

September 11, 2026

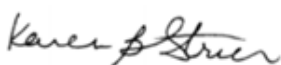
A Call for Sustained Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation in Colombia

The InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS) has followed with concern the recent announcement regarding the proposed reduction in Colombia's 2027 budget for science, technology, and innovation. As a regional network representing scientific academies throughout the Americas, we recognize the importance of national budgetary deliberations and the difficult choices that governments frequently face in times of fiscal constraint. Nevertheless, we believe that decisions affecting the scientific enterprise deserve particular consideration because of their long-term implications for national development.

Scientific capacity is among a nation's most valuable strategic assets. Unlike physical infrastructure, it cannot be built rapidly once lost. It depends on sustained support for institutions, research groups, advanced training, and collaborative networks that require years, and often decades, to mature. Interruptions in this process may have consequences that extend well beyond a single budget cycle, affecting future generations of researchers and limiting opportunities for innovation-driven growth.

Throughout the Americas, countries are striving to strengthen their ability to address increasingly complex challenges, including public health threats, environmental change, energy transitions, food security, biodiversity conservation, and technological transformation. Meeting these challenges requires strong scientific institutions and a predictable environment that encourages the retention of talent, the advancement of knowledge, and constructive engagement between science and public policy.

For these reasons, IANAS stands in solidarity with the Colombian scientific community and reaffirms its conviction that sustained support for science is an investment in the future prosperity, resilience, and well-being of society.



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