

Press Statement on the Situation with Ecuador

Bogotá, 27 January 2026.

Press conference to brief the public on developments regarding the situation with Ecuador.

First, we would like to thank you for attending this press conference, which aims to inform the public about the diplomatic actions undertaken by this Ministry, together with other ministries of the National Government, to overcome the differences that have recently arisen with the brother nation of Ecuador. To begin, I would like to recall that on 21 January, the President of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa Azín, announced the imposition of a 30% tariff on products originating from Colombia, due to an alleged lack of cooperation on security matters by our country.

The National Government was surprised by the unfortunate statements made by President Daniel Noboa, given the significant results of binational cooperation on security matters. Among the main results, the following may be highlighted:

In the fight against drugs, and as a result of operational activities carried out by the Colombian Armed Forces in coordination with Ecuadorian authorities, a 36.7% increase has been recorded in seizures of cocaine hydrochloride in municipalities bordering Ecuador. Additionally, on 16 January, authorities of both countries seized 2.2 tons of marijuana in the border area.

Likewise, in recent years, the Colombian National Police's operational efforts to eradicate illicit crops have been concentrated mainly in the departments of Putumayo and Nariño, which border Ecuador. On 23 January, President Petro delivered 2,835 hectares of land previously used for illicit crops so that 2,225 families in Tumaco, a municipality bordering Ecuador, could begin cultivating food crops.

Regarding dismantling transnational criminal organizations, cooperation between Colombia and Ecuador has been fundamental to the capture and prosecution of leaders and other members of these groups. Coordinated actions and joint operations have resulted in 39 deportations, 25 arrests by judicial order, and the rescue of seven persons.

It is also noteworthy that Colombia has trained approximately 4,000 Ecuadorian police officers in the fight against drug trafficking.

On the other hand, it should be noted that Presidents Petro and Noboa agreed during their December 2024 meeting in the Galápagos Islands that Ecuador would convene technical working groups between the Ministries of Defense in the first quarter of 2025 to address security issues in the border area. Ecuador failed to comply with this commitment and did not convene the technical working groups. In view of this situation, Colombia issued a call for the meetings to be held in November 2025, but did not receive a response from Ecuador.

Likewise, on 16 January of this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a new communication to Ecuador stating that, in the absence of responses regarding the Colombian proposal, Colombia remained attentive to a counterproposal regarding dates from Ecuador. Unfortunately, the Government of Ecuador's response was not a proposal for dialogue but rather a tariff imposition.

Accordingly, on 21 January, through the Embassy of Colombia in Quito, the National Government delivered a diplomatic note of protest expressing Colombia's rejection of this unilateral measure, as it negatively impacts bilateral trade and border communities and contravenes the provisions of the Cartagena Agreement.

In addition to expressing Colombia's rejection of President Noboa's statements, the note was accompanied by a report outlining the close, historic cooperation between the two countries in the fight against organized crime.

Likewise, the note invited the Government of Ecuador to hold a ministerial meeting on 25 January in the city of Ipiales, with the participation of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Trade, Mines, and Energy of both countries. The Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that it would not be possible to hold the meeting due to scheduling constraints of its Ministers.

Consequently, Colombia proposed holding the meeting on 27 or 28 January in Bogotá or Panama City, within the framework of the Latin America and Caribbean Economic Forum, which Colombia will attend. However, to date, no response has been received from Ecuador.

For now, and as has been demonstrated, Colombia will continue calling for dialogue and mutual understanding, as has been the practice of this Government. We hope to achieve a frank, sincere, and constructive dialogue with our Ecuadorian counterparts this same week to avoid the imposition of unilateral tariffs.

Meanwhile, Colombia has had to make certain decisions to mitigate the harmful effects of Ecuador's decision on our economy. In this regard, the Minister of Trade announced the imposition of a targeted tariff on 23 Ecuadorian products.

Similarly, the Minister of Mines and Energy announced the suspension of electricity exports to Ecuador. These measures are reversible, and we hope that dialogue will lead to their lifting as soon as possible. Regrettably, despite the goodwill actions taken by the Government of Colombia to engage in dialogue, Ecuador has once again responded in an unfriendly manner, announcing an increase in transit fees for Colombian crude oil transported through its territory.

Colombia reiterates its commitment to dialogue-based solutions that avoid negative impacts on communities and productive sectors. In this regard, Colombia publicly reiterates its call on the Government of Ecuador to facilitate the ministerial meeting at the earliest opportunity.

For now, Colombia will continue monitoring the situation and, if necessary, establish diplomatic or trade measures to overcome this complex scenario.

Among the possible measures Colombia may adopt, in addition to those already announced, is resorting to the dispute settlement mechanisms of the Andean Community (CAN).

We thank the Ministers, the Vice Minister, and all of you for your presence at this press conference.