

Juan Carlos Pinzón

Influential Diplomat, Politician, and Economist; Ambassador of Colombia to the United States (2021-2022 & 2015-2017); Colombian Minister of National Defense (2011-2015)

The honorable Juan Carlos Pinzón is widely recognized as a pivotal player in upholding the strong diplomatic ties between the United States and Colombia and furthering the relationship between the two nations. Having served two terms as Ambassador of Colombia to the United States, [Pinzón](#) is counted among the most influential voices in shaping the priorities of the partnership and was the linking presence between American and Colombian leaders in collaborating to address the most important political, economic, and societal challenges in both countries, and across the globe.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Pinzón brings a diplomatic eye to far-reaching issues in politics, policy, economics, and national security in Latin America, as well as the potential impact on the United States and around the world. Pinzón possesses expert-level insights of the opportunities, risks, and facts of the matter as it pertains to the issues of the day in Latin America. In addition to breaking down complex concepts in a way that audiences can understand and relate to, he masterfully weaves in important anecdotes and lessons in leadership based on his own real-life experiences as the bridge between two of the world's most powerful nations.

Pinzón was sworn in for his second term as ambassador of Colombia by President Iván Duque in July 2021 and served in the position for the next year. His previous term in Washington lasted from 2015-2017. Among his many accomplishments as ambassador were the approval of the Peace Colombia funding package for security and development, and the establishment of the U.S.-Colombia Business Council at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Throughout his career, he has been a leader in both the public and private sectors. He was previously appointed president and CEO of the Foundation for the Progress of the Capital Region — ProBogotá, a private nonprofit for the promotion of common good, public policy, and long-term strategic projects for Colombia's capital region. Before that, he launched a bid for Colombia's presidency and later became a vice presidential candidate. Prior to his presidential pursuits, Pinzón served as the youngest and longest-serving Minister of Defense in Colombia's history. Under his leadership, the armed forces successfully minimized the threats of terrorist organizations and criminal enterprises, and improved security conditions meant Colombia reached its lowest homicide rate in more than 35 years. He has been ranked multiple times as the best Minister of Defense in the country's history based on the results of his policies, initiatives to enhance the welfare of the troops, and the transparency by which he led the office. Pinzón's other roles in public service include Chief of Staff to President Juan Manuel Santos (2010-2011) and Vice Minister of Defense (2006-2009). He has also held executive roles at World Bank, the Banking Association of Colombia, Citigroup Colombia, and Citibank, and was a professor of economics at Javeriana and Andes Universities.

An impactful leader who has overseen transformative policy decisions in the U.S.-Colombia partnership, Pinzón received the Best Diplomatic Delegation in Washington recognition by the World Affairs Council and, in 2011, was named a Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum. He has been awarded 65 national medals, including the Great Cross of the Order of Boyacá — the highest award granted by Colombia — and the Distinguished Medal for Public Service by the U.S. Department of Defense.