

# *Peru, Colombia to Hold High-Level Bilateral Talks*

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Lima, September 18 (Andina-RHC) -- Peruvian President Ollanta Humala will meet his Colombian counterpart, Juan Manuel Santos, on September 30th in the Amazon city of Iquitos, as part of the first ever cabinet session between the two neighboring nations, reported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The purpose of this meeting is to agree on a joint work agenda, strengthen bilateral ties and boost sectoral cooperation, especially in the common border area.

Heads of states, ministers and representatives of the two countries will come together to discuss governance, social and development affairs, trade opportunities, security and defense, and border issues.

It should be noted both presidents inked a Joint Declaration during a two-day official visit to Ecuador by President Ollanta Humala on February 10th and 11th. In the document, the two leaders confirmed that the joint cabinet meetings were going to take place.

In June last year, Peru and Colombia signed two other deals aimed at strengthening bilateral ties through increased trade and bilateral cabinet meetings.

Former Peruvian Foreign Minister Eda Rivas signed, at that time, a Joint Declaration and Border Development Plan with her then Colombian counterpart Maria Holguin while meeting in Peru's capital,

Lima.

In the Declaration, Rivas and Holguin reiterated their commitment to trade cooperation, taking into account that both countries are members of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Pacific Alliance.

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