely for this reason that each is committed to its citizens, H.E. Iván Duque Márquez, in the case of Latin America and H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, in the case of Africa.

President Duque's motto for his Development Plan is Peace with equity, legality, and entrepreneurship. All this has been expressed over the course of

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Reflections of Her Excellency Claudia Turbay Quintero

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his two years as President, from where he defends the life and integrity of Colombians, as well as the fulfilment of democratic values. President Duque structures his programs within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. In his Government's Foreign Policy, he exercises primarily the diplomacy of integration, respect of differences, promotion of democratic values, the rule of law, peace, and security.

President Duque believes in international stability and security and promotes cooperation globally, as an effort to share and transfer of knowledge with our partners.

President Duque defends, stimulates, and strives for scientific development, education at all levels and the use of technology for Colombia, while prioritising the youth of Colombia. He believes in the free market economy and has created a scheme to improve entrepreneurship, capacity and increase Colombia's

competitiveness by boosting its participation in the global economy.

It is in this vein that President Duque works towards the strengthening of Colombia's membership to the OECD, which means wagering the ability of Colombians to be among the big leagues.

Dear readers, this is a reflection to reassert to our friends in Ghana and West Africa, Colombia's continued decision to integrate, and deepen relations with Africa.

Colombia has six diplomatic representation on the African continent, with its mission in Ghana concurrent to the entire West African subregion and three Central African countries, namely Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe. Most of the Colombian community in West Africa is comprised of professionals providing voluntary and humanitarian service in various disciplines, such as education, medicine, and agriculture, to mention a few.

In addition, the Embassy of Colombia in Ghana, has a wonderful group of Honorary Consuls of Colombia in Liberia, Benin, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, and soon, an excellent Honorary Consul General in Ghana.

To further build our common path, and for our joint activities with Ghana, we have a broad program on a variety of topics such as security, trade exchange, Spanish language teaching, sport cooperation, cultural activities, good agricultural practices, and tourism.

Colombia, as a friendly country, assures you of our permanent will to continue strengthening our relationship through different programs.

This year has been one that has compelled us all to rethink our actions and use our creative capability to move forward, despite the great challenges posed to all countries by the global health pandemic, (COVID-19).

Finally, on the occasion of the

celebration of our National Day on 20th July, I would like to invite you all to an atypical celebration, which is a virtual concert being organized by the Ministry of Culture of Colombia to commemorate this date through the #ColombiaCreaTalento campaign that has been launched in order to promote

both the talent of local artists and the consumption of national music.

The 'Colombia Crea Talento', national concert be held on **20th July 2020 at 10 pm GMT** and will be broadcast live on all social media handles of the Ministry of Culture of Colombia.



MINCULTURA/COLOMBIA CREA TALENTO / ALIADOS

<https://simus.mincultura.gov.co/UtilidadHome/HomeCaja>

<https://open.spotify.com/user/p3q3cpra0e1y7p23eapkvvhj>

<https://www.deezer.com/es/profile/3761596462/playlists>

We hope you will enjoy this concert produced specially for this occasion.

I wish all Colombians a happy National Day!!!

Profile of President Iván Duque Márquez

- ◆ Born in Bogotá on August 1, 1976. He is a lawyer from the Sergio Arboleda University, majoring in philosophy and humanities. Expert in economic matters, with executive studies at Harvard, and with master's degrees from Georgetown, in Public Policy Management, and from American University, in Economic Law.

- ◆ He has served as a columnist and teacher. He was Head of the Culture, Creativity and Solidarity Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), leading issues of social innovation, entrepreneurship, youth and creative economy. He was a Consultant to the IDB presidency and Principal Advisor for Colombia.

- ◆ As Senator, he passed five laws of the Republic: the Orange Law, which encourages creative industries and culture as an engine of development; the unemployment law, which allows the use of unemployment benefits to prepay for the education of children and dependents; the Defibrillator

Law, which requires the installation of resuscitators in public places and in emergency transport in Colombia; the 'Companies B' Law, which provides the conditions for creating and developing commercial Benefit and Collective Interest companies, and is co-author of the Law that extended maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks.

