

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Ambassadorial-level meeting on Colombia**  
**15 November 2021**

**Chair's Summary**

1. On 15 November, the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, convened a virtual ambassadorial-level meeting on Colombia to review progress of and challenges to implementation of Colombia's Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace (Final Agreement), and to identify areas in need of further support through the 2022 transition period to the next administration and congress.
2. In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chair recalled that this month Colombia is celebrating the fifth-year anniversary of the signing of the Final Agreement, commending the significant progress and reintegration efforts. He welcomed the recent report of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, which pointed out persistent challenges and components warranting the PBC's attention such as the violence that has targeted some political leaders. He highlighted the Commission's continued engagement with and support to Colombia, particularly as the May 2022 presidential elections approach, emphasizing the importance of dialogue.
3. Mr. Emilio Archila, Colombia's Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, remarked that the Final Agreement recognizes that 15 years were agreed upon for implementation, reflected in the Government's long-term planning. Every aspect needs to be implemented with the same effort bearing in mind that the time required will be different. While having clarity in each area and taking advantage of making long-term plans, Colombia has already seen progress in all areas, including political and legal guarantees, support to the victims who remain at the core of the Final Agreement's efforts, reincorporation of ex-combatants, programs of coca substitution, development programmes with a territorial focus (PDETs) to target those most affected, rural reform, gender and ethnic issues, and demining. Colombia renewed the victims' law and strengthened victim representation. In the reincorporation process, 13,000 ex-combatants will be accompanied until they reach what the Government negotiated with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP). Progress has also taken place in 170 municipalities to support 100,000 families and 400,000 Colombians. He cautioned, however, that the Final Agreement covers only some aspects of Colombian life, that the current violence has diverse causes, and that it was a mistake to attribute the violence such as that targeting social leaders, human rights defenders, or ex-combatants to a lack of implementation of the Final Agreement. He advised that supporting the next Government in 2022 to continue implementation will be critical.
4. Father Francisco de Roux, President of the Truth Commission on behalf of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition, remarked that in the implementation of the Final Agreement, the accompaniment and active participation of civil society and the political and economic support of the international community have been very important. Key aspects of the Final Agreement have been the reincorporation of

ex-combatants, the PDETs, and the victim-centered approach. There is a need to re-examine why it is not politically correct to speak about peace. It is important to have this peace discourse at the highest level and trust in the truth. Colombia must move forward with land development plans, and address problems of equity, drug trafficking, and border regions. He prioritized inclusivity, including of women, indigenous communities, Afro-Colombians, and the private sector. Above all, he emphasized the importance of making considerable efforts to support ex-combatants in their reintegration process and the significance of them laying down their arms. The Missing Persons Search Unit has a national plan and regional search plans based on participation and collective construction with victims' families, social organizations, ethnic peoples, and state institutions. The Unit established an initial universe of 98,820 people reported missing. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace has identified the provisional universe of victims in the cases it is investigating, for example, 21,396 people were kidnapped, 18,677 minors were recruited by the FARC-EP, and 6,402 civilians were killed by the armed forces and presented as guerrillas killed in combat. The Truth Commission is focused on the preparation of the Final Report, including testimonies from more than 26,000 persons, and on dialogue with the whole of society, including through more than 300 conversations in different cities and regions. In remarking on challenges for non-repetition, the Father highlighted that there will be no peace if the conditions and structures that make the violence remain are maintained. Comprehensive and complete implementation of the Final Agreement is required with the continued support by the international community, the PBC, and the Security Council, especially in territories where violence has continued and ex-combatants have been killed.

5. Mrs. Lina Idalia Díaz Cataño, member of the Indigenous Multi-active Cooperative for Peace introduced herself as a Colombian leader, young woman, and victim of the armed conflict, from the Cañamomo Lomapieta indigenous reservation in Riosucio (Caldas). She recalled a massacre that took place in November 2001 when two members of the Caldas regional indigenous council and the former governor of the reservation were murdered, which resulted in displacing a large group of inhabitants of the reservation. The reservation has 32 indigenous communities, which have been hit by the armed conflict and even today they are still highly vulnerable due to poor access to basic services and roads. She shared her experiences of participating in a series of trainings in 2018 delivered by the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization and the National Learning Service on the construction of the reservation's historical memory, as part of the reparation process. Victims and ex-combatants were then brought together and through gradually building trust, they agreed on fish farming as a joint productive activity, resulting in the formation of the "Indigenous Multi-active Cooperative for Peace" (COOMIPAZ), which today is composed of ex-combatants, victims, and community members. The aim is for the cooperative to continue growing and be a platform for reconciliation, source of employment, and community engagement. The location where the project is being carried out has transformed from a place of pain and displacement to become a space for a reconciliation process between former FARC-EP combatants and victims, united to seek progress. She remarked that there are communities, including indigenous communities, that continue to be affected by violence, preventing reconciliation processes from taking place. It is urgent to increase educational and employment opportunities that benefit the victims and communities affected by the conflict, some of which lack infrastructure and access to roads. She also stressed the need to increase

opportunities for women to lead projects and to ensure their political participation in decision-making. She called upon the international community to support these efforts for indigenous communities and make them visible.

