

PREAMBLE

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Colombia, resolved to:

STRENGTHEN the special bonds of friendship and cooperation between them and promote regional economic integration;

PROMOTE broad-based economic development in order to reduce poverty and generate opportunities for sustainable economic alternatives to drug-crop production;

CREATE new employment opportunities and improve labor conditions and living standards in their respective territories;

ESTABLISH clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade;

ENSURE a predictable legal and commercial framework for business and investment;

AGREE that foreign investors are not hereby accorded greater substantive rights with respect to investment protections than domestic investors under domestic law where, as in the United States, protections of investor rights under domestic law equal or exceed those set forth in this Agreement;

RECOGNIZE that Article 226 of the Colombian Constitution provides that Colombia shall promote its international relations based on the principle of reciprocity;

RECOGNIZE that Articles 13 and 100 of the Colombian Constitution provide that foreigners and nationals are protected under the general principle of equality of treatment;

AVOID distortions to their reciprocal trade;

FOSTER creativity and innovation and promote trade in the innovative sectors of our economies;

PROMOTE transparency and prevent and combat corruption, including bribery, in international trade and investment;

PROTECT, enhance, and enforce basic workers' rights, strengthen their cooperation on labor matters, and build on their respective international commitments on labor matters;

IMPLEMENT this Agreement in a manner consistent with environmental protection and conservation, promote sustainable development, and strengthen their cooperation on environmental matters;

PRESERVE their ability to safeguard the public welfare;

CONTRIBUTE to hemispheric integration and provide an impetus toward establishing the Free Trade Area of the Americas;

BUILD on their respective rights and obligations under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and agreements to which they are both parties; and

RECOGNIZE that Colombia is a member of the Andean Community and that Decision 598 of the Andean Community requires Andean countries negotiating trade agreements to preserve the Andean Legal System in relations between the Andean Community Member Countries under the Cartagena Agreement;

HAVE AGREED as follows: