

The Colombian Embassy in Kenya presents a summary of the most important news in our country. For this mission, delivering this information to our main allies is a clear example of the political, social, and economic ties between Colombia and East Africa.

If you wish to have more details about the information sent, the doors of our embassy are open to discuss and broaden the topics of interest.

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Ambassador of Colombia in Kenya*

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN COLOMBIA?

February 10, 2022

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ECONOMICS

- As a new record, the National Government described the agricultural export figures for 2021, products such as coffee, flowers, beef, cocoa, tilapia and others, foreign sales were achieved for US\$9,418 million, a figure that represented an increase of almost 19.9% compared to 2020.
- The arrival of foreigners to Colombia increased by 38% in 2021, a figure higher than the average for South America, which shows the country as one of the destinations with the greatest progress in the region, highlighted the Colombian Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies. (Anato).
- In the presentation of the report 'ColombiaTech Report 2021', an analysis of the main startups in the country, the National Government receives great conclusions:
 1. We have great potential for entrepreneurship compared to other Latin American countries.
 2. The investment in science, technology and innovation stands out, which grew 111.9% between 2010 and 2019.
 3. Thanks to the iNNpulsa programs, in this government we went from supporting 800 enterprises to 2,443 in their acceleration process.
- With the above, Colombia proves to be a leader in Latin America, promoted by the National Government, in issuing and adopting measures and public policies to favor the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- The Ministry of Housing indicates that January of this year marks the best record for the first month of the year in home purchases in Colombia with 19,633 units sold, 12% more than the same month of 2021, according to figures from Real Estate Gallery. A result driven by the Housing policy of the National Government.

- To deal with inflation, the National Government announced on February 6 a Technical Action Plan, which includes price, tariff and logistics measures, which seek to curb the indiscriminate rise in consumer prices in Colombia.
- The set of measures focuses on reducing production costs for the agricultural sector, reducing import tariffs on inputs and increasing the supply of food production.

EQUITY FOR WOMEN

- Women lead the economic reactivation of the country. During the second half of 2021, according to DANE, a total of 1.3 million jobs were recovered, of which 686 thousand correspond to women (51.5%) and 645 thousand to men (48.5%).
- Within the framework of the Tenth Plenary Session of the Government's High Instance on Gender, the Vice President and Chancellor, Marta Lucía Ramírez, together with the Counselor for Stabilization and Consolidation, Emilio Archila, and the Counselor for Women's Equity; She highlighted the progress of the gender approach in the implementation of the Agreement within the framework of the Peace with Legality policy.
- The senior official highlighted that "today we have more than a million women in rural areas who have been beneficiaries of the different supports of this gender equity policy, within the framework of the implementation of the agreement with the FARC, receiving all the titles and participating in the projects of formalization and adjudication of the land". In addition, more than 379,000 hectares have been formalized and awarded to 26,464 rural women, these being 46% of the total beneficiaries.
- "We put forward a law on family police stations to strengthen these spaces. We are working with mayors and governors to identify rural areas where there are women who are suffering from any type of violence and who need justice to reach their doorstep", concluded the Vice President and Chancellor.
- For their part, 50 percent of the 4.5 million women registered in the National Registry of Victims have received payments of more than one billion pesos. Special attention routes were created for Women and Ethnic Communities and at the end of 2021, Law 2172 was issued, which will allow women victims of gender-based violence priority access to decent housing programs.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- President Iván Duque, along with the Vice President and Chancellor, Marta Lucía Ramírez; the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ghada Waly; and the UNODC Representative in Colombia, Pierre Lapaque; participated in the launch on February 7 of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025, a regional commitment that strengthens the articulated work in crime prevention and access to justice.
- Likewise, the Vice President and Chancellor assured, during the event, that "for the Government it is very valuable to know that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will have a regional office in our country co with all the experience what we have to share."
- For its part, the new Strategic Vision of the UNODC for Latin America and the Caribbean is based on 4 pillars: corruption and economic crimes, the fight against transnational organized crime, strengthening of crime prevention and criminal justice, and the world drug problem.

PEACE WITH LEGALITY

- Colombia permanently recognizes the tireless work of humanitarian demining organizations in the territory. Thanks to them, during the last three years, 194 municipalities were declared free of suspected antipersonnel mines. Likewise, our country reiterates the commitment to strengthen actions aimed at mine risk education (ERM), the removal of artifacts in the territories and assistance to the victims of this scourge.
- Likewise, it is highlighted that Colombia has participated in different relevant scenarios within the framework of the Convention, such as the Victim Assistance Committee between 2016 and 2017, the Committee on the implementation of article 5 on the elimination of mines placed in the territory between 2018 and 2019; and the Committee for Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance between 2020 and 2021.

NATIONAL PLAN FOR VACCINATION AND VACCINE PRODUCTION

- Good news. Colombia has more than 32 million people with its complete immunization scheme against covid-19 and 73 million doses applied. A new goal achieved in the National Vaccination Plan of the National Government.
- On February 2, the construction works of the VaxThera plant began in Rionegro, Antioquia, a Colombian company expert in biotechnology, a project promoted by the National Government and that will allow Colombia to recover its sovereignty in production. of vaccines, after 20 years without the country producing them.
- The plant received an investment of 54 million dollars by Seguros SURA, and will have the highest standards of technological quality for the research, production, distribution and packaging capacity of biological products.
- With the construction of the VaxThera plant, it will generate more than 500 jobs in the department and will seek to promote the specialized skills and human talent that exist in the country, turning Colombia into the epicenter of knowledge, development and innovation in the production of vaccines.

OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC NEWS

- Modifications to the Fiscal Rule were approved. From now on, the Fiscal Rule includes a debt limit, which was established at 71% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and, in order to achieve the goal, the Structural Net Primary Balance (Bpne) was tied to the level of debt, in such a way that, if public obligations increase, the Government will have less money to spend.
- Gas production was the highest in the last five years and oil production fell 5.7%. According to information reported by the National Hydrocarbons Agency (ANH), the increase during the last month of last year was explained by greater commercialization in the oil fields.
- Workers' remittances reached a record of US\$8,597.24 million in 2021. The amount for 2021 is the highest since 2000, the date from which information is available on the Banco de la República website. When comparing the figures on an annual basis, it is evident that this total of remittances registered a growth of 24.4% compared to 2020

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