

DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA AMISTAD 30 DE JULIO

Intervención Guillermo Fernández de Soto
Embajador, Representante Permanente de Colombia ante Naciones Unidas

Dear Colleagues,

- I would like to thank and congratulate Ambassador Julio Arriola, Permanent Representative of Paraguay, for organizing the celebration of the international day of friendship.
- Colombia joins and supports this event with a strong conviction in the principles of peace and solidarity.
- As a founding member State of the United Nations, we are fully committed to the respect of international law, multilateralism and rule-based order. Those pillars are interlinked and should be reinforced all the time.
- We do believe in the complementarity between regionalism and universalism to achieve a more friendly and peaceful world order.
- This international day, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 2011, represents a unique opportunity to remember the values promoted by the United Nations Charter.

- It is an occasion to encourage harmonious relations between Member States, to respect all differences, and to reinforce frank and constructive dialogues.
- Within this framework, we need to advance in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the respect for human rights, and the strengthening of the international cooperation.
- Since its origins in the 1990s, the culture of peace has favored the transformation of the culture of war into a culture of dialogue and friendship between nations.
- We recognize that the “Alliance for Civilizations” and the “Alliance for Multilateralism” are processes that foster dialogue in the most pertinent manner.
- Today it is mandatory to mention how much multilateral cooperation and solidarity is needed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. To face it, strong political leadership and accurate and forward-looking decision-making are essential.
- I conclude encouraging all Member States to continue progressing along the path of friendship and respect among peoples.

- As Nelson Mandela stated: “Peace and prosperity, tranquility and security are only possible if these are enjoyed by all without discrimination”.

Thank you very much.