



Wilton Park

Programme

Colombia and the United Kingdom ahead of COP26: partnering to build back better

Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March | WP1889V
1200 to 1500 UK time (0700 to 1000 Colombia time)

To be held virtually

In August 2020 Colombian President Iván Duque announced an ambitious economic recovery plan that the World Resources Institute characterised as one of a number of “inspiring examples of what a sustainable COVID-19 economic recovery could look like.” Under the plan the government intends to accelerate 27 renewable energy and transmission projects, create tens of thousands of new green jobs, and implement an environmental transformation through more reforestation and other measures.

With its economic recovery plan Colombia is playing a leading role in Latin America in setting out an ambitious green growth path. As such, Colombia has become a key partner for the UK in its role as host of COP26. In November UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson released a ten-point plan for a green industrial revolution aimed at “building back better”, supporting green jobs, accelerating the UK’s path to net zero carbon emissions and turning the UK into a world leader for green technology and finance.

Both countries share a long-standing collaboration on issues such as peace, security, mutual prosperity and environment. Regarding the sustainable growth agenda, in 2019 both countries reaffirmed their joint commitment of working together on the Paris Agreement and the SDGs through the UK-COL Partnership for Sustainable Growth. This platform is aimed at exploring and encouraging joint work on similar views on climate and biodiversity, seeing them as two sides of the same coin. Colombia submitted a highly ambitious NDC and is committed to a carbon neutrality long-term strategy. This year Colombia will host the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD) Open Ended Working Group. President Duque is especially keen on promoting the innovative concept of Biodiversities

Organised in partnership with:



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El futuro
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Cancillería
Embajada de Colombia
en Reino Unido

and a Global Alliance to protect Andean moorlands (“paramos” - unique ecosystems critical for water resources).

Objectives

This joint UK-Colombia conference, under the umbrella of the Year of UK-Colombia 2021, will explore how the two countries can further strengthen their partnership in support of sustainable energy transition, green growth, and far-reaching COP26 outcomes. The conference will allow deeper discussion of how Colombia can support the relevant COP26 campaigns, especially with regard to nature-based solutions, and demonstrate the synergy of the climate and biodiversity agendas. The conference will also provide a forum to examine how UK technological capabilities as well as trade and investment policy can help Colombia in delivering on its climate ambitions.

In summary the conference aims to:

- Support each country’s objectives for building back better and for a successful COP26 with ambitious outcomes.
- Highlight and strengthen Colombia’s regional leadership role in developing a sustainable COVID-19 economic recovery plan and in encouraging its neighbours to be more ambitious in their COP26 goals.
- Examine how success in building back better can bring wider benefits to joint work on supporting peace, reducing deforestation and its drivers (e.g. illicit economies), tackling inequality, promoting gender and better human rights, and supporting better and greater trade and investment.
- Provide an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations, including by helping to change outdated UK perceptions of Colombia and vice-versa – a key overarching aim of the UKCOL 2021 programme.
- Offer, as a virtual event, an opportunity for digital engagement with new audiences in both countries, including younger audiences, who view climate change as a key global priority.

Wednesday 24 March

Day 1: Exchanging ideas for a sustainable economic recovery

1145-1200

Join meeting

1200-1210

Welcome and introduction

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1210-1320

1. Building back better: challenges and opportunities of a sustainable economic recovery

Juan Pablo Zarate

Deputy Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Colombia

Cath Bremner

Director, International Energy and Climate Finance, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom

1320-1330

Break

1330-1430

2. Breakout groups: What is needed to build back better to achieve sustainable green growth and carbon neutrality?

Group 1: Clean energy transition

What is the current situation of the clean energy transition in your country? What is going well? What is missing? What are the obstacles to filling in the gaps? How can those obstacles be overcome?

