

COUNTRY READINESS ASSESSMENT 04

Colombia: Institutional Readiness, Critical Infrastructure, Earthquake Recovery and Strategic Minerals Security

A 50-year readiness architecture for a renewed hemispheric partnership

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About this series. The Western Hemisphere Readiness Series applies the HRS Readiness Cycle and Strategic Dependency Test to country, sector and regional systems. CRA 04 integrates SRA 01–10 into a Colombia-level system-of-systems assessment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Colombia: Institutional Readiness, Critical Infrastructure, Earthquake Recovery and Strategic Minerals Security

Colombia enters the final quarter of 2026 at a genuine inflection point. A 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on 10 August 2026, three days after President Abelardo de la Espriella took office. Early reports placed the toll at more than 250 dead and over 2,600 injured; subsequent Colombian government assessments substantially increased the reported national casualty and damage figures over the following weeks, with tens of thousands of homes destroyed or damaged across Chocó, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca. [1][2] The disaster arrived at the exact moment Colombia's bilateral relationship with the United States was resetting after four years of strain under the previous administration.

On 7 August 2026, at President de la Espriella's inauguration, the U.S. State Department announced its intention to provide a US\$1 billion security assistance package to Colombia, working with Congress. On 8 September 2026, Secretary of State Marco Rubio traveled to Barranquilla and, with President de la Espriella, signed what officials on both sides call the Barranquilla Agreements — two memoranda of understanding covering critical minerals and rare-earth supply chains, and civilian nuclear energy cooperation. [3][4][5] Colombia has also joined the Shield of the Americas coalition and, on 22 September 2026, co-signed the Joint Statement on Defending Hemispheric Sovereignty with the United States and thirteen other governments, formally committing to an Economic Pillar built on investment screening, diversified critical-minerals sourcing, trusted-supplier digital infrastructure, and transparent, verifiable capital. [6]

The HRS assessment treats these developments neither as a guaranteed outcome nor as political endorsement. It asks a narrower readiness question: how can earthquake reconstruction, new mineral and energy partnerships, and renewed security cooperation be sequenced so that Colombia converts a moment of diplomatic alignment into durable, sovereign institutional capacity — rather than a cycle of assistance that dissolves when political winds shift again.

CENTRAL HRS PROPOSITION

Critical minerals and civil nuclear cooperation are the financing and technical anchor for Colombia's reconstruction, not the reconstruction itself. Durable resilience depends on converting these partnerships into rebuilt infrastructure, diversified industry, resilient institutions, and reduced concentration risk across energy, food, health and security systems.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Purpose and Scope

Country Readiness Assessment 04 extends the Western Hemisphere Readiness Series from Brazil (CRA 01), Venezuela (CRA 02) and Cuba (CRA 03) to Colombia. It applies the HRS Readiness Cycle to Colombia and integrates the ten Sector Readiness Assessments into a single system-of-systems framework, consistent with the methodology used throughout the series.

The assessment uses public information available through 23 September 2026. Statements about U.S. policy are identified as U.S. government positions; company and bilateral-agreement statements are treated as representations rather than independent verification. The assessment does not endorse a political party, candidate, or electoral outcome, and takes no position on Colombia's internal political disputes.

The intended audience includes U.S. institutions, international organizations, private-sector actors evaluating Colombia entry, and Colombian public and private institutions. The document is a strategic research reference for reconstruction planning, sovereign-to-sovereign engagement, infrastructure investment, and long-horizon institutional capacity building; project-level decisions require current technical, legal, environmental, financial and security diligence.

CURRENT GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Current Governance and Regional Context

Abelardo de la Espriella, a lawyer who defeated the governing left-wing coalition in Colombia's June 2026 election, was inaugurated on 7 August 2026, ending the 2022–2026 administration of Gustavo Petro. U.S. officials have publicly characterized the preceding four years as a period of strained bilateral relations, including a 2025 visa revocation and sanctions targeting Petro and members of his family. On 15 September 2026, the U.S. determined that Colombia had failed demonstrably during the preceding 12 months to meet specified counternarcotics obligations, while affirming that continued U.S. assistance to Colombia remains vital to U.S. national interests. [7][8] Secretary Rubio described the change in Colombian leadership as ending an "aberration" in the bilateral relationship. [3]

China represents an established external economic and infrastructure actor in Colombia. In October 2023, President Petro and President Xi Jinping elevated bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership; in May 2025, Colombia formally joined China's Belt and Road Initiative despite explicit U.S. warnings of potential economic consequences, and China had by then surpassed the United States as Colombia's largest source of imports. [11] CRA 04 treats Chinese economic and infrastructure participation as a factor requiring project-level assessment of ownership, financing structure, technology dependence, data exposure, supply-chain concentration and long-term control — consistent with the Strategic Dependency Test applied throughout this series to any external partner, including the United States. Russia's relevance to Colombia is assessed primarily through the regional security environment, particularly its historical military relationship with Venezuela, rather than a comparable direct footprint inside Colombia; this assessment does not identify evidence of a Colombia-Russia strategic-security partnership. Colombia maintains diplomatic relations and bilateral instruments with Iran, but this assessment found no evidence of the kind of direct military-cooperation relationship documented elsewhere in this series and does not characterize Iran as a Colombia-specific security actor on current evidence.

Following U.S. military action that led to the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in January 2026, President Petro publicly stated he would "take up arms" against the United States if Colombia were attacked, after President Trump suggested Colombia could be a future target in U.S. counternarcotics policy; Petro separately rejected characterizations linking him to drug trafficking. [12] The Barranquilla Agreements and associated security cooperation under President de la Espriella represent a documented reorientation from this period; this assessment does not characterize the merits of either administration's foreign-policy choices, nor does it treat China's existing economic footprint as something to be unwound rather than assessed on a project-by-project basis.

Since taking office, President de la Espriella has joined the Americas Counter Cartels Coalition, expanded military cooperation with Washington, and proposed "Plan Patriota Siglo XXI," a modernization program for Colombia's armed forces covering aircraft, radar, drones, counter-drone systems, air defense, mobility, intelligence and cyberdefense, for which Colombia is seeking U.S. financing alongside its own resources. [9]

Material to readiness planning: The current bilateral alignment reflects a specific electoral outcome and administration. This assessment treats the Barranquilla Agreements, the Shield of the Americas commitments, and associated security cooperation as current, documented facts — not as permanent features of the bilateral relationship. Long-horizon readiness planning should assume that political alignment can change and should therefore prioritize durable institutional capacity over dependence on any single bilateral relationship.

01 · COLOMBIA 2026 BASELINE

A Country at a Reconstruction Inflection Point

Colombia's baseline is defined by the convergence of earthquake recovery, a newly reset bilateral relationship with the United States, and a still-active internal security challenge from narco-trafficking and armed groups. The 10 August 2026 earthquake — magnitude 7.4, epicenter near San José del Palmar in Chocó, at a depth of roughly 100 kilometers — killed more than 250 people and injured over 2,600 in initial reporting; Colombian government assessments through late August reported the toll had risen substantially further, alongside tens of thousands of homes destroyed or damaged across Chocó, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca, with Pereira and Cali among the hardest-hit cities. [1][2] President de la Espriella declared an economic emergency, enabling temporary fiscal and tax measures without congressional approval to accelerate disaster response. [2]

Colombia also hosts the largest population of displaced Venezuelans in the hemisphere, a structural pressure on housing, health, education and labor markets that predates and compounds the earthquake's impact. [10]

Internal security remains a live constraint: coca cultivation and cocaine production expanded materially in recent years, and Colombia's own reporting shows record-level cocaine seizures alongside continued activity by FARC dissident factions, the ELN, and criminal structures such as Clan del Golfo — five of the 24 organizations named in the September 2026 Shield of the Americas joint action are Colombia-based or Colombia-active. [6][8]

BASELINE CONCLUSION

Colombia's readiness priority is to convert a concentrated moment of earthquake assistance, new mineral and energy partnerships, and security cooperation into durable institutional capacity — before the political and diplomatic conditions that created this window change.

02 · THE AUGUST 2026 EARTHQUAKE

The Earthquake as a National Readiness Test

The earthquake exposed interdependencies across housing, transport, health, water and communications in Colombia's coffee-growing and Pacific-adjacent regions. Nearly 3,900 people were reported missing in the initial response window, and rescue operations relied on cranes, sniffer dogs, and manual labor across collapsed structures in Pereira, Cali and Chocó. [1][2]

System	Primary Dependency	Cascading Effect	Readiness Response
Housing	Construction quality, seismic code enforcement	Displacement, informal settlement growth	Seismic retrofit standards; resilient rebuild codes
Health	Hospitals, trauma capacity, medical supply	Mass-casualty surge beyond regional capacity	Regional surge protocols; mobile field hospitals
Transport	Roads, bridges linking Chocó/Valle del Cauca to the interior	Delayed aid delivery, economic isolation	Alternative corridors; pre-positioned equipment
Water & power	Regional grid and water-treatment infrastructure	Compounding health and sanitation risk	Backup power; distributed water treatment
Communications	Regional telecom nodes	Degraded emergency coordination	Route diversity; protected power for towers

RECONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLE

Do not rebuild a damaged node to its previous dependency profile. Rebuild it with explicit alternative pathways, seismic resilience, maintainability, and cross-sector continuity requirements.

03 • HRS METHOD

Colombia as a System of Systems

The HRS Readiness Cycle — Detect, Assess, Decide, Coordinate, Deploy, Sustain, Learn — is applied to Colombia across earthquake recovery, critical-minerals development, and security modernization simultaneously, since all three now draw on overlapping fiscal, institutional and diplomatic capacity.

HRS Function	Colombia Application
Detect	Identify seismic risk, mineral-sector bottlenecks, and security threats early.
Assess	Fuse technical, economic, security and infrastructure information into a common operating picture.
Decide	Define authorities, thresholds and investment priorities across reconstruction, minerals and security.
Coordinate	Connect national government, regional authorities, private investors and U.S. counterparts.
Deploy	Move capital, equipment and personnel to reconstruction and mineral-development priorities.
Sustain	Maintain essential services and investment momentum through political and fiscal cycles.
Learn	Convert the earthquake response and early minerals partnerships into durable standards.

The HRS Strategic Dependency Test asks five questions of every major Colombia project: Concentration, Substitutability, Control, Recovery, and Cascading impact — including whether a mineral-sector or security-cooperation dependency on any single foreign partner, including the United States, could constrain Colombian decision rights if conditions change.

04 • CRITICAL MINERALS & CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

A Reconstruction Engine — Not a Substitute for Reconstruction

The Barranquilla Agreements of 8 September 2026 establish two frameworks with direct reconstruction relevance. The critical-minerals and rare-earths memorandum commits both governments to build secure, diversified and fair supply chains, to mobilize public and private financing for mining and processing projects within six months, and to pursue streamlined permitting, price-floor mechanisms, national-security review of critical-mineral asset sales, mineral-recycling investment, and joint geological mapping. [3][4] The civil nuclear memorandum establishes a bilateral framework for potential deployment of nuclear power — including small modular reactors — under Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations and IAEA safeguards, with cooperation potentially extending to research reactors and radioisotope production. [4]

Layer	2027–2035 Readiness Objective	National Effect
Geological mapping	Joint U.S.–Colombia mapping of critical-mineral and rare-earth deposits	Investment-grade resource certainty
Mining & processing	Finance and permit priority projects within the 6-month window	Revenue and industrial demand
Power	Evaluate civil nuclear alongside grid modernization	Long-horizon energy security
Recycling & materials	Build mineral-recycling capacity	Reduced import dependence
Institutions	National-security review and transparent asset-sale screening	Sovereign control over strategic assets

PREFERRED CONVERSION CHAIN

Minerals & Energy Partnership → Revenue & Technical Capacity → Infrastructure → Human Capital → Diversification → Institutional Capacity → Resilience. The alternative — mineral revenue and security assistance absorbed by recurrent expenditure alone — can increase activity without reducing underlying dependencies.

05 • STRATEGIC DEPENDENCY MAP

Colombia's Critical Capability Network

Capability	Critical Inputs	Failure Consequence	Readiness Response
Housing & infrastructure	Seismic-resilient construction, materials, labor	Repeated earthquake casualties and displacement	Seismic codes; resilient rebuild standards
Minerals & energy	Geological data, financing, processing capacity	Resource extraction without national capability gain	Joint mapping; processing investment; recycling
Security	Military modernization, intelligence, U.S. cooperation	Persistent narco-terrorist and armed-group activity	Plan Patriota Siglo XXI; Shield of the Americas coordination
Migration	Housing, health, education, labor absorption capacity	Strained services in host regions	Structured integration; partner coordination
Digital	Telecom networks, trusted-supplier infrastructure	Loss of communications; strategic-data exposure	Route diversity; trusted-supplier procurement
Food	Agriculture, rural roads, coca-substitution economics	Rural economic dependence on illicit crops	Legal crop value chains; rural infrastructure
Health	Hospitals, medicines, earthquake surge capacity	Mass-casualty overload	Regional stockpoints; surge protocols
Governance	Decision rights, procurement transparency, investment screening	Capital inflow without durable capability	Transparent screening; auditable reconstruction spend
External economic partners	China and other external suppliers of infrastructure financing and technology	Ownership, financing, technology and data concentration without diversified alternatives	Project-level ownership, financing, technology and data-exposure screening for any external partner

06 • SRA 01

Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure

Colombia implementation objective: rebuild earthquake-damaged network nodes with route diversity and protected power, while implementing the trusted-supplier digital-infrastructure commitment made under the Shield of the Americas Economic Pillar.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Rebuild damaged telecom infrastructure in Chocó, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca with protected power.
- Apply trusted-supplier procurement standards for new digital infrastructure, on a non-discriminatory basis consistent with the Joint Statement.
- Map digital dependencies of mineral-sector, health, and emergency-management systems.
- Establish emergency communications pathways independent of single-node failure.
- Strengthen local repair capability and service-continuity transparency.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Earthquake-zone network restoration → trusted-supplier procurement → dependency mapping → resilient national digital backbone → long-horizon renewal.

07 · SRA 02

Data Centers, Cloud & AI Infrastructure

Colombia implementation objective: build data-continuity and disaster-recovery capacity informed directly by the earthquake experience, while positioning Colombia's data infrastructure within the trusted-supplier framework of the Shield of the Americas.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Identify critical government, mineral-sector, health and emergency-management data sets.
- Build geographically distributed backup and recovery capacity, informed by the August earthquake.
- Apply trusted-supplier standards to new data-center and cloud investment.
- Develop domestic technical capacity for operations and cybersecurity.
- Use AI applications for disaster mapping and mineral-resource geological analysis, under defined governance.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Critical-data inventory → geographically distributed backup → trusted-supplier procurement → domestic technical capacity → selective AI applications for disaster and geological mapping.

08 • SRA 03

Critical Minerals & Strategic Materials

Colombia implementation objective: convert the Barranquilla critical-minerals memorandum into investment-grade projects within the six-month mobilization window, while building the transparent-screening capacity the memorandum itself calls for.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Complete joint U.S.–Colombia geological mapping of priority mineral deposits.
- Mobilize the guarantees, loans, equity and insurance mechanisms identified in the memorandum within the six-month window.
- Establish national-security review procedures for critical-mineral asset sales.
- Invest in mineral-recycling and processing capacity, not extraction alone.
- Build transparent, auditable procurement for mineral-sector financing.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Geological mapping → financing mobilization (6-month window) → national-security asset-sale review → processing/recycling investment → diversified long-horizon mineral economy.

09 · SRA 04

Rare Earths & Western Hemisphere Mineral Security

Colombia implementation objective: the Barranquilla minerals memorandum explicitly covers rare earths alongside critical minerals; Colombia should distinguish geological potential from commercially recoverable, financeable capacity.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Validate rare-earth geological data through the joint mapping initiative.
- Separate confirmed reserves from exploratory potential in public communications.
- Develop regional processing options within the Shield of the Americas partner network.
- Avoid single-buyer dependency for rare-earth exports.
- Maintain Colombian decision rights over long-term rare-earth policy.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Data validation → reserve certification → regional processing options → diversified offtake → sovereign long-term policy.

10 • SRA 05

Energy Security & Strategic Power Infrastructure

Colombia implementation objective: the civil nuclear memorandum positions nuclear power, including small modular reactors, as a long-horizon option alongside grid modernization and earthquake-zone power restoration.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Restore and harden grid infrastructure in earthquake-affected departments.
- Evaluate small modular reactor and advanced-reactor options under IAEA safeguards.
- Diversify generation sources to reduce single-point failure risk.
- Build regulatory and technical capacity for nuclear safety and non-proliferation compliance.
- Sequence nuclear evaluation as a long-horizon complement to, not substitute for, near-term grid resilience.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Earthquake-zone grid restoration → generation diversification → nuclear feasibility and regulatory capacity → phased deployment → long-horizon energy security.

11 · SRA 06

Ports, Logistics & Maritime Infrastructure

Colombia implementation objective: Pacific and Caribbean port capacity underpins both earthquake reconstruction imports and future mineral-export logistics.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Assess Pacific-coast port capacity relevant to Chocó reconstruction logistics.
- Protect port power, communications and customs systems.
- Plan mineral-export logistics corridors alongside reconstruction-import corridors.
- Digitize customs and cargo visibility.
- Maintain alternate access routes given Pacific-coast seismic exposure.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Reconstruction-import logistics → protected port infrastructure → customs digitization → mineral-export corridor planning → resilient dual-coast logistics network.

12 · SRA 07

Food Security & Strategic Agricultural Resilience

Colombia implementation objective: rural agricultural resilience is inseparable from the security challenge, since coca cultivation persists where legal agricultural value chains are weakest.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Restore agricultural infrastructure in earthquake-affected rural areas.
- Expand legal crop value chains as a substitute for coca-dependent rural economies.
- Improve rural roads and storage to connect producers to markets.
- Diversify agricultural export markets.
- Coordinate food-security investment with the security and minerals tracks, since rural stability underpins both.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Rural infrastructure restoration → legal crop value chains → storage and market access → export diversification → resilient rural economy.

13 · SRA 08

Pharmaceutical & Medical Supply Chains

Colombia implementation objective: earthquake surge capacity exposed cold-chain and emergency medical-logistics gaps that require durable, not one-time, solutions.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Establish regional medical stockpoints informed by the earthquake response.
- Strengthen cold-chain and emergency medical logistics in Pacific and Andean regions.
- Diversify medical-device and medicine suppliers.
- Build local repair capacity for medical equipment.
- Integrate health-supply continuity with transport and power resilience.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Emergency stockpoints → cold-chain resilience → supplier diversification → local repair capacity → integrated health-system continuity.

14 • SRA 09

Advanced Manufacturing & Industrial Capacity

Colombia implementation objective: mineral processing, nuclear-sector supply chains, and reconstruction all require a domestic industrial base capable of repair, maintenance and component manufacturing.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Identify industrial bottlenecks around minerals processing, energy and reconstruction.
- Develop supplier networks for mineral-processing and nuclear-sector equipment.
- Establish technical training linked to mineral, nuclear and reconstruction demand.
- Prioritize repair and maintenance capacity before complex manufacturing.
- Measure industrial resilience by recovery time and substitution options.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: Repair capability → mineral/nuclear supplier development → technical training → component manufacturing → diversified industrial base.

15 • SRA 10

Western Hemisphere Strategic Infrastructure & Resilience

SRA 10 is the integration layer, converting the ten sector assessments into a Colombia-level dependency architecture, consistent with the Shield of the Americas' Multilateral Coordination pillar.

Colombia implementation — priority actions

- Maintain a national System Dependency Register spanning earthquake reconstruction, minerals, and security investment.
- Run Scenario Stress Tests for compound earthquake-plus-security disruption.
- Use Readiness-to-Investment Assessments for major mineral and nuclear projects.
- Specify decision rights, recovery time, and alternate suppliers for every major project.
- Coordinate with Shield of the Americas partners on shared readiness standards.

HRS TEST

For every major project, identify concentration, substitutability, control, recovery time and cascading impact. A second supplier or facility is effective redundancy only when both are not dependent on the same upstream failure point.

Implementation sequence: National dependency register → scenario stress testing → readiness-to-investment assessments → regional coordination → integrated long-horizon resilience.

16 • MINERALS-TO-RECONSTRUCTION

A National Conversion Architecture

The reconstruction model treats the Barranquilla Agreements as one financing and technical anchor within a wider capability program, not as reconstruction itself.

Stage	Core Action	Readiness Result
1. Measure	Earthquake damage assessment; mineral-resource geological mapping	Public baseline and auditability
2. Stabilize	Power, water, health, transport in earthquake zones	Continuity
3. Rebuild	Seismic-resilient infrastructure around productive nodes	Physical recovery
4. Industrialize	Mineral processing, local suppliers, technical training	Domestic capability
5. Diversify	Agriculture, manufacturing, services, energy sources	Lower concentration
6. Institutionalize	Transparent screening, procurement, regulatory standards	Continuity across governments
7. Adapt	Technology renewal, seismic standards, demographic change	2076 resilience

HRS ALLOCATION PRINCIPLE

Reconstruction and mineral-development financing should be structured so revenues are not absorbed by recurrent expenditure alone. The legal and fiscal mechanism is a matter for Colombian sovereign institutions and their authorized advisors.

17 • MIGRATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

Migration, Venezuelan Displacement & Human Capital

Colombia hosts the largest population of displaced Venezuelans in the hemisphere, a structural pressure on housing, health, education and labor markets in host regions — many of which overlap with earthquake-affected departments. [10]

Priority	Readiness Action	Expected Capability
Integration	Structured labor-market integration for displaced Venezuelans	Reduced informal-economy pressure
Services	Health and education capacity in host regions	Reduced strain on earthquake-affected services
Skills	Skills registry connecting displaced populations to reconstruction and mineral-sector labor demand	Workforce depth for reconstruction
International coordination	Coordinate with international humanitarian and development partners	Shared burden across host communities

HRS MIGRATION READINESS METRIC

Whether host regions can absorb displaced populations into reconstruction and mineral-sector labor demand without degrading essential services.

18 • SECURITY

Narco-Terrorism, Shield of the Americas & Institutional Resilience

Colombia's security environment remains defined by narco-trafficking organizations and armed groups. Five of the 24 organizations named in the 22 September 2026 Shield of the Americas joint action are Colombia-based or Colombia-active: FARC dissident factions (FARC-Estado Mayor Central and FARC-Segunda Marquetalia), the ELN, Clan del Golfo, and Carteles Unidos. [6]

Transnational criminal networks and external security actors. On 28–29 May 2026, the United States designated Brazil's two largest criminal organizations — the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and Comando Vermelho — as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, effective 5 June 2026. [13] Both organizations maintain transnational drug-trafficking networks, and Colombia sits within the broader regional cocaine-production and transit system that connects Andean producer countries to Brazilian and international markets via Amazonian river corridors; Brazilian intelligence reporting has described expanding Comando Vermelho activity along these corridors. This assessment did not identify sufficiently corroborated primary-source evidence of specific PCC/Comando Vermelho operational agreements with named Colombian armed groups, and does not assert such agreements as established fact. The FTO designation nonetheless creates a material counterparty- and financial-integrity-screening consideration for any private-sector activity touching Colombia-Brazil supply chains or financial flows, addressed further in the companion Investment Readiness Brief.

Capability	Readiness Investment	Potential Effect
Military modernization	Plan Patriota Siglo XXI — aircraft, radar, drones, counter-drone, cyberdefense	Enhanced state capacity against armed groups
Financial controls	Asset freezes and financial-intelligence cooperation under Shield of the Americas	Reduced illicit-finance capacity
Rural stability	Legal crop value chains, connected to SRA 07	Reduced coca-economy dependence
Institutional security	Civilian law-enforcement expansion	Lawful, accountable enforcement capacity

HRS PROPOSITION

Security cooperation and military modernization can reduce the operating space available to narco-terrorist organizations when paired with rural economic alternatives, financial controls, and accountable civilian institutions — not as a substitute for them.

