

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-level meeting on Colombia
13 April 2022

Chair's Summary

1. On 13 April, the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, convened an ambassadorial-level meeting on Colombia in the presence of the President of Colombia, Mr. Iván Duque Márquez, and other participants, to discuss the status of implementation of the 2016 Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace and ways to overcome the challenges ahead to achieve its full potential.
2. In her opening remarks, the Chair commended the significant progress made in the implementation of the peace agreement, particularly in the rehabilitation of victims, socio-economic reintegration of former combatants and their participation in political processes, and the expansion of Territorially Focused Development Plans (PDETs). She termed the successful holding of the congressional elections in March 2022 as major milestone, and highlighted the growing participation of women and the participation of the electorate from rural and violence-affected areas, which for the first time voted to elect representatives from the 16 special transitional electoral districts for peace created by the peace agreement. She commended the bold and pragmatic leadership of President Duque. The Chair assured Colombia of the PBC's continued support, underscoring the importance of sustained efforts in the peace process, including increasing former combatants' access to land and housing and enhancing their education and employment opportunities. She further reinforced the significance of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition as being crucial in ensuring lasting peace in Colombia.
3. President Duque remarked that his administration's policy toward peace consolidation has become a reference model for peacebuilding, adopting an integral approach. He emphasized that the victims must be at the center of peacebuilding in a country like Colombia. He outlined several important elements, including expansion of individual and collective reparation mechanisms impacting almost 500,000 Colombians; regulating the process to elect the 16 representatives of special transitional electoral districts for peace in the next congress; and land restitution processes. His administration invested in the PDETs, comprising 170 municipalities and representing almost 6 million people out of which 2 million are considered to be victims. Almost \$4 US billion has been invested in community development. He highlighted integral rural reform as another milestone, including the number of tertiary roads, introducing contractual agriculture, increased access to electricity, granting 52,000 rural land titles, expanding rural credit and investing in education coverage. He also cited the achievement of re-incorporation of over 8,600 former combatants who are now involved in productive projects and an increase in housing and access to social security. In addition, the President highlighted an increase in the active participation of women in Government (e.g., representing 46% of high public officials and 3 Afro-descendant women in his administration) and more than 50% of

beneficiaries of his administration's policy toward peace consolidation are women. He noted challenges in transitional justice while referencing that the Government has provided the necessary means to focus on addressing child recruitment, assaults and violations on women's rights, narco-trafficking and crimes against the military. The President expressed his appreciation to the UN Verification Mission in Colombia and the Secretary-General for supporting the implementation of the peace agreement. He further welcomed the support of the PBC, noting it as one of the most important multilateral bodies to share the model of Colombia elsewhere on successful and unsuccessful experiences to prevent violence, war and conflict.

4. Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia echoed his remarks from the Security Council meeting on 12 April on the progress made in the implementation of the peace agreement, reaffirming the significant changes in Colombia's democratic process. He described the March 2022 congressional elections as successful and ground-breaking in giving voice to the regions most affected by conflict, citing the increased inclusion of women (28.8% of members of Congress), unhindered voting at polling stations and participation by the Comunes party. Mr. Ruiz Massieu highlighted the importance of dialogue with former combatants for achieving progress. At the same time, he shared the Secretary-General's concerns on the growing threats facing key areas of implementation such as violence in some parts of the country, noting that since the signing of the peace agreement, 318 former combatants, including 10 women, have been killed. He called for increased focus on rural and political reforms, and the fight against illicit drugs via the respective provisions of the peace agreement in addressing deep-rooted factors of violence. He also urged for the implementation of security guarantees provisions, consolidating and strengthening the peacebuilding efforts in the territories including strengthening the State's presence, long-awaited reforms in remote rural areas, and supporting the transitional justice system. He welcomed the support by the PBF to the transitional justice system including to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the work of the Truth Commission. While acknowledging the criticality of funding to sustain and build upon the hard-fought gains of these years of implementation, he emphasized that the Commission's continued political support is equally, if not more, important.
5. Ms. Mireia Villar Forner, the Resident Coordinator remarked on the close cooperation and support from the UN and donors which have been key to the successes and advancements in peacebuilding in Colombia. She noted that between 2020 and 2021, the UNCT has invested more than \$350 US million to support the peace agreement while the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia (MPTF) (with support from the Colombian Government and catalytic PBF funding) has contributed \$200 US million since 2016, facilitating the implementation of over 200 projects by the UNCT and civil society organizations reaching over 2 million people. She noted that the Colombian Government has contributed generously to the MPTF and the PBF is one of the Fund's largest donors. She highlighted the need to continue strengthening national institutions, particularly at the local level by ensuring sustained support in PDET regions and increase the engagement of the private sector. She noted that through blended finance initiatives, the MPTF has helped reduce risks of private investments while increasing their feasibility

and contributing to the reconciliation and reintegration process. Social inclusion needs to go hand in hand with productive inclusion and we have the opportunity to scale up productive inclusion for victims, female-headed families, former combatants, communities that have left illicit crop production, and Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities. She highlighted that the political support from the international community and the Government is key to engaging more widely with the private sector to leverage domestic resources. She also commended the PBF as being groundbreaking in supporting innovative financing.

6. Mr. Jhan Carlos Moreno, the representative of the ECOMUN Esperanza del Pueblo Multiactive Cooperative (COOMEPEP), expressed his appreciation for the support that Colombia has received to the peace process, noting that the people of Colombia, particularly in the Department of Cauca, have not given up on the country's consolidation of peace. He highlighted the formation of alliances focused on social and economic development in one of the departments most affected by the armed conflict, which has included the creation of 36 community enterprises contributing to the 2030 Agenda, focusing also on work for young people and women. To further sustain peace in Colombia, the Cooperative seeks to build spaces for reconciliation and dialogue, support active participation in the transitional justice processes, and articulate with the public and private sectors programmes committed to the non-repetition of the armed conflict. He recommended that the Commission consider declaring the North and East of Cauca as a special subregion of peace as violence persists in the subregion; support economic development including by creating multilateral and bilateral agreements for the commercialization of products and services in the subregion; strengthen organizational processes for viable economic alternative proposals to illicit crops; increase access to land and develop housing and group habitability projects for those in the process of reintegration, victims and communities; and support pedagogy of peace and socialization of the impacts of its implementation.
7. Mr. Emilio Archila, Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, remarked on the experience of implementing the peace agreement, noting the Colombian Government's role in leading the peace process for its current successful trajectory. He emphasized that the formulation of the peace agreement did not change the existing Constitution, noting that effective implementation requires the sharing of space between the Government and the FARC, with each having individual roles and responsibilities. Mr. Archila noted that Colombia has developed a long-term plan, with specific efforts made to ensure adequate financing sourced from the Colombian Government (85%) and international parties (15%), which prevented the slowing down of implementation, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. He reiterated that although the implementation of the peace agreement is part of resolving problems in Colombia, it is not the only solution but rather forms part of the country's general policies. He noted that priority has been placed on listening to victims on their needs which include reintegration, reconciliation, rural reforms, and collective reparations according to their expectations. Mr. Archila emphasized the need to work in the long-term, noting that plans are already in place until 2030 and called for further support on the same.

8. Members of the Commission welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

- They expressed the value of having a broad set of briefers in the meeting, including Mr. Jhan Carlos Moreno, who illustrated a hopeful example of the re-integration process of the peace agreement implementation in Colombia.
- They congratulated President Duque as well as the Government and the people of Colombia for the successful congressional elections in March 2022 and the growing inclusion and participation of women in the political process.
- They welcomed the opportunity to meet with the President and reiterated that Colombia's peace process continued to serve as an example to the world of the possibility of resolving armed conflict through dialogue, and the importance of a comprehensive approach to building and sustaining peace.
- They recognized progress on many fronts, including in the reintegration of former combatants, while also expressing concerns over violence in conflict-affected areas, and encouraged continuing efforts to build trust within communities.
- They commended the inclusion of indigenous communities in the political process and called for increased implementation of the gender provisions and the prioritization of the Ethnic Chapter of the peace agreement with a focus on Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities. They called for increased efforts in promoting youth participation, protection of fundamental rights, social inclusion of women and youth, and non-stigmatization.
- They called for the strengthening of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition (and ensuring the upholding of the autonomy and independence of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace), which plays a crucial role in reinforcing constructive dialogue, strengthening conditions for reconciliation, holding perpetrators accountable, and ensuring justice for victims.
- They expressed concern about the security situation of some regions in Colombia, calling for increased efforts in addressing security across the country and ensuring the protection of all prospective leaders, candidates, former combatants, youth, women, and social leaders as well as indigenous, Afro-Colombians and other minority groups.
- They urged increased efforts to tackle the threats and challenges posed by armed groups by extending the presence of the State in rural and violence-affected areas, including in the former Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration (TATRs).
- They highlighted the importance of the Commission to continue offering its support in advocating for longer-term, risk-tolerant and flexible funding for

peacebuilding efforts of women, youth, ethnic communities and rural residents to strengthen local economies.

- They recognized the catalytic contribution of the PBF through the MPTF and stressed 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.
 - They referred to Colombia as an inspiring example of the impact of peace agreement processes from which other countries can learn and offered the PBC as a platform for continuing accompaniment and advocacy in support of peacebuilding in Colombia.
9. Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, ASG for Peacebuilding Support, commended the advances in the peace process to address root causes of conflict to the credit of Colombians and the Government, despite the ongoing challenges. She underscored the dedication and readiness of DPPA, including PBSO, to continue to support Colombia and the Government with the UN Verification Mission and the UNCT to build peace. She also agreed with the potential of Colombia to serve as a model for other countries in terms of a strong, nationally led (yet inclusive) process; strong linkages between peace, security and development; promising efforts of engaging the private sector and national peacebuilding actors; and strong interaction with the PBC to outline peacebuilding priorities, update on progress and share challenges.
10. In closing, the PBC Chair emphasized that the peace process of Colombia presents an excellent example of how armed conflict can be resolved through dialogue and sustainable peace, achievable through inclusive and integrated reconciliation efforts. She highlighted the Commission's commitment to continue extending its support to Colombia's efforts to sustain the gains of the peace process.