

# HISAR SCHOOL JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## Colombia

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## I. Background Information on Colombia

Colombia, officially the Republic of Colombia, is a transcontinental country encompassing South America and an insular part of North America. It borders Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama. Colombia is divided into 32 departments and the capital district of Bogotá, the largest city in the country. It has a population of 50 million people and occupies an area of 1,141,748 square kilometers. Colombia's diverse cultural heritage reflects influences from various Amerindian civilizations, European settlement, African slaves, and European and Middle Eastern immigration. The official language of the country is Spanish, along with over 70 spoken regional languages.

Since at least 12,000 BCE, Colombia has been home to a variety of indigenous peoples, including the Muisca, Quimbaya, and Tairona. The Spanish arrived in La Guajira in 1499 and colonized parts of the region by the mid-16th century, creating the New Kingdom of Granada with Santa Fé de Bogotá as its capital. In 1819, the United Provinces of New Granada declared independence from the Spanish Empire, forming what is today Colombia. Before declaring the Republic of Colombia in 1886, the new nation experimented with federalism as the Granadine Confederation and subsequently the United States of Colombia. In 1903, Panama seceded, resulting in Colombia's current borders. Colombia is a member of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the OECD, the Organization of American States, the Pacific Alliance, the Andean Community, and is a NATO Global Partner. It has the third-largest economy in South America, with macroeconomic stability and promising long-term growth potential.

## II. Previous Attempts of Colombia at Resolving the Issues

### A. The question of illicit drug trafficking among Latin American cartels:

- As it may be common knowledge, Colombia is historically infamous for its massive drug cartels, especially the Medellin cartel led by Pablo Escobar.

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- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), after reviewing the efficiency of the actions taken by the Colombian government for more than 20 years, has called for cocaine consuming countries to take their share of responsibility and reduce demand for cocaine, explaining that there are limits to what the Andean governments can do if cocaine consumption continues unabated, a position that has been maintained by the Colombian government for many years
- The actions of the Colombian National Police against drug trafficking have been so effective that the country has captured and extradited drug lords at a rate of over 100 per year for the last 10 years and currently gives technical advice to 7 countries in Latin America and 12 in Africa.

## **B. The question of legislations for protecting the Amazon Forests in all borders/countries**

- As the delegation of Colombia, the government is currently struggling with rampant deforestation in the Amazon, which was up 97% in 2018 from 2016, when the country's former largest illegal armed group, the FARC, demobilized.
- The government has not provided a domestic policy agenda to support the goals outlined by the international agreement. Authorities, who have undertaken military operations against forest clearing in national parks, have yet to dismantle the organized crime groups that are allegedly behind the large-scale deforestation.
- High rates of forest loss are particularly concerning for a critical biological corridor and watershed between the country's Andes, Amazon, and eastern savanna biospheres, where deforestation has been particularly severe.

## **C. The question of the territorial conflict between Guatemala and Belize**

*The delegation doesn't have previous attempts at solving the issue*

### **III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Colombia On the Issues**

#### **A. The question of illicit drug trafficking among Latin American cartels**

- As Colombia is one of the countries that have both struggled and overcame this issue on many occasions, there are many objectives, aims, and possible solutions that have been proposed by the general public and also the government.

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- As aforementioned, Colombian police have sufficiently shut down many drug cartels in the last decade. Also, for possible solutions, there could be specific police units specializing in narcotics and the prevention of their supply.

## **B. The question of legislations for protecting the Amazon Forests in all borders/countries**

- Colombia is by default a critical country on this matter as one of the sole protectors and providers of the Amazon Forests. Therefore, Colombia kindly requests all the willing Member States along with NGOs and international organizations to allocate funds and campaigns for the protection of the Amazon Forests.
- In addition, education and raising awareness on deforestation to the general public could be implemented. As a by-product of the education provided on this issue, individuals would potentially be more mindful of the condition and less reluctant for aid.

## **C. The question of the territorial conflict between Guatemala and Belize**

- Colombia has and always advocates for peace among all regions, especially South America. With that said, the cooperation of both nations is key in the conflict. A potential solution would be to monitor and inspect the ICJ case process of the Guatemala and Belize conflict.
- Lastly, Colombia believes that all countries should remain natural and independent on this issue in order to prevent any polarization in case of a war. However, a probability of a war should be prevented at all costs with all processes executed by global politics diplomacy.

## **IV. Bibliography**

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