- ◆ He is the author of the books such as: IndignAcción, Ideas for the Colombia of the Future; Monetary Sins; Machiavelli in Colombia; Orange effect; The Future is at the Center; My Father's Archeology, and Humanism Matters. Likewise, he is co-author, along with Felipe Buitrago, of the book La Economía Naranja.

- ◆ Iván Duque, in addition to his legislative activity, has excelled in various areas of the country's current politics. He was the one who drafted, presented and defended the lawsuit against the Legislative Act for Peace, before



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the Constitutional Court, which limited the fast track and allowed Congress to make changes in the implementation of the agreements with the FARC. In 2016, he was chosen as one of the most outstanding leaders in the country by Semana Magazine and the Colombia Lider Foundation, and during his three years as a congressman he was chosen as the best Senator by his own colleagues and by several local organizations that highlight and measure the work of

Colombian legislators.

- ◆ President Duque is married to Mrs. María Juliana Ruiz, with whom he has three children: Luciana, Matías and Eloísa.
- ◆ On June 17, 2018, Iván Duque was elected President of Colombia for the 2018 - 2022, constitutional period with 10,398,689 votes, and a government program based on Legality, Entrepreneurship and Equity.

Achievements of President Iván Duque Márquez

The three pillars of the administration of President Duque of Legality, Entrepreneurship and Equity are briefly explained as follows:

- Legality:** The Plan seeks to establish the basis for the protection of individual liberties and public property, for the rule of law and the protection of human rights for a certain fight against corruption and to strengthen the Judiciary.
- Entrepreneurship:** with the basis of legality, the Plan seeks to expand opportunities for Colombians through stimulating entrepreneurship, the formalization of work and economic activities and the strengthening of the entrepreneurial drive in both cities and rural areas.
- Equity:** The Plan seeks to achieve equality of opportunities for all through modern social policies aimed at obtaining social and productive inclusion for all

Colombians, and which focuses on families as the main for building solidarity and the social fabric.

The following are highlights of some of the achievements of this administration since coming into office:

- ◆ On June 5, Colombia hosted the global celebrations of World Environment Day focused on the crucial role of biodiversity. This important event was attended by the United Nations Environment Program and the government of Germany. This event has become the world's leading platform for public outreach on the environment, bringing together more than 150 countries. Colombia is listed as one of the world's mega-diverse countries, where about 10% of the planet's biodiversity lives. It ranks first in diversity of bird and orchid species, and second in plants, butterflies, freshwater fish, and amphibians. It has several areas rich in biological diversity in the



President Iván Duque and his family.

Andean ecosystems, where there is a great variety of endemic species, and it houses a large part of the Amazon forest and humid ecosystems in the Chocó biogeographical area.

- ◆ Hosting of the OAS General Assembly in Medellín; the holding of the first Colombia-Caricom summit; the growing support of the international community to President Duque's Peace with Legality policy.
- ◆ Promotion of the Orange Economy (La Economía Naranja); The Orange Economy is defined by the Inter-American Development Bank as "the set of activities that in an interlocking way allow for ideas to be transformed into cultural goods

and services.". Essentially, it is that sector of the economy that derives mainly from talent and creativity. The main contribution to the larger economy is by producing wealth and value, generating jobs and creating a social impact. President Duque has consistently championed the importance of nurturing and encouraging talent and creativity as a source of livelihood and income to individuals and the society at large. Many initiatives being carried out in the development Plan of this administration are geared towards establishing the orange economy and encouraging other countries to do same.

- ◆ Political, commercial and cultural positioning - Between August 2018 and March 2020, 607 cultural diplomacy actions have been

carried out, including the activities of the Plan for the Promotion of Colombia Abroad, the exchanges of the Sports and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, the Spanish courses offered by Colombia to public officials and diplomats from other countries, as well as agreements and projects signed in the fields of culture, education and sport with other States.

