

Translated from Spanish

New York, 23 September 2013

Sir,

We, the Heads of State and Government of Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama, have the honour to address you in order to express our concern at the claim submitted by Nicaragua for the extension of its marine and submarine areas and its land territory to the detriment of the legitimate rights and interests of our respective countries, which constitutes a clear threat to regional peace and security.

In that connection, our States, through dialogue and good faith, have for decades contributed to peace and stability in the Caribbean Sea region, based on respect for international law and for the rights of each State, ensuring peaceful coexistence and security in a highly complex and diverse region.

Nicaragua, disregarding the rights of our States, has stated before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf that there are no unresolved maritime disputes in relation to its unfounded claim to a continental shelf area beyond 200 nautical miles. This is incorrect and we, the undersigned, all emphatically reject this claim since it affects extensive areas belonging to our countries.

In view of the above, we, the undersigned, categorically reject the unfounded claims of Nicaragua to continental shelf areas and other marine areas not belonging to it, which are detrimental to our legitimate rights in the area, and we hereby state our firm resolve to prevent such claims from succeeding.

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Secretary-General

New York

We trust that the United Nations, true to its purpose of maintaining international peace and security, will take account of this concern and this unequivocal joint statement.

We should be grateful if you would have a copy of this letter sent to all Member States, to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and to the International Court of Justice.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Juan Manuel **Santos**

President of Colombia

(Signed) Laura **Chinchilla**

President of Costa Rica

(Signed) Ricardo **Martinelli**

President of Panama