



ADVANCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

- **President Hugo Chávez and President Juan Manuel Santos met on November 2, 2010**, the second meeting since Santos took office on August 7, 2010. This meeting took place in Caracas, while the first took place on August 10 in Santa Marta, Colombia.
- **During their second meeting the two presidents signed agreements** on economic development, infrastructure, social development, security, and energy. They focused particularly on the shared border between the two countries.
- **They also signed the joint “Declaration of Miraflores,”** which summarizes the agreements and ratify their interest to meet regularly and maintain permanent communication between the bi-national working groups on the various issues.
- **Both governments agreed on a mechanism to meet every three months.** President Santos extended an invitation to President Chávez for the next meeting to take place in Colombia.

President Chávez on the Bilateral Relationship

“The world should know that Chavez and Santos are committed to not allowing anyone derail us, independent of political differences.” (*Bloomberg*, November 3, 2010)

“The accords are a first step to building a solid relationship based on mutual respect, confidence and common interest.” (*AFP*, November 3, 2010)

President Santos on the Bilateral Relationship

“We’ve gone from well-intentioned statements to concrete accords.” (*The Washington Post*, November 3, 2010)

“We are two brother nations, we fought together against Spanish oppression, we were born 200 years ago and we have had our differences, it is true. But our destinies are the same. We must work together if we want to free ourselves from another oppression – poverty and inequality.” (*Reuters*, November 2, 2010)

SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS BY ISSUE OUTLINED IN DECLARATION OF MIRAFLORES

ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION:

- › Agreed to create a bi-national committee to advance on “an agreement of economic complementarity and productive cooperation” and impulse alliances in textiles, foodstuffs, livestock, home and construction materials, automobiles, and energy.
- › Recognized advances in the process to pay down debts to Colombian exporters. To date US \$336 million has been paid out.
- › The Venezuelan government announced the purchase of sugar cane from a cooperative in Norte de Santander, Colombia, for 2010-2011.
- › The Venezuelan government announced that 456 Venezuelan exporters received their certificates of origin so as to export pharmaceutical goods, chemicals, plastics, and textiles worth US \$219 million to Colombia.
- › Agreed on mechanisms to prevent illegal activity in commerce.



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE BORDER:

- › Agreed on the construction of the *Tienditas* Bridge that will link both countries and enable the use of the *Jose Antonio Paez* Bridge in the State of Apure (Venezuela) for international passage.
- › Decided on the creation of bi-national juvenile and youth symphonic orchestras (replicating the famous Venezuelan state funded musical and educative program “El Sistema”) and the development of four music centers along the border.

ENERGY:

- › Agreed to re-establish plans for the provision of Venezuelan gasoline to border-states in Colombia and to strengthen the mechanisms to eradicate contraband.
- › Decided to initiate evaluations that would allow for the joint development of projects between PDVSA and ECOPETROL, including the participation of the latter in the Orinoco Oil Belt.
- › Agreed to realize studies and joint projects on gas connectivity, including gas pipelines, towards Central America and Ecuador.

SECURITY:

- › Agreed to create a bi-national group to finalize the terms of an anti-drug cooperation agreement.
- › Decided to realize a meeting of anti-drug authorities from Colombia and Venezuela on November 19 in Cartagena, Colombia.

SOME MEDIA COVERAGE OF RECENT SUMMIT

[Leaders of Colombia, Venezuela Seek Improved Ties](#), *The Washington Post*, November 2, 2010.

[Venezuela Paying \\$336 mln Debt to Colombian Exporters](#), *Reuters*, November 2, 2010.

[Venezuela, Colombia Sign Energy Agreements, Vowing to Revive Lost Trade](#), *Bloomberg*, November 3, 2010.

[Venezuela, Colombia Agreement Helps Improve Ties](#), *AFP*, November 3, 2010.

For More Information Visit our Website:

<http://www.venezuela-us.org/>
prensa@venezuela-us.org

Follow us on Twitter (@VzlaEmbassyUS)
Friend Us on Facebook (facebook.com/vzlaembassyus)

Press and Communications Office
November 5, 2010