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Carlos A. Negret Mosquera
Defensor del Pueblo
Bogotá
República de Colombia

Through: **Professor Victor Tafur**

Dear Señor Doctor Carlos Negret Mosquera:

Greetings from the Normandy Chair for Peace! We will have peace on Earth when we have peace *with* the Earth.

We write to congratulate and thank you and your team for making environmental peace-building and reconciliation the centerpiece of your 2016-2020 tenure as *Defensor del Pueblo*. In particular, we are pleased to recognize your work as "*Defensor de Defensores por la Colombia Olvidada*" ("Defender of the Defenders of the forgotten Colombia"). Your path-breaking approach to walk the talk with the defenders of the Earth is a shining example for the rest of the world.

The defenders of the Earth – of the life-sources of Land, Air, and Waters (LAW) of Life - - are the silent heroes of the world. But their noble efforts to prevent or stop the abuse of the LAW of Life expose them to the oppression and violence of the powerful abusers. Your courage and empathy to stand with them – right on the field of battle – give them the strength and power to do what is right for the Earth and for the present and future generations.



The defender sincerely listening to the stories and giving strength to the defenders of the Earth.



El Defensor traveled the length of the Pacific coastline and Atrato river, recognized “subject of legal rights” by the Constitutional Court in 2016 (Sentencia T-622), to see and feel the pulse of the people and of the Land that he is defending.

Our co-workers in the Normandy Chair for Peace had the opportunity to meet with your Team earlier this year. Thank you for the valuable time your Team shared with ours. The stories we gathered first-hand of your most challenging journey to defend human rights and the environmental rule of law are, to say the least, most impressive. They are of great benefit to the people of this generation whom you are directly defending. Please know that your efforts will also benefit even more the generations yet unborn. It is in this light that we wish to shine upon you and your Team the spotlight of happy recognition and sincere appreciation.

true. But it is also certainly true that in this lifetime -- with courage and humble dedication – we can plant seeds of hope. These seeds will certainly sprout one day, sooner than later, not only in your beautiful country. One day, they will bloom in the beautiful gardens of goodness throughout the world.

It is said that “anything that is worth doing cannot be done in one lifetime.” Maybe that is

We look forward to continuing our cooperation with you and with the excellent and committed Team of the *Defensoría del Pueblo*.

ESTimado Señor Doctor Negret Mosquera, on behalf of grateful people around the world, of the present generation and of generations yet unborn, Thank You. *Muchísimas Gracias*.

Very truly yours,

NICHOLAS ROBINSON
Executive Governor
International Council for Environmental Law
Madrid and New York

TONY OPOSA
Normandy Chair for Peace
Guardian of Future Generations
Normandy and Manila

EMILIE GAILLARD
Director
Normandy Chair for Peace

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Above the Wild Waves,
the Raging Rain,
and the
Clashing Clouds
of today's
Crisis of Life ...

is the

Golden Sun of Hope