

COLOMBIA COMMITS TO REDUCE 20% OF ITS PROJECTED EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES BY 2030

Bogota, July 21 2015. President Juan Manuel Santos announced yesterday in his speech to Congress on the national day, that Colombia will reduce 20% of its projected greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 under the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Today the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Gabriel Vallejo Lopez, explained the details of Colombia's commitment with the world. This year, Colombia's commitment will be added to the commitment from all the other countries. Colombia expects to see the global ambition bring us closer to the objective of halting climate change, before the global increase in temperature reaches 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius, and its catastrophic implications.

At this moment, the international agreement that will be the platform for these commitments is being negotiated. Support for adaptation and mitigation actions for developing countries, in particular those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change will also be an integral part of this agreement.

Colombia's commitment, or iNDC (intended nationally determined contribution) will be submitted to the UNFCCC in the coming weeks, well before the 21st Conference of the Parties that will take place in Paris in December.

"This commitment that Colombia takes on, implies a transformation of our national economy towards an efficient resource and energy use model. It is a decision that promotes innovation and technological development in line with a new climate economy", said Minister Vallejo.

Colombia's iNDC could be increased to 25 or 30% depending on international support received in the next years to enhance its mitigation efforts. The reference for these targets is the GHG inventory produced by the national meteorological institute, IDEAM, with 2010 data.

The formulation of this target is the result of meticulous work done through the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy, led by the Ministry of Environment through a technical, political and participative process with sectorial Ministries, the National Planning Department and representatives from different sectors of the economy, based on the research done by *Los Andes* University. Colombia also received important support from international partners in this process, which the Minister recognized and showed his appreciation for in today's press conference.

All economic sectors in the country will contribute to this national effort: agriculture, forestry, other land uses, electricity generation, transport, industry, housing, waste, hydrocarbons and mining.

Colombia's contribution will also include an adaptation component under which the country commits to undertake concrete and innovative actions to reduce the productive sectors' and regions' vulnerability to climate change, and the development of concrete indicators to measure progress in this field.

"This is a scenario that is aligned with the Green Growth Strategy that is an overarching theme in our National Development Plan 2014-2018. It also recognizes the impending challenges the country faces in terms of development, post-conflict and adaptation to climate change impacts", added the head of the environment Ministry.

Colombia is leading in mitigation and adaptation efforts, and this target ratifies its decision to work in harmony with the international community to face, in a responsible manner, the challenges that involve the whole planet.

The main actions to achieve the reductions needed to achieve the INDC in each sector are:

	MAIN MITIGATION OPORTUNITIES
Agriculture, forestry and land use change	Reduction of deforestation rates Commercial forestry plantations and agroforestry systems Ecological restoration (restoration, rehabilitation and recovery) Agroforestry systems with high carbon capture potential Improved fertilization practices (potato and rice crops) Sustainable cattle ranching (intensive silvopastoral systems, rational pasturage) Improved, more efficient land use models, land use planning
Energy	Energy efficiency in demand, transformation and production sectors Smart grid systems Renewable energy portfolio Non-conventional electricity generation schemes and hybrid systems plus energy efficiency strategies for areas not connected to the national grid Reduction of energy loss in electricity transfers Demand management through price and incentive schemes
Industry	Energy efficiency in boilers, ovens and engines Substitution of coal for biomass and general introduction of less carbon-intensive fuels Technological improvements in productive processes
Transport	Performance standards and green driving strategies Freight transport fleet renovation Electric vehicles; use of less carbon-intensive fuels Promote use of public transport; public bicycle systems, de-incentivize private transport use; congestion charges Multi-modal transport (fluvial and rail) Optimization of freight transport
Housing	Energy efficiency and introduction of cleaner fuels (substitution of incandescent light bulbs; improvement in efficiency of air conditioning systems, natural gas appliances, replacement and upgrading of old refrigerators; use so solar energy) Housing upgrades Improvement in construction materials, design and construction practices Sustainable cities

Waste	Solid waste use (composting) Methane capture and burning in landfills Methane capture and burning in wastewater treatment facilities (domestic and industrial)
--------------	--