

## H2-diplo – Decarbonisation Diplomacy office launched in Colombia

The inauguration of the first H2-diplo office in the region took place on 5 June in Bogotá in the framework of the 1st German-Colombian Symposium on Green Hydrogen and Decarbonisation.

The H2-diplo programme is financed by the Federal Foreign Office (AA) with funds from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and implemented by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) together with partners from the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MinEnergia), Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MinCIT) and the National Planning Department (DNP) with the objective of strengthening Colombia in the use of green hydrogen and its derivatives for the decarbonisation and diversification of its economy with climate-neutral value chains.



In the opening speech, Martina Klumpp, German Ambassador to Colombia emphasized the topics of cooperation between the two countries under the Alliance for Climate and Just Energy Transition, where green hydrogen has an important role to play in decarbonisation.

In the following speech, these words were reaffirmed by GIZ's resident director in Colombia, Stepan Uncovsky, who highlighted the funding of German ministries in the areas of peace and migration and also environment, especially by the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). He also highlighted the fruitful cooperation in the field of energy.





On the side of the Colombian counterparts, Orlando Trujillo, Director of the International Affairs Group of MinEnergía, gave the welcoming remarks on behalf of the Minister Omar Andrés Camacho, presenting the joint activities of the last few years in the field of green hydrogen, one of the pillars of the Just Transition in Colombia. In the same way, Camilo Rivera, Director of Competitiveness and Productivity of MinCIT on behalf of Minister Luis Carlos Reyes, presented the importance of these international cooperation initiatives for the green reindustrialisation policy.



The Symposium was attended by more than 100 key participants from ministries, public entities, businesses, civil society organizations, academia and other development partners.

After the welcoming remarks of the national authorities, Gina Lagunes, responsible for the implementation of H2-Diplo in Colombia, highlighted the strategic importance of the programme to advance the political dialogue between the two countries. In addition, she presented the next actions highlighting a study of incentives for the demand of green hydrogen with special focus on green fertilisers and a methodology for the pre-feasibility of projects.



The programme will also promote social dialogue with communities in La Guajira with the aim of building capacities in the territory. Gina Lagunes highlighted the regional and international prominence that Colombia will have this year with the celebration of the LAC H2 Summit on 11 and 12 September in Cartagena, organised by the LAC Hydrogen Action, H2-diplo and the International Hydrogen Promotion Programme H2Uppp.



Vandré Spellmeier from H2-diplo Angola then took the floor to share the experience and lessons learned of the African country in the production of hydrogen, ammonia and green fertilizers with hydropower.



Two panels were held during the morning session. One on the actions of the High-Level Steering Committee on Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen with the participation of Marisella Calpa from MinEnergia, Constanza Correa from the Colombian-German Chamber of Commerce (AHK), Gina Lagunes from GIZ and as moderator Karen Peralta, director of the ANDI-Naturgas Hydrogen Chamber.



The second one, on ongoing commercial actions, opportunities and challenges with the participation of Michael Engelskirschen from H2Uppp GIZ; Nicolas Galarza from Enertrag; Gonzalo Betancur from Ecopetrol; Diego Arboleda from Hevolucion and as moderator Monica Gasca, director of the Hydrogen Association.

The morning session ended with these panels and the closing by the master of ceremony Andrea Zapata, regional advisor of the GeoH2Verde programme, a quadrangular cooperation between Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Germany in green hydrogen and geothermal energy.



During the afternoon, the first Climate Talk "Climate change: challenges and opportunities of green hydrogen for the territory of La Guajira" was presented by the German Embassy in Colombia in the framework of the Alliance for Climate and Just Energy Transition, inaugurated by Leonard Maue, climate counsellor of the German Embassy, and moderated by Mauricio Cote of GIZ.



In the Climate Talk, three talks were presented on the challenges and opportunities of renewable energy and green hydrogen for the La Guajira territory.

In the first talk, Carlos Martínez, professor of engineering at the University of La Guajira, presented the impacts of climate change on the territory, the need for diplomacy with communities, challenges and opportunities of green hydrogen and especially the opportunities for fertiliser production, soil regeneration and refrigeration with ammonia.

Afterwards, Aisama Muñoz, a Wayuu research engineer from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), presented the challenges and enabling factors for the development of community and socially-focused renewable energy projects.

The last talk was given by Luis Enrique Arévalo from the Ministry of Interior, who presented the institutional framework for prior consultation, challenges and the situation in La Guajira. Afterwards, the debate was encouraged with questions to the speakers from the audience.

This concluded the rich agenda of the 1st German-Colombian Symposium on Green Hydrogen and Decarbonization.