- ◆ Creation of the "Mi Consulado" application with the slogan: "More and better services". It makes available to citizens all the information on procedures and services of the Foreign Ministry, to make life easier and expedite procedures in Colombia and especially abroad. The App is available on Android.

Measures taken by the Government of Colombia against the spread of COVID-19

Colombia has attained worldwide recognition for the measures being taken to prevent the spread of the novel Corona virus and the interventions being rolled out by the Government which are aimed at supporting the Colombian people during this period.

Colombian innovation and ingenuity have also been brought to bear as the design and local production of ventilators for use in the

country and other countries has been spearheaded by institutions such as de Universidad de la Sabana. The Embassy Colombia in Ghana is making efforts so that, within the framework of International Cooperation, donors and recipients of the project being developed by the Universidad de la Sabana, can be obtained. The university has so far developed the research and production of 165 ventilator units.

After declaring a State of

Emergency, the President of the Republic, Iván Duque Márquez, announced, on 18th March 2020, a package of economic and social measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The President gives a daily update on the situation called "Prevention and Action".

1. National Preventive Quarantine

- ◆ Colombia has been under

national level quarantine since 20th March 2020, one of the longest in any country around the world. It is expected to be eased in August 2020.

2. Airports And Borders

- ◆ As of March 16, the entry into the country of non-nationals and non-residents in Colombia is restricted. All Colombian passengers and foreigners resident in Colombia, are to undergo mandatory

preventive isolation for 14 days upon arrival. Land and water borders with neighbouring countries have been closed since 17th March 2020.

3. Agriculture

- ◆ The Ministry of Agriculture announced that all agricultural producers in the country, from

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Measures taken by the Government of Colombia against the spread of COVID-19

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April 1, will be able to approach their trusted bank to request the "Colombia Agro Produce" credit, which will allow them to face the crisis caused by the COVID pandemic -19 in the country.

4. Health System

Facilitating the acquisition of medical equipment that allows greater testing capabilities. Provision of liquidity resources to the hospital network so that the system can have a greater response capacity.

5. Social Programs And Subsidies

- ◆ As a measure of economic support for the poorest households, the national government has rolled out the VAT refund scheme. It consists of lower-income families receiving resources that will alleviate the impact of the tax imposed on the consumption of products and services by the most vulnerable people.
- ◆ As a complementary measure, the Government, is paying for the children of beneficiaries of the Familias en Acción, program corresponding to nutritional and educational components during the period. Provision has also been made for the most vulnerable with contributions of \$300.00 million for 2,660,000 families and

1,500,000 older adults in the Colombia Mayor program.

6. Economy and Businesses

- ◆ The following measures have been to support employment and businesses:
- ◆ The payments corresponding to the second income tax contribution, which were about to expire, will be extended to the end of the year.
- ◆ The government will subsidize, the equivalent of 40% of a minimum wage to all company workers who have had a decrease of at least 20% in their turnover. This is a measure to protect jobs and to assist

employers.

The following relief measures for the commerce and tourism sector, which will be in force until December 31:

- ◆ There will be exemption from VAT for all tourist and hotel services.
- ◆ The energy surcharge for accommodation, theme parks and recreation will be temporarily suspended.
- ◆ The advance of income for travel agencies and air transport will be eliminated and the parafiscal contribution will be deferred in order to provide cash for this sector in the second half of the year.
- ◆ Restaurants, ice cream parlors, bakeries, patisseries, etc. that operate as franchises will be

exempt from paying VAT and consumption tax.

- ◆ The 25% advance in income tax for the clothing, footwear, furniture and events sector was lowered. Likewise, for bars, clubs, gyms and others that have temporarily restricted their operation in the framework of the health emergency, the unilateral termination of leasing contracts will be allowed, with principles such as prior agreements.
- 7. Education
 - ◆ Closure of all public and private schools, effective March 16, 2020. Virtual classes are to be held in the interim.

Actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia in the fight against COVID-19

- ◆ More than 22,000 Colombian nationals have returned to Colombia till date on about 150 humanitarian flights organized by the Ministry.
- ◆ USD \$ 14 million redirected to address COVID-19 related

impacts on national and local public health systems.

- ◆ During Q2 of 2020, the priority front headed by H. E. Claudia Blum, Minister of Foreign Affairs were reported as follows:

i. Seek international cooperation to help obtain the resources, supplies, and medical equipment that the country requires to face the pandemic.

ii. Some donations are highlighted as follows:

- Germany - 80,000 PCR test

kits

- China - 10,000 test kits and personal protection items
- United Arab Emirates - 13 tons of supplies, including technology for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19, test kits (10,000) and personal

protection equipment

- United States of America - USD \$ 13.2 million in humanitarian assistance for Colombia's response to COVID-19.

The Colombian Diaspora



There is an important Afro-descendent population in Colombia; about 15% of the total population of 50 million people, which means that there are interesting historical, geographical and affective connections from different eras between Colombia and Africa.

I believe in the concept of unity and geographical unity which has over 500 million years conformed to the Pangea super continent, and for about 300 million years, we lived territorially apart, but with reminders of the signs and symbols of unity.

In the case of Africa and

America, the silhouettes of our continents show this closeness till date. In this way, our soil, sea (the Atlantic) – which today unites us, demonstrates how these two countries that are on the equator line have grown in a parallel manner, with different stages of development in a way that is not a mere coincidence, but show tangible reasons to explain their existence, our agriculture, the produce of our soil today, the minerals that are given by our sub soil. Our ethnic diversity comes from a more recent history; 400 years when the Transatlantic slave trade was carried out.

This is a period that we still find

painful today, but which paradoxically unites us now more than ever, and in these contemporary times, we also see that Latin America and Africa have traveled the same path at different times. We were colonized, fought for our independence and through the passage of time, built our historic, ethnic and human identity, and we find ourselves on the same path, with the same objectives and desires for; peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, respect for human life, evolving with our own beliefs and those inherent values that give us our identity, but do not limit our capacity



Palenqueras of Cartagena



to collaborate for mutual interest.

For Colombia, the Afro-descendent diaspora with its own existence has led us to construct our common heritage with the necessary inclusion in the national context. One of the emblematic towns of the diaspora is Cartagena, where one finds memorial voices of Afro history, such as San Basilio de Palenque, which was the first

settlement of freed slaves in the Americas. We also have a living memory through the music, cuisine, folklore and even common words. All this is mentioned to build through our own diaspora, a better interest and exchange between our two countries.

Currently, we have many newly constructed spaces like the parliament to give the Afro descendent people a political. Many

The Colombian Diaspora



VISIT COLOMBIA!



Colombia is one of the most extraordinary places on Earth.

Colombia is located in the northwestern part of South America. To the north, it borders Panama and the Caribbean Sea, to the south with Peru and Ecuador, to the east with Venezuela and Brazil, and to the west with the Pacific Ocean. It has a privileged location because it is not only the unique country in South America

that has two coasts, but it also has easy communication with all continents as it is in the middle of the American continent.

Colombia's location, a privilege for biodiversity. You will be surrounded by such a variety of animals, some of them endemic species, across the beautiful landscapes of a single country.

Colombia's location is unique. It is located in the middle of South

America, the Antilles, and part of Central America. These areas, which broadly coincide with the continents, are characterized by a wide distribution of groups of animals and plants due to the varying environmental conditions of each region and the development of the continents over time.

<https://youtu.be/008chmHbAOM>
<https://www.colombia.co/en/>



Activities of the Embassy of Colombia in Ghana 2018-2020

1. Eudist Technological University Institution of Africa – (IUTEA) – Côte d'Ivoire

On 14th November 2018, the headquarters of the Institución Universitaria Tecnológica Eudista de África – IUTEA, (Eudist Technological University Institution of Africa – IUTEA), was inaugurated in Yopougon, Côte d'Ivoire.

It was developed through work carried out by UNIMINUTO de Dios, a Colombian university and the Congregation of Jesus and Mary in Africa, in order to empower the disadvantaged youth, to develop their capacities,

expand their options and life opportunities and be builders of society.

The project was developed within the framework of triangular cooperation with resources from the Eudist Community (CJM) of Côte d'Ivoire, UNIMINUTO which contributed the transfer of its educational model with work teams and accompaniment and joint work missions, in addition to IUTEA's own contributions corresponding to the first year of operation, for its sustainability.

Likewise, the Government of Italy, through the Episcopal Conference, contributed financial resources for the construction of the first

building. The project was developed over a two-year period and offers training to about 1,080 students.

2. Training Program for Ghanaian Wheelchair Track & Field Athletes from 30th September to 5th October 2019

The Government of Colombia through the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia, APC-Colombia and the Ministry of Sports of Colombia, organised a training program for 14 wheelchair track & field athletes and 2 coaches, in conjunction with the National Sports Authority (NSA) and the National Paralympic Committee of Ghana (NPC—Ghana) from 30th September to 5th October 2019.

Two expert coaches from Colombia facilitated the training program which drew Para athletes from the Ashanti, Greater Accra and Northern Regions respectively. The three (3) day training programme was held at the Cape Coast Sports Stadium in Cape Coast.

The program covered theoretical and practical aspects of para athletics. Participants gave very positive feedback after the program and expressed appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the Ghanaian partners for the initiative.

It is hoped that Ghana's para athletes who participated in the program have gained new knowledge and skills which they will bring to bear in future competitions.

efforts to open inclusions have been done and continue to be made. There are many possibilities of bilateral cooperation between Ghana and Colombia and the Ghanaian diaspora.

There are many initiatives that can be constructed and improved together, in trade, language, technology, among others.

We in Colombia are not oblivious of the legacy and importance of the Afro race and it is in this way that Colombia has in recent times, i.e. from 2011, through the Ministry of Culture, has declared the month of May as African Legacy

month, with the aim of visualizing the recognition of the Afro-descendant, Palenquera and Criole population of Colombia.

Colombia is a country rich in sounds, rites, dance and tastes. Drums and colours are part of the inherited tradition. Our objective is that there will be more and more travelers from Africa to Colombia, as it has the third largest Afro-descendant population in Latin America, which seeks to strengthen and document our common origins through museums, meetings and encounters, which in the case of Colombia, we are ready to promote.



Ambassador Claudia Turbay Quintero with the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Isaac Asiamah

Activities of the Embassy of Colombia in Ghana 2018-2020



Trainers, Participants and sports officials together with the two Colombian trainers at the opening ceremony.



Colombian trainers with Ghanaian sports officials



Presentation by Hon. Ahomka-Lindsay

3. GIPC Trade mission to Colombia 16th-18th October 2019

The Embassy of Colombia in collaboration with the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) organized an investment promotion mission to Colombia from 16th to 18th October 2019.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and ProColombia (the government agency in charge of promoting Colombian non-traditional exports, international tourism and foreign investment), also contributed to the organization of the mission.

The objective of the mission was to explore opportunities for bilateral trade and investments in sectors such as; agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, information and communication technology (ICT), infrastructure development and renewable energy and to showcase

investment opportunities in Ghana's new industrialization agenda.

The 13 member Ghanaian business delegation, led by the Deputy Minister for Industry, of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Hon. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay, involved both Public and Private Sector institutions.

Ambassador of Colombia to Ghana, H.E. Claudia Turbay and the Deputy Ambassador of Ghana to Brazil Mr. Peter Taylor, also accompanied the delegation in Colombia.

The delegation met with the Colombian Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, as well as officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. B2B meetings across the various sectors represented were also undertaken.



