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Embajada de Colombia en Estados Unidos

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## **President Obama Invites President Santos for Official Visit**

**Washington, DC** – The White House announced today that President Barack Obama has invited President Juan Manuel Santos to Washington for an official visit, which will take place during the first week of February.

During the visit, the presidents will meet to discuss a wide range of issues on the bilateral agenda, including the strategic security alliance, advances in the peace process and U.S. support for the post-conflict period.

In addition, President Obama will host an event at the White House to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Plan Colombia, a bilateral initiative that laid the foundation for Colombia's remarkable turnaround. Plan Colombia, which has received bipartisan support from the United States since its inception in 2000, is considered by experts the most successful foreign policy initiative in 15 years.

"In 2000, Colombia was a country on the brink. With the strong commitment and resilience of our people and our leaders, we were able to turn the page, but we didn't do it alone. We did it with the support and aid of the United States through Plan Colombia," said Ambassador Juan Carlos Pinzón. "For 15 years, Plan Colombia has had the support of three U.S. administrations on both sides of the political aisle. This sustained and decisive support, coupled with the determination and sacrifice of the Colombian people and the triumphs of our Armed Forces, helped transform our country and opened the door to the current peace process."

"During the visit, President Santos will express his gratitude on behalf of all Colombians for support the United States has provided on the road to lasting peace and prosperity," said Pinzón. "The visit also provides an opportunity for our two countries to look ahead and lay out a vision for the next 15 years of the U.S.-Colombia partnership to continue creating more opportunities for our citizens through investment, commerce, education, science and culture."

While in Washington, President Santos will also participate in meetings with President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, members of Congress, business community leaders and representatives from think tanks.

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