



## EMBASSY of COLOMBIA

W A S H I N G T O N

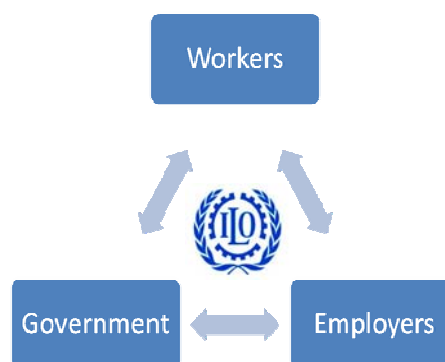
### AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH LABOR

The Government of Colombia has continued to build upon its collaboration with the ILO and expand its national labor consultation mechanisms. These efforts are an important component in moving from an industrial relations climate of mistrust and confrontation to a new climate of security and mutual respect.

#### THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND THE ILO OFFICE IN COLOMBIA

In a tripartite effort to create democratic security, promote economic growth, and improve labor relations, the ILO and the Colombian government, employers, and labor confederations signed a historic accord at the ILO in June 2006.

The new **“Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy,”** provides for the establishment of a **Representative Office of the ILO in Colombia**. On October 18, 2006 the government, workers and employers defined the mandate of the ILO office in Bogotá. The office was established on November 23, 2006.



The mandate of the ILO Office is: “Technical cooperation aimed at promoting decent work and the defense of the fundamental rights of workers, their trade union leaders and their organizations, specifically as regards their physical integrity, trade union freedoms, freedom of association and of speech and collective bargaining, as well as free enterprise for employers.” International Labour Office GB.297/TC/5/2, Geneva, 297th Session, November 2006

Mr. Marcelo Castro Fox was appointed to head the permanent representation of the ILO in Bogotá, and took up his post on 15 January 2007. He also participates in the meetings of the National Commission on Labor and Wage Policies.

The Government of Colombia contributed approximately US\$4 million over 4 years to fund the work of the ILO Office and the implementation of the tripartite agreement. Four projects are currently underway that were agreed on a tripartite basis and are under the direction of the ILO Office in Bogota:

1. Strengthening of social dialogue and the enforcement of basic rights at work in Colombia.
2. Technical skills training for young people from disadvantaged or vulnerable populations.
3. Job creation programs for poor women.
4. Training to develop and strengthen skills to promote local economic development.

The ILO office in Bogotá selected three senior consultants and additional staff for the implementation of these projects. There is a monthly tripartite committee meeting to assess progress on these important programs.