Lead off speaker: Alejandra Bernal Guzman

Head of International Affairs, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia

Facilitator: Anthony Preston

Deputy Consul General, Rio De Janeiro, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom

Group 2: Nature based solutions contributing to an economic recovery

What is the current situation of nature based solutions in your country? What is going well in terms of NBS contributing to economic recovery and NDC's? What is missing? What are the obstacles to filling in the gaps? How can those obstacles be overcome?

Lead off speaker: Nicolas Galarza

Vice Minister, Environmental Territorial Planning, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

Facilitator: Laura Chappell

Deputy Director, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom

Group 3: Green finance and sustainable investment

What is the current situation of the green finance and sustainable investment in your country? What is going well? What is missing? What are the obstacles to filling in the gaps? How can those obstacles be overcome?

Lead off speaker: Jeremy Gorelick

Strategic Advisor, Green Finance Institute, United States of America

Facilitator: Santiago Aparicio

Director, Environment and Sustainable Development, National Planning Department (DNP), Colombia

Group 4: Clean mobility: electric vehicles and public transport

What is the current situation of the clean mobility: electric vehicles and public transport in your country? What is going well? What is missing? What are the obstacles to filling in the gaps? How can those obstacles be overcome?

Lead off speaker: Carlos Marín

Mayor, Government of Manizales, Colombia

Facilitator: Gibet Camós

Transportation Specialist in the Infrastructure Sector, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Colombia

Group 5: peace and stability as key foundations for building back better

What is the current situation of the peace and stability as key foundations for building back better in your country? What is going well? What is missing? What are the obstacles to filling in the gaps? How can those obstacles be overcome?

Lead off speaker: Emilio Archila

Presidential Advisor, Colombia

Facilitator: Adam Forbes

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom

1430-1455

3. Feedback Session

Feedback from breakout groups

1455-1500

4. Closing summary of Day 1

1500-1530

Optional informal networking session

Thursday 25 March

Day 2: Joint work and bilateral cooperation

1145-1200

Join meeting

1200-1225

Summary of Day 1

Summary of previous day's conversation and introduction to today's agenda.

Anne-Marie Trevelyan (video message)

Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth and International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom

Laura Arciniegas

Director, Economic, Social and Environmental, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia

Fiona Clouder

Regional Ambassador, Latin America & Caribbean, COP26, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom

1225-1325

1. Breakout groups: how can building back better be implemented?

Group 1: Role of partnerships

How can current partnerships adapt to evolving challenges, such as NDC implementation? Do the recovery plans create any new challenges and opportunities for partnerships? How can the UK-COL current collaboration address those challenges? How can our partnership be more effective?

Speaker: Jenny McInnes

Deputy Director for International Climate Finance at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom

Facilitator: Ricardo Lozano

Consul General of Colombia in London, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia

Group 2: Role of local governments

What's the role for subnational authorities in the recovery roadmap? How can a differentiated approach to recovery be implemented when it comes to rural-urban Colombia?

Speaker: Daniel Gomez

General Deputy Director, National Planning Department (DNP), Colombia

Facilitator: Tamar Bello

Director, Prosperity Fund Colombia, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Colombia

Group 3: Role of businesses and private sector

How can we work collaboratively towards an improved business environment to promote economic recovery and attract private investments? How can the business environment support ambitious climate targets, including in key agriculture sectors? How can we enhance best standards and transparency for green investments? How can we promote innovation and reach to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in a recovery context? How can ambitious climate targets incentivise that innovation? What legal, financial, policy gaps could benefit further collaboration to promote sustainable and fair trade between UK-COL?

Speaker: Nancy Ibarra

Director of Sustainable Consumption and Production, National Association of Entrepreneurs of Colombia (ANDI), Colombia

Facilitator: Mark Menzies

Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Colombia, Department for International Trade, United Kingdom

1325-1335

Break

1335-1355

2. Feedback from breakout groups

1355-1450

3. A UK-Colombia partnership for a sustainable economic recovery

Antonio José Ardila

Colombian Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Colin Martin-Reynolds

British Ambassador to Colombia

1450-1500

4. Closing remarks

1500-1530

Optional informal networking session

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only event.

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