Field visit by some members of the Ghana delegation to a brick factory in Bogota

4. Phase 1 of Colombia-Ghana Cocoa Project Mission 4 - 9 November 2019

In the framework of the triangular cooperation project to enhance the institutional capacities of the authorities linked to the cocoa production chain in Colombia, Sao Tomé and Ghana, two Colombian experts from the Cocoa Federation of Colombia-FEDECACAO and the National Training Service (SENA) of Colombia, undertook a technical visit to Ghana, from 4th to 9th November 2019, with the main objective of exchanging tools and theoretical-practical methodologies that promote the quality, associativity and competitiveness of the cocoa sector, as well as knowing the structure and operation of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD).

The Chief Executive of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Mr. Joseph Boahen Aidoo, accompanied by the Directors of that entity, presented the operations of COCOBOD and the status of cocoa production in the

country to the Colombian delegates during a visit to his office.

Likewise, the Colombian delegates presented the current state of the sector in Colombia, which generated a constructive dialogue between the two delegations, as well as the desire to work together and take advantage of the knowledge and experience that Ghana has in the sector.

Meetings were held with the Chief Director and the Technical Advisor on Cocoa Affairs of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, who expressed their interest in visiting Colombia to learn about the coffee culture in that country. Field visits to the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), the Quality Control Company, Cocoa Processing Company and Cocoa Marketing Company located in the port of Tema were also conducted. The second phase of this program will entail a visit by delegates from Ghana to Colombia.



The Colombian delegation with the CEO and Directors of COCOBOD

Activities of the Embassy of Colombia in Ghana 2018-2020



Public Servants" in February 2014 to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, 200 Ghanaian public officials have benefited from the program.

It is expected that the 7th edition of the course will be undertaken virtually owing to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

7. World Environment Day celebration 2020

Colombia was the proud host of this year's World Environment Day, celebrated on 5th June. This year's celebration which brought together 193 UN member countries, is a primary vehicle of the United Nations Environment Programme for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

As host of this year's celebration, Colombia, described as a 'haven' for biodiversity is one of the largest "Megadiverse" nations in the world and holds 10% of the planet's biodiversity. As part of the Amazon rain forest, Colombia ranks first in bird and orchid species diversity and second in plants, butterflies, freshwater fish, and amphibians.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, through its diplomatic missions and delegations, carried out various virtual cultural activities during the month of June, which aim is to highlight the biodiversity of the country, an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience between Colombia, Africa and the Middle East in the area of biodiversity, in particular the relationship between the ecosystem of Amazon and Africa.

The Embassy of Colombia in Accra, Ghana together with the Embassies of Colombia in Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Lebanon and South Africa, on 25th June 2020, held a virtual conversation with seasoned Ghanaian and international experts and policy makers on biodiversity and environmental protection.

Prof. Christopher Gordon of the Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies of the University of Ghana, participated as a Special Guest invited by the Embassy of Colombia to share his knowledge and experience with the participants.

It is hoped that there would be a joint exploratory expedition to Ghana soon, consisting of interdisciplinary teams of professionals and experts from Ghana and Colombia.



At the Cocoa Marketing Company, Tema

5. "Capacity building on public space alternatives and healthy lifestyle habits in Africa, through the implementation of Ciclovias (Bike lanes) Programs, considering the Colombian experience"

From 22nd November to 2nd December 2019, Colombia invited a representative from the National Sports Authority of Ghana to participate in the first phase of the "Capacity building on public space alternatives and healthy lifestyle habits in Africa, through the implementation of Ciclovias (Bike lanes) Programs, considering the Colombian experience", project, a South-South Cooperation spearheaded by the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia, APC-Colombia, in conjunction with the Bogota Recreation and Sport Institute (IDRD),

the Ministry of Sports, the Medellin Recreation and Sports Institute (INDER), International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA) and the Los Andes University, to promote capacity building on public space and healthy lifestyle habits in the city, through the implementation of Ciclovias (bike lanes) programs.

