



Juan Manuel Santos
Presidente de la República de Colombia

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
COLOMBIA, JUAN MANUEL SANTOS, FOR THE EVENT
PRESENTING THE 'MONITORING GLOBAL POVERTY' REPORT**

Oxford, November 4, 2016

Dear friends,

In 2013 –along with Professor Amartya Sen– I had the honour to support the launch of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN).

As President of Colombia, I took on the challenge of turning my country into one of the world's pioneers in applying the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as an effective and compelling tool to fight poverty and reduce inequalities.

Today, when the application of the MPI is increasingly growing and we have the opportunity to tackle the causes of poverty in a better way, I feel proud and hopeful when I see that the actions we have taken in our countries are improving the lives of millions of people around the world.

Colombia's social, economic and environmental potential is virtually unlimited. I have proposed a vision, a destination port, to my



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compatriots: to build a country in peace, more equitable, and with a better education.

And that will only be possible if we move forward assuming serious commitments and engaging in specific actions.

Our economic growth over the past years –which we have strived to maintain in spite of the international economic turmoil– is translating into development and well-being for all the Colombian people.

The multidimensional approach to the fight against poverty has enabled us to strengthen the actions of the State's sectors and Government entities.

Moreover, the MPI has been a source of inspiration, driving social programs in the fields of education, employment, health, access to public services, housing, and welfare for children and youngsters.

Between 2010 and 2015, the Multidimensional Poverty Index fell by more than 10 percentage points, decreasing from 30.4 to 20.2 percent.

During the six years of our administration, 4.6 million Colombians have overcome poverty, while 2.6 million overcame extreme poverty.



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Our goal is to reduce the MPI to 17.8 percent, which means moving 1.5 million additional people out of poverty.

And we are on the right path. The MPI is one of the four main indicators of our 2014-2018 National Development Plan.

Just as we had never before been closer to peace, Colombia had never taken such decisive and meaningful steps to reduce inequality and move away from poverty.

Furthermore, we have a roadmap and an additional world-level commitment: The Sustainable Development Goals –in whose preparation Colombia was actively involved–, which are focused on ending poverty in all its forms, and everywhere.

Colombia has embraced a very ambitious medium term goal: to be a country that has eradicated extreme poverty by 2025.

It is a difficult but reasonable goal, because we have made the decision and we have the tools to accomplish it.

It only remains for me to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the World Bank and to the University of Oxford –in particular to the Oxford Poverty and



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Human Development Initiative and the Oxford Martin School– for making this event possible.

Likewise, I want to thank the Commission on Global Poverty –chaired by Sir Anthony Atkinson– as well as all the experts who work in different fields, addressing the huge challenge of reducing the economic and social gaps in the world in pursuit of happier and more prosperous societies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Manuel Santos'.



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The Embassy of Colombia presents its compliments to the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative and has the honour to enclose an envelope containing copy of a letter from the President of Colombia Mr Juan Manuel Santos-Calderon, on the occasion of the event presenting the 'Monitoring Global Poverty' report, Oxford 4 November 2016.

The Embassy of Colombia would appreciate if you could convey this envelope to the appropriate officer.

The Embassy of Colombia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative the assurances of its highest consideration.

8 July 2014



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