



CANCLLERÍA



Embassy of Colombia in the United States

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 2, 2016

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## **Ambassador Pinzón Honors Ronald Lauder for His Leadership as President of the World Jewish Congress**



**Washington, DC** — Last night, Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón hosted a reception at his residence to honor Ambassador Ronald Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

The Ambassador praised Ambassador Lauder for his leadership and commitment to developing vibrant Jewish communities around the world, including in Latin America, and for strongly supporting Colombia's efforts to secure lasting peace.

“In Mr. Lauder, we are honoring someone who has forged a close bond with Colombia – and Colombia, in turn, has become a friend to the World Jewish Congress,” said Ambassador Pinzón. “Colombia remains one of Israel’s longest, strongest partners and supporters. Mr. Lauder’s leadership at the helm of the WJC since 2007 has been central to advancing this alliance.”

The WJC is considered the ‘Diplomatic Arm of the Jewish People.’ For nearly a decade as the president of the organization, Lauder has advocated on behalf of Jewish communities before heads of state, governments, parliaments and international organizations.

“Whether countering anti-Semitism, supporting the people of Israel in their struggle to live in peace with their neighbors or leading successful efforts to recover stolen Jewish property, including art stolen during World War II – something about which he is deeply passionate – he has led the development of vibrant Jewish communities around the world,” said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador also used the momentous occasion to recognize and reaffirm the Colombian government’s commitment to its Jewish community at home and abroad as well as Jewish communities around the world.

“Not only has Colombia’s Jewish community greatly contributed to the fabric of our nation, Colombia has also benefited from strong ties with the Jewish community here in the United States and worldwide – from diplomatic support to business and investment. And it is because of people and the commitment of leaders like Mr. Lauder that those ties continue to strengthen,” the Ambassador concluded.

During the reception, Ambassador Lauder stated, “I believe that the world now looks to Colombia for answers to the difficult problems we all face. In short, Colombia is open for business the world sees this and we are here tonight to acknowledge this important fact.”

More than 100 people attended the reception, including members of Congress, the Administration, business leaders, members of the press and members of the Jewish community of Washington.

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