

Security Council meeting on Colombia
Remarks by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
12 October 2022

Mr. President,

In the last few years, on the request of the Government of Colombia, the Peacebuilding Commission has sought to mobilize support for Colombia's efforts to build peace following the ratification of the Final Peace Agreement in 2016. The Commission reiterates the importance of Colombia as a successful example of inclusive peacemaking and expresses its appreciation to the strong engagement of the Government of Colombia in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission to share its experiences with conflict affected countries and regions.

Drawing on the Commission's engagements with Colombia, I wish to bring following points to the Security Council's attention:

1. The Commission commends President Petro and his Government for their commitment to peace, including the full implementation of the Final Peace Agreement including its four elements of comprehensive rural reform, political participation, solution to the illicit drugs problem, comprehensive system of truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition, and mechanisms for dialogue on implementation. Progress in its transformative chapters will help consolidate peace, narrow the development gap in rural Colombia, contribute to reconciliation based on a shared understanding of the past, ensure justice and the rights of victims, and bring closure to the many Colombians who lost loved ones. The Commission expresses its recognition of the government's determination to reactivate the dialogue between the signatory parties and civil society.
2. The Commission also welcomes the Government's commitment to reduce inequality, to govern with and for women, to ensure zero tolerance for corruption, and to hold regional dialogues, as critical steps towards building lasting peace in Colombia.
3. The Commission underlines the importance of inclusive approaches to address inequalities as a driver of conflict and in that regard commends President Petro for appointing a gender parity cabinet and for his announcement to create a Ministry of Equality to address issues related to gender, ethnic communities, youth and children, among others. In line with its Gender Action Plan, the Commission encourages the full implementation of the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement and inclusion of the women, peace and security agenda in all discussions relevant to peacebuilding in Colombia.

4. The Commission encourages the full and effective use of mechanisms that draw on the inputs of the Colombian civil society actors, victims and former combatants to build consensus towards success of peace efforts, and in that regard welcomes installation of the National Youth Council in July this year and encourages further dialogue with youth in all aspects of peacebuilding.
5. The Commission welcomes the invaluable and complementary support that the Verification Mission and the UN Country Team provide to peacebuilding in Colombia, and the catalytic contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace (MPTF), and stresses the need for complementarity of different strands of technical assistance and funding, including domestic resources, innovative financing, local-level entrepreneurship, private sector investments, and public-private sector partnerships. Additionally, the Commission welcomes consistent Civil Society engagement in Colombia, including through the Peacebuilding Fund through the MPTF-Colombia and the annual Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, which supports national initiatives to enhance women and young people's participation in peacebuilding.
6. The Commission welcomes the recent decision by the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army to resume peace dialogues, which will help broaden the scope of peace, and urges the United Nations, international and regional partners to lend their fullest support to the process and the implementation of agreements to ensure a sustained path towards peacebuilding in Colombia.
7. The Commission reiterates its commitment, within its mandate, to continue accompanying Colombia in its peacebuilding efforts and calls on partners to increase their efforts to support Colombia in this endeavor.

I thank you.