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President Santos Welcomes Formation of CEO Advisory Board

U.S. Business Leaders to Bring Expertise to Colombia's Post-conflict Economy

Washington, DC — Meeting with a group of American business leaders yesterday, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos announced that a CEO Advisory Board has been formed to help Colombia take full advantage of its post-conflict economy. The announcement came as part of a wider discussion about the business and economic outlook for Colombia at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

“The U.S. business community has helped Colombia become the fastest-growing economy in South America, so I am particularly honored to welcome continued U.S. business support for our country as part of my visit to thank the United States for all the support it has given Colombia,” said President Santos. “We look forward to working with the members of this CEO Advisory Board to produce even greater economic growth and prosperity for Colombians in the post-conflict period.”

Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce and former CEO of the Kellogg Company, Carlos Gutierrez, and former CIA Director and U.S. Central Command Commander, General David Petraeus, have accepted the invitation to be founding members of this Advisory Board. The first CEO Advisory Board visit to Colombia, set to take place in the second half of 2016, will focus on laying out the strategy for the government to develop the economy and private sector during the post-conflict years.

Following President Santos's keynote address at the U.S. Chamber luncheon yesterday, visiting ministries met with U.S. business leaders to discuss a host of key bilateral and regional trade issues.

President Santos is in Washington, DC, this week for an official White House visit to celebrate the progress Colombia has made with U.S. support through Plan Colombia and the future of the Colombia-U.S. partnership. In addition to President Obama, President Santos will meet with other key Administration officials, including Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, as well as with top congressional, international and U.S. business leaders in America's capital today through Friday.

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