

## UNESCO AND THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

### I. COUNTRY PROFILE

#### Political system

- The country is a Presidential Republic. The President is both Head of State and Head of Government.
- President: H.E. Mr. Ivan DUQUE (since 7 August 2018). The President is elected by universal suffrage for a single term of 4 years (political reform in 2015 excluding presidential reelection).
- Vice-President: H.E. Ms Marta Lucia RAMIREZ (since 7 August 2018).
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms Marta Lucia RAMIREZ (since 17 May 2021)

#### Statistical figures (source: UNDP Human Development Report 2020)

- Total population (million): 53.4
- Human Development Index: 0.767 / 83 rank
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 77.3
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2017 PPP\$): 14,257
- Internet users (% of population): 62.3
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tones): 2.0  
(Map of Colombia at the last page)

#### Education (source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 14.4
- Compulsory education (years): 12 (from age 5 to 16)
- Net enrolment ratio in primary education (%): 93.9 (2019)
- Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (%): 79.8
- Government expenditure on education (% of GDP): 4.5

### II. COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** Since 31 October 1947

2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** Not currently, not candidate for 2021-2025

Previous terms: 1948-1950, 1950-1954, 1970-1974, 1980-1985, 1985-1989, 1991-1995, 1997-2001, 2005-2009, 2007-2009

3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees and Commissions:** 5

- 2023: International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere
- 2023: Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee
- 2023: Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
- 2021: Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2021: Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

4. **DG's visits to Colombia:** 8-12 December 2019, for the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Intangible Cultural heritage convention.

5. **Former Director-General's visits to Colombia:** 1 in 2017 and 1 in 2016.

## 6. Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

- H.E. Mr Mauricio VARGAS LINARES, Ambassador of Colombia to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO (since 7 October 2021)  
Previous Permanent Delegates: Ms Viviane Aleyda Morales Hoyos (2019-2021) and Mr Federico Alonso Renjifo Vélez (2014-July 2018)

7. **UNESCO Office:** The UNESCO Office in Quito (Ecuador) covers Colombia. Since September 2020, Mr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi (D-1, Morocco) is the Director of the Office and UNESCO Representative to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela since 2020.

## 8. Colombian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO: (Comisión Nacional Colombiana de Cooperación con la UNESCO)

- Established in October 1947 and reorganized in 1985
- President (since end November 2019): Ms Marta Lucia RAMIREZ, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Secretary-General: Catalina Albarracín

9. **Personalities linked to the UNESCO activities** (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, etc.): None

## 10. UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in Colombia

### *UNESCO Chairs:* 11

- 1994: Chaire de communication, Pontifica Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá
- 2000: Chaire en Gestion du Patrimoine Culturel), Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Sede Manizales, Manizales, Caldas
- 2002: Chaire de Développement de l'enfant, Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Bogotá
- 2005: Chair in Human Rights, Violence, Public Policies and Governance, University Externado de Colombia, Bogotá
- 2014: Chair on Intercultural Dialogue, Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- 2016: Chaire pour la promotion de l'égalité des genres, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá
- 2019: Chair on Education and a Culture of Peace, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá
- 2019: Chair on Freedom of Expression: Promoting Peace and Justice through Free Speech in Latin America, University of Los Andes, Bogotá
- 2019: Chair on Arts, Education and Culture of Peace, Universidad Distrital F. José de Caldas
- 2020: Chair on Sustainable Development, University of Rosario, Bogotá
- 2020: Chair on Biotechnology and Sustainable Development Goals, Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira.

### *UNITWIN Networks:* 1

- 1996 : Chaire UNESCO/Réseau régional pour l'amélioration de la qualité et de l'équité en matière de l'éducation en Amérique latine, Universidad del Valle, Cali

11. **Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet):** 68

## 12. Category 2 Institutes and Centres:

Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the *Caribbean* (CERLALC), Bogotá.

13. **Biosphere Reserves:** 5

- 2000: Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta (reviewed in 2011)
- 2000: Seaflower (reviewed in 2011)
- 1979: Cinturón Andino (reviewed in 2001 and 2011)
- 1979: El Tuparro (reviewed in 2001 and 2011)

- 1979: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (reviewed in 2001 and 2011)

**14. UNESCO Global Geoparks Network:** None

**15. World Heritage Sites:** 9 (6 Cultural, 2 Natural and 1 Mixed)

*Cultural Sites:*

- 2014: Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru)
- 2011: Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia
- 1995: Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox
- 1995: National Archeological Park of Tierradentro
- 1995: San Agustín Archaeological Park
- 1984: Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena

*Natural Sites:*

- 2006: Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary
- 1994: Los Katíos National Park

*Mixed Site:*

- 2018: Chiribiquete National Park – “The Maloca of the Jaguar”

Tentative List: 15

- 2013: Cultural Landscape of the Vernacular Stilt Housing of Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta and of Medio Atrato
- 2012: Canal del Dique – Dike Canal
- 2012: Catholic Doctrine Temples
- 2012: Cultural Landscape of Salt Towns
- 2012: Cultural Landscape of the Lower Basin of the Chicamocha River
- 2012: Pre-Hispanic Hydraulic System of the San Jorge River
- 2012: Puente de Occidente (Western Bridge)
- 2012: South of Ricaurte Province
- 2012: Tatacoa Desert
- 2012: Tayrona and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Parks and their Archaeological Sites
- 2012: United Fruit Company Infrastructure
- 2012: University City of Bogotá
- 2012: Virgilio Barco Library
- 2007: Seaflower Marine Protected Area (MPA)
- 1993: Buritaca 200 - Ciudad Perdida - Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