The objectives of the program included:

- ◆ identification and transfer of best practices in the matter of bike lanes
- ◆ implementation of the models and routes, the financing and promotion of the bike lanes program in Colombia.

Other participants in the program were from Kenya and Ethiopia.



Bike lanes in use – Medellin



Participants of the program with officials of APC-Colombia

6. 6th Spanish training course

The Embassy of Colombia organised the 6th Spanish as a Foreign Language Course for 50 Ghanaian diplomats and public servants drawn from 14 institutions from 16th September to 12th December 2019.

The program which was funded by the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia, APC-Colombia, and

facilitated by the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, benefitted officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Aviation, among others.

Since the commencement of the "The Colombian Spanish Language Course for Ghanaian Diplomats and



Participants in a field exercise



2019 Participants of the course with H.E. Claudia Turbay Quintero

Activities of the Embassy of Colombia in Ghana 2018-2020

Continued from previous page

8. Establishment of Honorary Consulates in concurrent countries

With the aim of promoting bilateral relations with other countries in West Africa, 2 Honorary Consulates have been established in Liberia and Benin, which are also countries under the jurisdiction of the Embassy of Colombia in Ghana. The processes for the establishment of Honorary Consulates in Nigeria, and Cape Verde are also underway. Excellent

candidates for Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have also been identified.

The Honorary Consuls and designates have all participated in orientation sessions and videoconferences carried out by PROCOLOMBIA in search of a commercial rapprochement strategy with West Africa and they have also coincided in the creation of a commercial office to serve this sector in the different countries.

9. Trade promotion

The Embassy of Colombia is taking steps to establish commercial relationships by different Colombian companies in Ghana and in other West African countries.

Colombia is already present in Ghana, through the Mechero Energy partnership with Genser Energy in the oil and gas sector. Also, products of Nutresa such as the Festival and Super 2 brand of biscuits are very common on the Ghanaian market.

For example, within the internationalization strategy of the Porkcolombia Association, and thanks to the joint effort of the Embassy and C.I. PORKCO, the first export of Colombian pork to Côte d'Ivoire commenced this year. This constitutes the second export of Colombian pork to an African country, after Angola, to which about 22 tons have been shipped.

In Ghana, the product's admissibility has been achieved and the corresponding steps are being taken for

future pork exports from Colombia to Ghana.

Colombian companies of great importance such as: Alpina, Colombina, and Juan Valdéz have shown their interest in participating in the African market and the Embassy of Colombia will continue working to achieve their presence in the West African space and vice versa.

Upcoming activities:

20th July 2020 - 'Colombia Crea Talento' – National Day Concert



The Ministry of Culture of Colombia will commemorate this date through the #ColombiaCreaTalento campaign that they have launched in order to promote both the talent of local artists and the consumption of national music. In this framework, on July 20, they plan to hold the great national concert 'Colombia Crea Talento', organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Teatro Colón. The concert will begin at 5 pm Colombian time and will be broadcast by RTVC, the platforms of the Ministry of Culture, allies such as the Caracol Radio chain, as well as on the following platforms:

- ◆ <https://simus.mincultura.gov.co/UtilidadHome/HomeCaja> (click en el botón de difusión).
- ◆ <https://open.spotify.com/user/p3q3cpra0e1y7p23eapkvvhj>

- ◆ <https://www.deezer.com/es/profile/3761596462/playlists>

The Embassy of Colombia warmly invites you to participate in some virtual cultural events that will be held in the coming months:

- i. Dance workshop and dialogue with the Colombian dance group Periferia - July-August 2020
- ii. Colombian literature workshop and dialogue with Andrea Cote Botero - August 2020
- iii. Filmmaking workshop with seasoned Colombian film directors and producers – September/November 2020
- iv. Coffee tasting workshop and session with master trainers from Juan Valdez Café of Colombia.

The Business and Financial Times



wishes the government and people of COLOMBIA
 A happy National Day celebrations!