6. Mr. Roberto Velez, Chief Executive Officer of the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation, remarked that with the signing of the Final Agreement, the rural areas, where conflict had its most brutal expression, have felt the great difference between violence and peace. The public has witnessed the efforts of the Government, including in its coordinated efforts and in longer-term planning, to manage investments. He highlighted that the Federation and the Government are working together to build an infrastructure to give opportunities in rural areas through economic development, for example, by replacing illicit crops (coca) with coffee. There needs to be a profit to produce coffee, which has an additional advantage in building peace. This requires greater investment over the longer period and assurances to ex-combatants that producing coffee means they will be in the coffee fields longer term and in turn provide them with stability. The private sector has an important role to play. This cannot be done only with words but through support to the Government and encouragement of private investment. The international community must understand that it must support the rural aspect to consolidate peace.
7. Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, expressed appreciation for the strong support by the PBC to the peace process. He highlighted the remarks by Mrs. Lina Idalia Díaz Cataño, as representing what the process is all about – the generosity of the victims to be able to show openness and work together with former combatants as an example of reconciliation efforts. He remarked that there are many reasons to celebrate. He recalled that only half of peace agreements reach their fifth year. The laying down of the weapons was an important step in this process and the ex-combatants now have representation in congress. There are milestones that have been achieved, particularly in reintegration and the transitional justice architecture. More than half of the ex-combatants are involved in reintegration and progress has been achieved in the PDETs. He highlighted significant challenges, including persistent violence targeting ex-combatants, social leaders, and human rights defenders. It is crucial that the electoral period and the 2022 elections be participatory and peaceful, as was the case in 2018. The Final Agreement is ambitious and has elements of a transformational nature, but greater focus is needed in rural reform and political participation as part of a long-term plan.
8. Ms. Mireia Villar Forner, UN Resident Coordinator in Colombia, expressed appreciation to the PBC's sustained interest in Colombia and its catalytic support to the Final Agreement. She remarked on Colombia's resilience and commitment to address root causes of the conflict during the past five years. She highlighted the UN Country Team's (UNCT's) close relationship with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), which is the fourth biggest donor to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) composed of the UN system, donor countries, and the Government, for supporting reintegration of ex-combatants, protection of social leaders, leveraging of private sector investments, and the establishment of the transitional justice system. She highlighted that the PBC's continued support will be crucial to consolidate the transitional justice system to ensure truth, justice, and reparations for victims, with the launch of new processes such as the implementation, monitoring, and verification of judicial

sentences and the Restorative Tasks to be established by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, as well as to follow up on the final report of the Truth Commission. She stressed that the country needs further support to resolve conflicts around land distribution, titling and adaptation, as well as fighting against illicit economies and organized crime and its direct effects on climate security. The Resident Coordinator noted that while Colombia has been building peace for five years, more time will be needed for peace to take root and consolidate. Support is needed to ensure that there is no turning back and to ensure future Governments will continue to implement the Final Agreement.

9. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

- They expressed the value of having a broad set of briefers, particularly highlighting the remarks made by Mrs. Lina Idalia Díaz Cataño, as a member of an indigenous community and hopeful example of a reconciliation process.
- They congratulated the Colombian Government and the people, noting that only half of peace agreements reach the fifth year, and lauded the peacebuilding gains including in reintegration of ex-combatants, transitional justice, adopting a victim-centred approach, and the PDETs.
- They highlighted Colombia as an important example of effective peacebuilding support. Through leadership, dialogue and diplomacy, violent conflict can be put to an end. They commended Colombia for turning peacebuilding processes into a long-term solution, acknowledging that implementation is a process.
- They raised concerns over the violence targeting human rights defenders, ex-combatants, and social leaders, and urged further implementation in transitional justice, rural and land reform, security guarantees, integrated presence of state institutions, and inclusive political and socio-economic participation. They also underscored the need to counter illicit drugs, drug trafficking, and illicit economies.
- They remarked on the interrelationship between peace and development and referenced the importance of climate security.
- They underscored the importance of inclusion, referencing how Mrs. Lina Idalia Díaz Cataño showed the criticality of a whole of society approach, noting the pluri-ethnic part of the Constitution and ethnic chapter of the Final Agreement, and emphasized the crucial role of indigenous communities, as well as ex-combatants, women, and young people.
- They expressed the need to further promote gender commitments of the Final Agreement, as well as women and youth empowerment.
- They called for continued support to the transitional justice system, in particular the Truth Commission and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

- They recognized the work of the UN Verification Mission, UNCT and PBF (\$34.3 million investments), commending their collaboration with each other and the Government.
- They noted the importance of adequate, flexible, and sustained financing and drew attention to the General Assembly high-level meeting on financing taking place in 2022, noting the important contributions of the PBF and the MPTF. The financing of local peacebuilding initiatives is essential as well as the involvement of the private sector.
- They committed to continue supporting the efforts of the Colombian Government in the implementation of the Final Agreement and to ensure that the gains made during the last five years are irreversible, particularly as the electoral period approaches in 2022.

10. In his closing remarks, the Vice-Chair of the PBC thanked the briefers and the Member States for their interventions, highlighting the usefulness of hearing from both the UN Verification Mission and UNCT. He congratulated Colombia on its achievements during the last five years while also emphasizing the importance of all stakeholders staying involved. The ownership is with the Colombians, but the international community has a role to play in supporting the country's peace, reconciliation, and development efforts.