

Joint Communiqué on the Occasion of
the Visit of Prime Minister Abe to the Republic of Colombia

29 July 2014

His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, visited the Republic of Colombia from 28 July to 30 July 2014. During the visit, Prime Minister Abe and H.E Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, President of the Republic of Colombia, held an official meeting on 29 July. Both leaders had a constructive dialogue related to cooperation, bilateral and international issues, as well as economic relations between the two countries.

1. President Santos welcomed Prime Minister Abe for the first official visit of Prime Minister of Japan to Colombia.

2. Both leaders expressed their satisfaction with the friendly bilateral relations which have been developing for more than 100 years, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Colombia in 1908. Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation for the positive improvement of the security situation and economic development in Colombia during the last few years, which was achieved by the efforts of the Colombian Government.

3. Prime Minister Abe explained Japan's policy and its related measures to maintain its peaceful orientation and contribute even more proactively in security, peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. President Santos expressed his appreciation for the explanation and showed his respect to Japan's efforts as a peace-building nation.

4. Both leaders stressed the significance of high level Policy Dialogue between the two countries, and recognized the importance to promote Policy Dialogue to be held periodically between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

5. Prime Minister Abe expressed the intention to continue Japan's bilateral cooperation in areas such as balanced economic growth and environment and disaster risk reduction in Colombia. In response, President Santos expressed his gratitude to Japanese collaboration up to present in economic and social issues, including mine-related assistance and disaster risk reduction.

6. President Santos also expressed his gratitude for the invaluable support of the Japanese Government, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency – JICA, to promote and expand the vision of the model OVOP (One Village, One Product) in Colombia; this model has given opportunities to people in rural regions to contribute to the development of their territories while improving their quality of life.

7. On behalf of the people of Japan, Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's deep appreciation for Colombia's warm support to Japan in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in March of 2011.

8. President Santos congratulated Prime Minister Abe on Japan's hosting of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Both leaders reiterated the importance of the "Sport for Tomorrow" initiative, which aims to spread sporting values and promote the Olympic and Paralympic movement for a better future.

9. Both leaders expressed their satisfaction of academic and cultural exchanges between the two countries, and shared the intention to further promote the cooperation in these areas as well as in tourism. President Santos thanked Prime Minister Abe for the cooperation given through Japan's Cultural Grant Assistance which has benefited 26 cultural projects in Colombia since 1982.

10. President Santos expressed his gratitude to the acceptance of the Colombian War College students by the Ministry of Defense of Japan during the last two years and expressed his expectation to continue the personnel exchange between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defense of Colombia. Prime Minister Abe welcomed the defense personnel exchanges between the two countries.

11. President Santos explained the progress in the peace process negotiations with FARC. Prime Minister Abe expressed support for early achievement of peace in Colombia.

12. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of free-trade, welcomed the progress in the Japan-Colombia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations, and confirmed the aim of accelerating the negotiations to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

13. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's strong expectation for Colombia's early completion of its internal procedure necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement between Japan and Colombia for the Liberation, Promotion and Protection of Investments. Prime Minister Abe and President Santos shared the intention to further promote the economic relationship between the two countries.

14. Prime Minister Abe reiterated that there were growing interests among Japanese companies towards Colombia because of their positive change achieved recently, shown by the presence of CEOs in his delegation as well as the holding of Japan Colombia Joint Economic Committee meetings. President Santos, in return, welcomed the Japanese companies' CEOs visit to Colombia and also the holding of Japan Colombia Joint Economic Committee meetings, and expressed its support offering a good business environment for the Japanese private sector's activities in Colombia.

15. Both leaders welcomed the development of cooperation activities between the respective offices in the field of intellectual property including the early commencement of the Patent Prosecution Highway pilot project.

16. Prime Minister Abe expressed the intention to support Colombia's policy of promoting the optical-fiber network included in the governmental policy of "Vive Digital", through improvement of fiber-optic network by Japanese private companies. President Santos welcomed the cooperation of Japanese companies for the improvement of fiber-optic network in Colombia.

17. Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectation that the environment of for investment for the projects of Japanese companies in the development of natural resources in Colombia will be further facilitated. President Santos expressed the importance of the Japanese investment in productive sectors, recognizing positive effects of the investment from Japan for transfer of technology and innovation for the benefit of Colombian people, and its intention to continue supporting and facilitating the investment environment for the projects of Japanese companies in that area in accordance with the applicable international and domestic laws and policies.

18. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of the UN Security Council reform. While respecting each other's position, they concurred in the need to continue working in open and transparent intergovernmental negotiations in the General Assembly.

19. Both leaders expressed their respect for the rule of law and emphasized the importance of international law such as the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

20. Both leaders firmly condemn the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor, including by armed non-state actors. Determined to put an end to the dreadful suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, they call upon all states and non-state actors to observe the norms established by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in light of further promoting progress towards a mine-free world.

21. Both leaders are committed to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) and promote the joint proposal and adoption of the Resolution entitled: "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", at the 1st Committee of the UN General Assembly every year.

22. Prime Minister Abe expressed concern over North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. Both leaders urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards its denuclearization and to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant UN

Security Council resolutions and its commitment under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. They confirmed to cooperate for the resolution of the abductions issue, which is a humanitarian concern of the international community, including the UN resolutions on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

23. Prime Minister Abe mentioned his vision of creating a 'society where women shine' and, expressed his determination to contribute to promote the women's empowerment and participation of women in the society, strengthening the cooperation with relevant international organization and international community. In response, President Santos expressed to highly appreciate Japan's efforts and stressed the importance to keep cooperation in this area between the two countries taking into account that women have a vital role in the society.

24. Prime Minister Abe expressed the intention to further promote the relations with the Pacific Alliance recognizing the great role played by Colombia during its term as Pro Tempore President. President Santos welcomed Japan's interest in the Pacific Alliance, a mechanism which contributes to foster increased economic relations and integration between the Asia Pacific and Latin America region. Regarding to the reinforcement of dialogues between Japan and the Pacific Alliance, both leaders reaffirmed the importance of strengthening collaboration and promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

25. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of addressing global challenges including the formulation of post-2015 development agenda, and cooperation towards the adoption of a new international framework for climate change. Also they reaffirmed their cooperation for the success of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

26. Prime Minister Abe welcomed the progress of the accession process of Colombia to the OECD and expressed the hope for its early accession. President Santos supported Japan's initiative as chair of the Ministerial Council Meeting of OECD this year toward the resilient economies and inclusive societies.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and courtesy offered by President Santos and Colombia's people to his delegation.

Bogotá, Colombia

(END)