**16. Intangible Heritage Lists:** 12

*Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:* 8

- 2015: Marimba music, traditional chants and dances from the Colombia South Pacific region and Esmeraldas Province of Ecuador (jointly with Ecuador)
- 2012: Festival of Saint Francis of Assisi, Quibdó
- 2011: Traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí
- 2010: Wayuu normative system, applied by the Pütchipü'üi (palabrero)
- 2009: Carnaval de Negros y Blancos
- 2009: Holy Week processions in Popayán
- 2008: Cultural space of Palenque de San Basilio
- 2008: Carnival of Barranquilla

*Register of Good Safeguarding Practices: 1*

- 2019: Safeguarding strategy of traditional crafts for peace building

*List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding: 3*

- 2020: Traditional knowledge and techniques associated with Pasto Varnish mopa-mopa of Putumayo and Nariño
- 2017: Colombian-Venezuelan llano work songs (jointly with Venezuela)
- 2015: Traditional Vallenato music of the Greater Magdalena region

**17. Memory of the World Register: 2**

- 2007: American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness (jointly with Mexico, Bolivia and Peru)
- 2005: Negros y Esclavos Archives

During the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC) (Panama City, 22-24 October 2018), two nominations were accepted:

- Acuerdo de paz entre el Gobierno de Colombia y las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo las FARC-EP / Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace. (Archivo General de la Nación “Jorge Preciado” / General Archive of the Nation “Jorge Palacios Preciado”)
- Archivo Histórico Cinematográfico Colombiano de Los Acevedo (1915-1955) / Historical Colombian Film Archive of Los Acevedo (1915-1955)

**18. Creative Cities Network: 6**

- 2020: Santiago de Cali, as Media Arts
- 2019: Valledupar, as a Creative City of Music
- 2017: Buenaventura, as a Creative City of Gastronomy
- 2015: Medellín, as a Creative City of Music
- 2012: Bogota, as a Creative City of Music
- 2005: Popayán, as a Creative City of Gastronomy

**19. Legal instruments**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	
20 December 2013	Convention relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite. Brussels, 21 May 1974.	Accession
19 March 2013	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005	Accession
24 November 2010	Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 26 March 1999.	Accession
31 August 2009	International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 19 October 2005.	Ratification
19 March 2008	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.	Ratification

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	
18 June 1998	Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for its Execution. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	Accession
18 June 1998	First Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and resolutions of the Conference. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	Accession
14 February 1994	Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms. Geneva, 29 October 1971.	Ratification
24 May 1988	Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Paris, 14 November 1970.	Acceptance
24 May 1983	Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris, 16 November 1972.	Acceptance
23 February 1977	Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Mexico, 19 July 1974.	Ratification
14 June 1976	International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Rome, 26 October 1961.	Accession
18 March 1976	Universal Copyright Convention as revised on 24 July 1971, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Paris, 24 July 1971.	Accession
18 March 1976	Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Geneva, 6 September 1952.	Accession

## 20. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2020-2021:

- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Julio Garavito Armero, engineer, mathematician and astronomer (1865-1920), with the support of Chile and Peru.

### *Previous anniversaries:*

- 2018-2019: 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Francisco José de Caldas y Tenorio (1768-1816)
- 2012: 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Rafael Pombo, writer (1833-1912)
- 2001: 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the expedition of Alexander von Humboldt to Colombia
- 1996: Centenary of the death of the Colombian poet José Asunción Silva

## 21. Participation Programme:

- 2020-2021: Colombia did not submit requests under the Participation Programme.

## 22. UNESCO Fellowships Programme:

- 22 fellowships have been awarded since 2010 for a total amount of USD 437 085.

## 23. Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO: 2

- Pan-American Association of Educational Credit Institutions (APICE), admitted in 1998, with consultative status (Asociación Panamericana de Instituciones de Crédito Educativo)
- Latin American Federation of Associations of Communication Schools (FELAFACS), admitted in 1990, with consultative status (Federación Latinoamericana de Facultades de Comunicación Social)

**24. IGOs in official relations with UNESCO: 1**

- Executive Secretariat of the Andres Bello Convention, based in Bogotá

**25. Payment of assessed membership fees (as at 25 October 2021):**

- Assessment rate for 2021: 0.372%

**28. Representation within the Secretariat (as at 24 August 2021):**

- Total staff Nationals from Colombia: 13
- Professional staff in geographical posts: 6
- Situation regarding the geographical distribution status (Max. 5; Min. 3): Over-represented
  - 1 International Professional Staff at Headquarters (Geographical Posts)
  - 5 International Professional Staff in the Field (Geographical Posts)
  - 5 International Professional Staff at Headquarters (Non-Geographical Posts)
  - 1 International Professional Staff in the Field (Non-Geographical Posts)

**Young Professional Programme (YPP)**

As an over-represented Member State, Colombia is not eligible to participate in the Young Professional Programme.

**Loans**

The Colombian Ocean Commission loaned two experts to IOCARIBE Office, Cartagena.

**Stand-by personnel**

NORCAP/NRC deployed an expert to the Section of Migration, Displacement, Emergencies and Education, ED.

29. Map of the country:

