



By: TA | AP Brief

Colombian President optimistic about high-stakes White House meeting with Trump



Colombian President Gustavo Petro said he was optimistic about a high-stakes White House meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump scheduled for Feb. 3.

The announcement marks a significant de-escalation after months of hostility that saw the U.S. revoke **Petro's visa** and impose sanctions on him and his family over unproven drug-trafficking allegations.

"The talks are going well," Petro said in a brief message on X, after citing an announcement from the foreign ministry regarding preparations for the meeting.

In a significant diplomatic shift, Colombian Foreign Minister Rosa Villavicencio and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio held a cordial call to finalize preparations.

According to Tommy Pigott, a State Department spokesman, Rubio confirmed during the exchange Friday that President Petro would receive full diplomatic guarantees — a sharp reversal from September, when Washington threatened to revoke Petro's visa following his criticism of U.S. foreign policy at a New York rally.

According to both governments, the upcoming meeting will pivot from recent tensions toward "common priorities," including trade, joint economic opportunities, and regional security. Discussions are also expected to focus on intensifying the fight against transnational organized crime.

The drug situation

Tensions between the presidents eased in early January when **Trump took a phone call from Petro**, who called to "explain the drug situation and other disagreements we've had," according to the U.S. president.

The US remains deeply concerned about instability, violence, and illicit drug cultivation and trafficking in Colombia

U.S. deputy ambassador Jennifer Locetta told the U.N. Security Council Friday that even though Trump and Petro are engaging in "productive conversations," the United States remains "deeply concerned about instability, violence, and illicit drug cultivation and trafficking" in Colombia.

She criticized Petro's approach to **negotiations with armed groups**, saying experiments to pause combat operations and curb coca eradication while pursuing talks emboldened the groups and improved their negotiating position.

The Security Council reviews the implementation of the peace agreement between the former FARC guerrilla group and Colombia on a quarterly basis.