19 • U.S.-COLOMBIA COOPERATION

A Readiness-Based Cooperation Framework

The Barranquilla Agreements, the planned US\$1 billion security assistance package announced at President de la Espriella's 7 August 2026 inauguration, and Colombia's participation in the Shield of the Americas and the 22 September 2026 Joint Statement together establish the current cooperation architecture. [3][4][5][6]

Domain	Illustrative Readiness Objective	Authority / Accountability
Minerals & energy	Geological mapping → financed projects → processing capacity	Colombian and U.S. economic-cooperation authorities
Security	Plan Patriota Siglo XXI → Shield of the Americas coordination	Colombian and U.S. security authorities
Reconstruction	Earthquake recovery → seismic-resilient rebuild	Colombian civilian authorities
Digital	Trusted-supplier infrastructure under the Economic Pillar	Applicable regulatory authorities
Regional coordination	Rio Treaty consultation on narco-terrorism	OAS / Rio Treaty parties

COOPERATION PRINCIPLE

Build systems that remain useful if an administration changes, a bilateral relationship evolves, a commodity cycle turns, or a disaster occurs.

20 · 2027–2030

Earthquake Recovery & Stabilization

Objective: complete seismic-resilient reconstruction in Chocó, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca while mobilizing the six-month critical-minerals project-development window.

Priority portfolio

- Seismic-resilient housing and public buildings
- Restored regional health and transport capacity
- Financed mineral and processing projects
- Trusted-supplier digital infrastructure
- Plan Patriota Siglo XXI initial deployment
- Legal crop value chains in affected rural areas

HRS LONG-HORIZON TEST

Reconstruction and minerals investment should be traceable to measurable outcomes, with transparent, auditable procurement.

21 · 2031–2035

Productive Recovery

Objective: move from emergency reconstruction to mineral-sector industrialization and diversified productive capacity.

Priority portfolio

- Mineral processing and recycling capacity
- Civil nuclear feasibility decisions
- Diversified agricultural export value chains
- Domestic technical workforce for minerals and nuclear sectors
- Modernized Pacific and Caribbean port logistics

HRS LONG-HORIZON TEST

The central transition is from resource extraction to the domestic capability to process, maintain and diversify around it.

22 · 2036–2050

Diversification

Objective: reduce structural dependence on any single mineral, energy pathway, or bilateral security relationship.

Priority portfolio

- Diversified mineral export markets
- Expanded civil nuclear or alternative generation
- Independent civilian law-enforcement and judicial capacity
- Regional manufacturing and logistics hubs
- Multiple international security and economic partnerships

HRS LONG-HORIZON TEST

A resilient Colombian system should continue functioning if one foreign partner's priorities shift, a mineral price falls, or a security relationship evolves.

23 · 2051–2065

Renewal

Objective: replace first-generation post-2027 infrastructure before systemic failure, applying updated seismic and technology standards.

Priority portfolio

- Grid and nuclear-generation renewal
- Updated seismic building codes
- Renewed mineral-processing technology
- Continued security-institution professionalization
- Renewed digital and telecom infrastructure

HRS LONG-HORIZON TEST

Long-horizon readiness means avoiding a second generation of infrastructure that reproduces the dependencies of the first.

24 · 2066–2076

Intergenerational Resilience

Objective: establish a continuously renewing portfolio of Colombian civilian and economic capabilities.

Priority portfolio

- Effective redundancy across minerals, energy and security systems
- Diversified international partnerships
- Recurring national seismic and security stress tests
- Sustained rural economic alternatives to illicit crops
- Transparent, durable governance institutions

HRS LONG-HORIZON TEST

Build systems that remain useful when governments change, commodity prices fall, security relationships evolve, or disasters occur.

25 • READINESS METRICS

Readiness Metrics and Governance

Country readiness should not be reduced to a single score. Metrics should be tracked by sector, geography and critical function.

Domain	Illustrative Metric
Housing	Seismic-resilient rebuild completion rate; displacement duration
Minerals	Financed-project share within the 6-month window; processing capacity added
Energy	Grid restoration time; generation diversification
Security	Coca-cultivation trend; armed-group territorial control; financial-intelligence actions
Migration	Displaced-population labor-market integration rate
Digital	Trusted-supplier infrastructure share; network recovery time
Governance	Procurement transparency; investment-screening completion rate

26 • GOVERNANCE & IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

HRS Colombia Readiness Improvement Framework

Cycle	Colombia Implementation
Detect	Maintain seismic, mineral-sector and security dependency registers.
Assess	Stress-test compound earthquake, security and mineral-price scenarios.
Decide	Establish clear civilian decision rights across reconstruction and minerals investment.
Coordinate	Align national, regional, private-sector and U.S. counterparts.
Deploy	Execute project packages with measurable readiness outcomes.
Sustain	Fund maintenance, workforce and institutional capacity through political cycles.
Learn	Conduct annual continuity exercises and update assumptions through 2076.

