



Marta Lucía Ramírez de Rincón
Vicepresidenta de la República de Colombia

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Bogotá, November 7, 2020

H. E.

KAMALA HARRIS

Vice President-elect of the United States of America
Washington D.C.

Dear Madam Vice President-elect Harris,

I want to congratulate you and the people of the United States of America on your historic election and express my great admiration for your efforts to protect the rights of those most vulnerable in our communities. Your election is a great source of joy and honor for women throughout the world. It is a testimony that with skill, preparation, and hard work, we can break the glass ceiling that has slowed the progress of women and societies throughout the human history.

Like you, I am a lawyer by training and have served my country as Minister, Senator and its first female Vice President. Since August 2018, as Vice President of the current administration I have worked to protect women's rights and create opportunities for all citizens, particularly for informal workers, people with disabilities, and the most vulnerable sector of society. The fight against corruption has also been a focus of my work as Vice President.

Under the leadership of President Ivan Duque, our administration has implemented economic policies to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to cement our regional leadership in social and economic development. Our focus has been on promoting equal access to opportunities for all Colombians with a firm conviction for the respect and promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

Our democratic tradition, our commitment to a free and open market, and our shared fight against drug trafficking are fundamental pillars of our alliance with the United States of America. Our strong ties have been critical in promoting institutional and economic stability not just for in Colombia but for the region. As Minister of Trade and later Minister of Defense, I witness firsthand the importance of counting on bipartisan support for Plan Colombia. For this reason, I am convinced that overcoming challenges that affect both our countries and the region will require increased international cooperation based on shared principles and values and not only on economic interests.

Along with the Vice President of Costa Rica Ms. Epsy Campbell, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC Ms. Alicia Barcenas, the Ibero-American Secretary General Rebeca Greenspan, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UNWOMEN Ms. Maria Vaeza and the former Foreign Minister of Argentina Ms. Susana Malcorra we created launched the International Coalition for the Economic Empowerment of Women. I preside over this group of dedicated women leaders to promote programs and policies to correct the structural deficiencies that have



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stifled gender equality in our region. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank have recognized this coalition's proposals and work and accompany our actions. I hope that we will be able to share this important work with you. Increased international cooperation will facilitate a more coordinated, efficient, and strong economic reactivation for the Americas. I hope that we will work together on these and other issues of common interest.

In closing, I reiterate the historical importance of a woman being elected to the office of the Vice President of the United States. Your achievement carries a great responsibility and honors American women's contributions to shaping the future of your country. This will inspire new generations of women to increasingly assume leadership roles. As you said last night, you may have been the first woman Vice President, but you will not be the last.

I reiterate my highest appreciation and express my best wishes for your success for the good of the United States and that of the entire democratic world.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marta Lucía Ramírez de Rincón', followed by a long horizontal line.

MARTA LUCÍA RAMÍREZ DE RINCÓN

Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia