

**Speech of H.E. Ms. Ligia Margarita Quessep Bitar**  
**Ambassador of Colombia**  
**At the occasion of the presentation of his credentials**  
**To His Excellency Mr. Nikos Christodoulides,**  
**President of the Republic of Cyprus**

Your Excellency President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides,

It is my honor to deliver the credentials that accredit me as Non-Resident Ambassador of Colombia in the Republic of Cyprus and as representative of the Government of Colombia lead by the President of the Republic, Gustavo Petro Urrego in this beautiful mediterranean country.

Colombia and Cyprus established Diplomatic Relations in February 1966 and since then relations between our two countries have been characterized by sharing common values as freedom, independence, and the fight for respect for human rights.

From these values in common also follows the interest to promote multilateralism and the peaceful resolution of disputes. The government of President Gustavo Petro has set as one of the main objectives of its international action the fight against the climate change, especially in all multilateral forums where Colombia participates. The climate crisis affects us all, both Colombia located in the extreme north of South America and Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean. That is why it is so important that we work always having as guiding principle international law to build consensus that generates solutions.

From the multilateral arena we must also fight another great problem that has taken on a large scale in the last decade and is the phenomenon of migrations. Both the Mediterranean Sea and the Americas have become crossing point of a large number of human beings, who, in many cases are victims of human smuggling. Ruthless people play with the needs and desires of the people and in many cases, they lead them to fatal outcomes. Colombia and Cyprus are recognized as allies to overcome these crises; this is reflected in the mutual support of international organizations.

Colombia has always admired the great development of the Cypriot tourism sector and is the wish of Colombia strengthen ties in this matter so that with the help and experience of this beautiful country we can strengthen a sector that my government identifies as strategic for economic development. Sustainable tourism in Colombia, a country of beautiful coasts and beaches, great plains and forests and majestic mountains can become a great catalyst for human development.

It is my wish as Ambassador to bring Colombia and Cyprus closer, we must redouble our efforts to make our bilateral relationship more dynamic and solid both in the

multilateral that bilateral framework. Colombia has an Honorary Consulate in Limassol, which is very active and interested in helping to boost this bilateral relationship. I invite Cyprus to approach to Colombia, from our Embassy we will always be very attentive to receive any initiative coming from Cyprus to develop it with enthusiasm.

I finish these words thanking you again for having summoned me to deliver my credentials letters to formally begin my mission.