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLE

The HRS improvement framework should be used as a management system rather than a one-time report.

27 • CONCLUSION

Conclusion

Colombia's September 2026 position is defined by the coincidence of earthquake reconstruction need, a newly reset bilateral relationship with the United States, and a still-active internal security challenge. The Barranquilla Agreements, the Shield of the Americas commitments, and the earthquake response together create a genuine but time-bound window for converting diplomatic alignment into durable institutional capacity.

The HRS opportunity is to sequence this convergence deliberately: seismic-resilient reconstruction first, minerals and energy partnerships converted into processing and technical capability rather than extraction alone, security modernization paired with rural economic alternatives and accountable institutions, and migration pressure addressed as a labor-market integration opportunity rather than only a humanitarian burden.

FINAL HRS PROPOSITION

Colombia's resilience should be measured by whether reconstruction, minerals development, and security cooperation convert into durable Colombian institutional capacity – capable of functioning when governments change, commodity prices shift, or bilateral relationships evolve.

METHODOLOGY, RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND LIMITATIONS

Methodology, Research Integrity and Limitations

This assessment is an original HRS Resilience Foundation synthesis based on public-source evidence and the Foundation's Western Hemisphere Readiness Series. It integrates the HRS Readiness Cycle, Strategic Dependency Test, effective-versus-nominal redundancy distinction, sector readiness logic and 50-year planning principles.

The assessment does not claim access to classified intelligence, confidential commercial information or privileged government information. Conditions in Colombia, U.S. policy, and bilateral agreements can change rapidly.

Statements attributed to the U.S. or Colombian governments are presented as government positions. Company and bilateral-agreement statements are treated as representations, not independent verification. Scenario propositions are analytical pathways, not forecasts.

The report is not a political judgment, electoral recommendation, intelligence product, procurement recommendation, legal opinion, engineering certification or investment solicitation. Country conditions are analytical categories, not rankings.

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About the HRS Resilience Foundation: The HRS Resilience Foundation is an independent research organization advancing institutional readiness and health security across the Western Hemisphere.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE READINESS SERIES

HRS Resilience Foundation

Independent research for institutional readiness, continuity, and 50-year resilience planning across the Western Hemisphere. Research Outputs span Strategic Reports, Policy Briefs, Technical Papers, Sector Readiness Assessments and Regional Assessments, translating public-source evidence into practical frameworks built to remain valid for governments, infrastructure operators, investors, and institutional decision-makers across changes in technology, suppliers, and political leadership.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS TO DATE

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Strategic Report 01 — Health Security and Institutional Resilience in the Americas

Strategic Report 02 — Resilient Infrastructure Investment in the Western Hemisphere

POLICY BRIEFS

Policy Brief 01 — Strengthening Regional Health Emergency Readiness in the Americas

TECHNICAL PAPERS

Technical Paper 01 — Building Resilient Health Supply Chains

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Country Readiness Assessment 01 — Brazil

Country Readiness Assessment 02 — Venezuela

Country Readiness Assessment 03 — Cuba

Country Readiness Assessment 04 — Colombia

SECTOR ASSESSMENTS

SRA 01 — Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure

SRA 02 — Data Centers, Cloud & AI Infrastructure

SRA 03 — Critical Minerals & Strategic Materials

SRA 04 — Rare Earths & Western Hemisphere Mineral Security

SRA 05 — Energy Security & Strategic Power Infrastructure

SRA 06 — Ports, Logistics & Maritime Infrastructure

SRA 07 — Food Security & Strategic Agricultural Resilience

SRA 08 — Pharmaceutical & Medical Supply Chains

SRA 09 — Advanced Manufacturing & Industrial Capacity

SRA 10 — Western Hemisphere Strategic Infrastructure & Resilience

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