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**Cancillería  
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ante la ONU en Nueva York**

## **PBC Ambassadorial-level meeting on Liberia**

**New York, 20 June 2019**

### **Talking points**

- Colombia would like to begin by thanking H.E. Olof Skoog for organizing today's meeting on Liberia. We really appreciate this meeting as we gladly remember the one held before on 31 January, where the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development was presented and we could witness the optimistic perspective from the ministers of foreign relations, state affair and finances of Liberia.
- I also would like to thank the expositions made today by the representatives of the Government of Liberia; the Special Representative, of the Secretary-General, Mohammed Ibn Chambas; and the UN Resident Coordinator, Yacubo el Hillo. Thank you all for informing us on the progress made so far and the challenges that Liberia continues to face.
- The recent events in Liberia show us that tension and economic challenges are still present in this country. However, from my national perspective, I want to invite the members of the PBC not to rush into discouragement but rather see this situation as an anticipated context.
- I say this not from a lack of expectations I have on Liberia, which is actually the contrary. But rather, from the position of a representative of a country that is itself facing a transition period from conflict. In Colombia we are also have macroeconomic challenges as the elimination of dynamics of the armed conflict started to uncover gaps on the social and economic development. And as fast as we would like to respond to the needs of our people, the Colombian government is also well aware that macroeconomic stability cannot be overlooked as it is one of the key means we have to assure the sustainability of peace on the long term.



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- On the other hand, skepticism has also awoken inside our population, who is eager to see the changes and positive impacts of the peace process in their day to day as soon as possible.
- Being said this, I would like to encourage the Representatives of Liberia, the Commission members and other stakeholder present today not to lose hope nor the optimism we have on Liberia. Challenges such as economic growth, inflation and efficiency spending can be overcome with the help of international partners and aid.
- In this context, we support the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund as we see they intend to target the economic challenges without omitting the priorities stated in the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PPAPD). On the contrary, we welcome how these recommendations address the development of physical and human capital accumulation through responsible fiscal and monetary spending.
- We are sure that following the recommendations, through the means and decisions that the government of Liberia sees as the most feasible, can help to increase the trust from international stakeholders and the local population.
- Regarding the presence of tension in the Liberian population, I can only say that emphasis on more transparent, inclusive and open processes of implementation can allow the implementation of the PPAPD to become more fluent.
- Lastly, we would also like to call on the international community to continue to support that they have showed Liberia. Either through the help of the Resident Coordinator, through the Peacebuilding Fund or through bilateral agreements. Therefore, I invite you to take this meeting also as a reminder that Liberia still needs the support and accompaniment of the international community, and that without a doubt, the PBC is the ideal space for it.

Thank you.