

PRESS RELEASE

Colombia experiences the greatest international judicial victory of our country in the last decades.

- "This ruling, which entails res judicata effects, can be called the principle of peace in the oceans and peace in the seas of the world", said Foreign Minister Álvaro Leyva Durán yesterday from San Andrés.

Bogotá, July 14, 2023. Yesterday, July 13, 2023, will be a date that without a doubt, will be remembered with joy by all Colombians. The judgment of the International Court of Justice in the last case in force between Colombia and Nicaragua marks a turning point in the field of international law and relations. Truly, it is a milestone on which the beginning of peace in the oceans, peace in the seas ought to be built.

The Government of the Republic of Colombia is very pleased with the decision of the International Court of Justice to accept all the arguments of our legal defence. A remarkable legal achievement. Victories of this category are not very frequent in international tribunals. It can be said with certainty that it is a decision that will be transcendental for the future of the law of the sea, the general international law. It will serve as a basis to prevent the emergence of innumerable and fruitless controversies in all regions of the planet.

The ruling of the International Court of Justice not only vindicates the position of Colombia on the merits of the controversy, but also the principle of foreign policy adopted by Colombia to always use the law as the means suitable for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In privilege of the rule of law, peace, and international security.

The sentence of July 13 has closed a long dispute of more than 20 years between Colombia and Nicaragua. Differences between neighbouring countries are left behind. It opens a space of tremendous potential for all the inhabitants of the basin of the Caribbean.

The decision of the Court also vindicates the immanent rights of the peoples

of the sea of the Antilles. The inalienable rights of all the inhabitants of the Caribbean. Sister nations with shared origins and histories, with challenges in common.

Colombia will advance in integration with sister nations. Our obligation is, henceforth, to vindicate the value of the Caribbean practices and customs. Reaching agreements that allow for the subsistence of the peoples, environmental protection, sustainable development, cooperation, and friendship. More than ever, we can say that Colombia will become a world power of life.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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