

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Santa Marta, 10 August 2010

The following text is the declaration of principles and cooperation mechanism announced this Tuesday by the presidents of the Republic of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, at the end of the meeting held at Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino in Santa Marta.

Declaration of principles

The presidents of the Republic of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, present in the city of Santa Marta, Colombia, agree to relaunch bilateral negotiations, restarting diplomatic relations between the two countries based on transparent, direct and respectful dialogue, giving priority to diplomatic means.

The dialogue will seek to guarantee the permanence and stability of bilateral relations in strict compliance with international law and applying the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the states and respect for their territorial sovereignty and integrity.

The presidents also decided to promote bilateral integration in favour of the development of the two peoples, particularly in border areas and communities, where they agreed to promote joint social and economic programmes.

They also agreed for the creation of five working commissions:

1. commission for the payment of debt and the stimulation of trade relations;
2. working commission for an agreement regarding economic complementarity between the two countries;
3. commission to develop a work plan for social investment in the border zone;
4. commission for the joint development of infrastructure works;
5. security commission.

The cooperation mechanism agreed by the presidents is set out below:

Cooperation mechanism

The presidents of the Republic of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, present in the city of Santa Marta, Colombia, have agreed to establish a cooperation mechanism at the level of their foreign affairs ministers for the design of a joint strategy to address social, economic and security issues in the border zone. The aims of the mechanism include preventing the presence or action of insurgent groups operating on the fringes of the law.

The presidents also decided to coordinate the two countries' activities to increase the presence of both states in the border zone.

The presidents instructed the chancellors to define the specific procedures required to ensure the mechanism is effective. The mechanism will be supported by the Secretary General of UNASUR.