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United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2798 \(2025\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, and resolution [2366 \(2017\)](#), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. The report covers the period from 27 December 2025 to 26 March 2026.

II. Major developments

2. The implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace continued throughout a period marked by the holding of congressional elections and the lead-up to presidential elections. On 8 March, Colombians elected a new Congress for the 2026–2030 period, which will be inaugurated on 20 July. These were the third congressional elections since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. Furthermore, voting was held for the second time under the Final Peace Agreement for 16 seats in the House of Representatives, earmarked for organizations and movements representing peasants, victims, women and ethnic groups from the regions most affected by the conflict, known as the special transitional electoral districts for peace. The elected individuals will serve a four-year term, ending in 2030, after which these transitional districts will expire.

3. Congressional elections took place in a largely peaceful manner, with no major disturbances to public order. Only 2 of the 13,746 polling stations were preventively relocated due to security issues. The Government reported that some 246,000 members of the public security forces were deployed to ensure physical security on election day, throughout the national territory. The Mission participated in the meetings of the nationwide Unified Command Centre, which brought together the Ministries of Interior and Defence, the Office of the Ombudsperson and the National Civil Registry, thus contributing to its oversight of developments to ensure the smooth conduct of elections on voting day. The Mission also facilitated the monitoring of the security for the participation of former combatants and members of the Comunes party, through the national and regional convening of the Tripartite Protection and Security Mechanism, which brings together representatives of the public security forces, former combatants and the Mission (see para. 46). Turnout was just over 50 per cent of the more than 41 million eligible voters, a small increase compared to 2022.



According to preliminary results, female representation in Congress stood at 29 per cent. On the same day, voters had the opportunity to take part in primary elections to determine the presidential candidates for three different coalitions. Those selected will now join other candidates in the first round of presidential elections scheduled for 31 May, with a second round planned for 21 June, if required.

4. These congressional elections were also the first time that the Comunes party participated without the guarantee under the Final Peace Agreement of obtaining 10 seats in Congress. The party did not win any seats and was also short of the minimum vote threshold required to maintain its legal status (see para. 38). Comunes leadership acknowledged the results and the loss of its congressional representation, noting the difficult conditions, including threats in several territories, that hindered their campaigning. Despite these setbacks, Comunes leadership reiterated their strong commitment to the Final Peace Agreement and its full implementation.

5. The Office of the Ombudsperson, which led the establishment of a pact aimed at ensuring that the elections, both congressional and presidential, are conducted peacefully, presented its first monitoring report in February. The pact, known as the Commitment to a Free and Peaceful Electoral Process, was launched in June 2025, following the deadly attack against then-Senator and presidential aspirant Miguel Uribe Turbay. The Commitment includes pledges of non-violence, refraining from hateful rhetoric and disinformation, and respect institutions and the legal order. To date, it has received over 130 endorsements, including from 20 political parties and movements, 8 out of 14 candidates for the presidency, high-level State institutions, media outlets, private sector associations and diplomatic missions. Since its inception, the initiative has been actively supported by the Mission, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Organization of American States (OAS), through its Mission to Support the Peace Process, and the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church. In the report, the Office highlighted broad compliance by signatories with key provisions related to the protection of life and respect for democratic institutions, while noting persisting challenges, including the use of stigmatizing rhetoric and the spread of disinformation.

6. While election day was largely peaceful, security remained of utmost concern during the run-up to the polls, particularly in rural areas, where illegal armed groups exert strong influence and the institutional presence of the State remains limited. Significant incidents targeted several candidates and current members of Congress: a deadly attack on the protection team of a Senator in the Department of Arauca, the disappearance of a candidate to the Senate in the Department of Cesar, the several-hour-long retention of a woman Indigenous Senator by an armed group in the Department of Cauca, and a similar incident against a woman Indigenous candidate for the special transitional electoral districts for peace, in the same Department. In addition, three soldiers were killed during an attack carried out while they were providing security for the installation of a polling station in the Department of Caquetá. In this context, monitoring activities were carried out by the Electoral Observation Mission, an independent, non-partisan civil society mechanism. Its systematic analyses of the country's electoral processes are considered a key source of credible information. Prior to election day, the Electoral Observation Mission reported that 185 municipalities, out of more than 1,100 nationwide, were facing risks related to security and potential fraud, including 94 municipalities classified as being at extreme risk, especially in light of armed group activities and weak State presence. The number of municipalities at risk represented an increase of 92 per cent compared with 2022. The Electoral Observation Mission also underscored the high level of risk in municipalities prioritized under the special transitional electoral districts for peace. The presence of armed groups in many of those areas was widely assessed as being a constraint to political activity.

7. Conflict continued to claim lives and disrupt communities in different regions of the country. Following unilateral ceasefires declared by various illegal armed groups during the end-of-year holiday period, attacks by armed groups against other such groups and against the public security forces resumed in early January. The use of drones in armed attacks continued in Departments such as Arauca, Cauca and Norte de Santander, and expanded to new regions, including Antioquia, Bolívar and Magdalena. There were casualties among civilians and members of the public security forces. In the Department of Guaviare, the year began with the deaths of 26 individuals belonging to the group known as Estado Mayor Central Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (EMC FARC-EP), amid circumstances that remain under investigation (see para. 42). In the Magdalena Medio and north-eastern Antioquia regions, in line with the alerts by the Office of the Ombudsperson through its system of early warnings, clashes escalated, involving Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and the group known as Estado Mayor de los Bloques y Frentes (EMBF) against the group self-identifying as Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia (EGC), also known as Clan del Golfo. The expansion of the latter also led to clashes with the Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra Nevada in the north-eastern part of the country and in border areas of the Catatumbo region, affecting civilians and the Arhuaco Indigenous People in particular. In the Catatumbo region of the Department of Norte de Santander, the civilian population was heavily affected by continuing confrontations between ELN and EMBF, which caused the displacement of 1,700 persons and the confinement of close to 2,400, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

8. Actions by the Government, starting with a year-end change in military leadership as decided by the President, Gustavo Petro, signaled an adjustment in its security strategy. The Government outlined a reinforced focus on three main issues: combating illegal economies (mainly drug trafficking, illegal mining and smuggling); strengthening territorial security and control in strategic and conflict-affected areas; and maintaining public order. In February, the Government announced a strategy to counteract the activities of armed and criminal groups in border regions. On 4 February, the public security forces killed seven members of ELN in an aerial bombardment in the Catatumbo region bordering the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Progress across the various peace dialogues with armed groups remained uneven during the period, as the Government sought to apply military and other pressure.

9. With respect to dialogue processes with illegal armed groups, peace talks with ELN showed no sign of imminent resumption. Preparations were under way for an eighth round of negotiations with EMBF. The Government increased pressure for achieving prompt verifiable progress on coca eradication and substitution, with the cooperation of some of the groups involved in talks. The seventh round of talks between the Government and Coordinadora Nacional Ejército Bolivariano (CNEB) took place from 11 to 13 March, focusing on steps to establish temporary assembly zones for the gradual concentration of combatants. The parties also agreed on a deadline of 31 March for verifying compliance with a previously established target of voluntary eradication of 30,000 hectares of coca crops in the Departments of Nariño and Putumayo. Regarding socio-legal dialogues with groups formally categorized as organized crime structures, progress reportedly remained limited, although communication continued between the Government and the respective structures in Quibdó, Department of Chocó, and Medellín, Department of Antioquia.

10. The Mission, together with other entities, including the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Catholic Church and local authorities, continued to assist in the release of persons held by armed groups. During the reporting period, 24 people (including 5 members of the public security forces, 1 child, 3 women and 1 relative

of a former FARC-EP combatant) were released in two Departments (9 by ELN, 2 by EMBF and 13 by EMC FARC-EP).

11. In February, Colombia hosted the second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, with the participation of more than 50 delegations from around the world, as well as peasant and civil society organizations. The President attended the event, as did the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. In the Final Declaration of the Conference, delegations stated that agrarian reform, sustainable rural development and responsible land governance were essential not just for food security and poverty reduction, but also for conflict prevention.

12. In March, six former senior commanders of FARC-EP acknowledged their responsibility in relation to an indictment by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace within Case 07, on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, issued in November 2024. The indictment refers to the forced recruitment of over 18,000 children, as well as the perpetration of sexual and reproductive violence, among the main charges. The former commanders acknowledged that these acts had occurred under their command and accepted responsibility.

III. Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement

13. During the reporting period, the Mission observed uneven progress as well as persisting challenges in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. The comprehensive rural reform continued to advance, particularly in the delivery and formalization of land. Notwithstanding significant investments, however, efforts to transform areas prioritized by the Agreement and to extend the presence of the State are slower to deliver results. Reintegration efforts moved forward, most notably with over 11,000 former combatants implementing their individual reintegration plans. While significant steps were taken with respect to the allocation of land and housing, progress was more limited in expanding support for former combatants residing outside territorial areas for training and reintegration. Regarding security guarantees, some protection mechanisms were activated and used, resulting in timely evacuations of at-risk former combatants and the allocation of resources to strengthen coordination bodies, such as the Tripartite Protection and Security Mechanism. However, conflict-related violence in several regions, including threats against and the killing of land beneficiaries, former combatants and social and political leaders, continued to pose significant dangers, which undermined implementation.

14. While the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement did not convene at its highest level, due in part to procedural matters within the Government delegation, the Commission made progress at the working level with the mainstreaming of an ethnic approach in the national plans for rural reform.

15. Seven former leaders of the FARC-EP secretariat met in February with the Government, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities, to exchange information on landmine use during the conflict, with a view to contributing to mine clearance under the Final Peace Agreement. The meeting was part of a process within the framework of the tripartite working group on mines, comprising representatives of the Government, former combatants, the Mission and the Mine Action Service, to gather and map information on conflict-affected areas, thereby contributing to the national mine action policy.

Comprehensive rural reform

16. Comprehensive rural reform is key to consolidating lasting peace and security in Colombia. The reform has the potential to resolve one of the structural causes of conflict, unequal access to land, while also bridging gaps between urban and rural development. Fully implementing the respective provisions of the Final Peace Agreement will contribute to strengthening State presence in long-neglected territories, unlocking the economic potential of rural areas and breaking the cycle of violence in rural Colombia by offering alternatives to illicit economies. Achieving these goals requires coordinated State action to accelerate the provision of services and infrastructure, as well as security, in conflict-affected territories.

17. During the second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development presented a new Government-wide policy on agrarian reform, assigning ministerial responsibilities, defining concrete actions and outlining financing needs to move forward with land redistribution. In view of its long-term structural character, the policy has been adopted as a dedicated national policy-planning instrument (known as a *documento Conpes*) that will guide the work of several governments.

18. During the reporting period, the National Mixed Commission for Peasant Affairs held an extraordinary session to discuss the regulatory framework of a law that seeks to provide equal opportunities to women in rural areas. During the session, a mechanism was agreed upon to foster the participation of rural women's organizations in the drafting of follow-up legislation.

19. Notwithstanding the potential of the Agrarian Jurisdiction established under the Final Peace Agreement to address land-related conflicts in rural Colombia, its operationalization has been delayed in the absence of a law regulating its functioning. Congress has an important role to play in processing this important bill.

20. Progress in land delivery and formalization continued at a steady pace, reflecting its prioritization by the Government. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as of mid-March, 323,579 hectares, out of a total goal of 3 million set out in the Final Peace Agreement, were delivered to peasants, rural women and victims, 86,000 of whom have been issued definitive titles of ownership. More efforts will be required to provide legal security to all beneficiaries of land allocation. Formalization, which is the process of providing official recognition of land tenure for plots already held by peasants and Indigenous Peoples but without formal titles, covered 3,905,572 hectares – 56 per cent of the goal of 7 million hectares set out in the Final Peace Agreement. The Mission is monitoring 30 emblematic cases of land allocation in order to assess their impact on the beneficiaries. Government support remains essential to ensure the productivity of the land involved and effectively transform rural areas.

21. Through the special land allocation programme for rural women established in 2024, 1,522 hectares had been delivered, by February 2026, in the Departments of Bolívar, Norte de Santander and Sucre. The Government aims to deliver an additional 2,500 hectares by the end of its term. However, a report by the Government-led Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), covering the period between 2015 and 2024, noted that women represent 35 per cent of landowners, mostly of smallholdings, and face greater structural barriers, such as limited access to markets and credits.

22. Security risks for beneficiaries of land allocation remain a significant concern. In February, a peasant leader who, together with approximately 80 families, had recently received a 1,900 hectare plot of land, was killed in the Department of Magdalena. This killing followed another homicide in relation to the same plot,

two months earlier. Most of the remaining beneficiaries have reportedly left the area. While investigations were ongoing, the case underscored the security implications of land allocation and the need for strengthened State coordination in order to prevent and mitigate associated risks for beneficiaries. This is particularly relevant for contested plots previously held by the Special Assets Administration, an entity that manages assets seized from criminal actors. The Mission continues to actively engage with the Office of the Ombudsperson and other entities on the issue.

23. The Final Peace Agreement provided for the acceleration of land restitution, a process based on the Victims and Land Restitution Law of 2011, aiming to benefit victims forced off their land during the conflict. The Land Restitution Unit, the Government entity responsible for bringing cases before restitution courts, obtained favourable judicial rulings regarding 435,000 hectares during the current administration. This brought the cumulative total of land with a ruling to be returned to over 1,000,000 hectares since 2011. Despite significant efforts to accelerate and clear the backlog in those processes, challenges persist in relation to the effective implementation of restitution rulings by all institutions and linked to security conditions in the territories. As a result, the objective of returning land to all victims by 2031, when the law expires, will be difficult to achieve at the current pace, given the magnitude of dispossession during the conflict.

24. The development programmes with a territorial focus remain the main tool for the economic and social transformation of conflict areas. The enactment of legislation in February to extend their implementation time frame until 2037 reflects broad political consensus on the importance of promoting long-term development and provides a renewed opportunity to accelerate investments in these regions. According to the Agency for Territorial Renewal, investment in the development programmes has been significant, reaching \$8.8 billion since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. Progress has been limited, however, in the implementation of high-impact projects prioritized by the Government in each of the 16 regions covered by the development programmes. A report by the committee for the follow-up of the recommendations of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition, presented in February and covering the period between 2016 and 2025, found that projects under the development programmes with a territorial focus had been implemented at an overall rate of 46 per cent, and that the municipalities concerned had experienced a reduction from 39.8 per cent to 23.7 per cent in the rate of multidimensional poverty from 2018 to 2023.

25. Steering committees that include local authorities and communities have been established for all four territorial pacts signed to date, covering Catatumbo, Cauca, Chocó and Nariño, with the aim of accelerating investments in regions where the development programmes with a territorial focus are being implemented. A meeting of the steering committee of the pact for Catatumbo, the first to be signed, was convened in January, during which it announced planned investments of up to \$1 billion focused on road infrastructure, education and health.

26. The implementation of the 16 national plans for rural reform, the framework established under the Final Peace Agreement to reduce poverty, infrastructure and development gaps in rural areas, remained uneven. According to the National Planning Department, the plans in relation to electrification, connectivity and the solidarity economy have shown the greatest progress. The plans relating to massive formalization of land ownership, irrigation and commercialization have registered the least progress. Since the implementation of the national rural health plan began, 3,643 health teams have been deployed in 397 municipalities, and health infrastructure and equipment have been provided to 204 municipalities. The Ministry of Transport allocated additional resources to the national road plan for regional integration, which

are essential to boosting local economies by improving access to markets and lowering food costs. The Ministry reported having built or improved 30,283 kilometres of tertiary roads in 866 municipalities since the adoption of the plan in 2018.

Reintegration

27. Nearly 10 years after the laying down of arms, former combatants across Colombia continue their personal and collective paths to peace, striving in the face of major challenges to build productive new lives and futures for themselves and their families, with the support promised under the Final Peace Agreement. A comprehensive and sustainable reintegration effort remains key to the success of this or any similar peace process, as part of fostering reconciliation and preventing a resurgence of conflict. The Government has established a comprehensive framework that should guide upcoming efforts, build durable progress and secure lasting results.

28. As at 28 February, 11,031 former combatants (3,011 women) remained active in the Comprehensive Reintegration Programme, out of over 13,000 who entered the reintegration process following the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. The Programme was established in 2024 and is led by the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization. As part of the Programme, participants were responsible for designing their individual reintegration plans, most of which are being implemented. Their priorities included access to pensions, housing, land, psychological support and vocational training for employment. Comparatively little progress has been achieved to date in the design of collective reintegration plans.

29. The National Reintegration Council continued to serve as the main coordination and follow-up mechanism between the Government and the former combatants, with the strategic support and engagement of the Mission. In February, the Council defined its priorities for 2026, with an emphasis on improving access to land and housing, increasing the sustainability of productive projects and enhancing security for former combatants. The Mission stressed the need to increase support for former combatants outside the territorial areas for training and reintegration – now 85 per cent of the total – and to promote economic sustainability for collective and individual projects, with a focus on women’s financial autonomy.

30. Access to land and housing remains a decisive factor for former combatants seeking to set down roots. During the reporting period, an additional 212.5 hectares of land were allocated for productive purposes to cooperatives operating in the Departments of Valle del Cauca and Tolima, contributing to a cumulative total of 18,859 hectares delivered for reintegration purposes since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. In the framework of the National Reintegration Council, the National Land Agency had committed to deliver 100 plots by the end of the current administration, and has so far handed over 63.

31. Of the 22 remaining territorial areas for training and reintegration, 19 have formalized land ownership. Challenges persisted in identifying available and suitable plots for former combatants living in the territorial areas for training and reintegration of Putumayo, Chocó and Tolima. Land ownership would positively affect their ability to settle and develop sustainable livelihood projects and fulfil the Government’s pledge to formalize land tenure for all territorial areas for training and reintegration.

32. Amid continued tensions between armed groups in Catatumbo, 12 former combatants and 16 family members from the territorial area for training and reintegration of Tibú were safely relocated during the reporting period to the rural area of Cúcuta, with support provided by the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization, the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Mission, which had closely

monitored their situation over the previous months. Emergency shelters were provided pending the construction of 71 housing units. While the resettlement is expected to stabilize matters for this group and support their improved access to basic services, concerns about security and continuity of services persist for 12 former combatants remaining in Tibú with their families.

33. The Government reported having mobilized approximately \$43 million to reach its target of advancing construction work for over 1,600 units to house former combatants by the end of the current administration. During the reporting period, 109 housing units were delivered in the territorial area for training and reintegration of Acacías (Meta Department). The 140 units delivered in September 2025 in the territorial area for training and reintegration of Caldono, Department of Cauca, remain largely vacant owing to insecurity and issues related to the provision of services. Since nearly 40 per cent of the approximately 9,500 former combatants residing outside territorial areas for training and reintegration are living in urban settings, mainly in Bogotá, Medellín and Cali, the Government will be called upon to provide housing solutions to support urban reintegration.

34. The Agency for Reintegration and Normalization continued to implement its 2024 strategy to ensure the sustainability of collective productive projects. The strategy incorporates key factors, such as access to land, technical assistance and security, and received significant funding from the Government in 2025. However, implementation remains in the early stages. As of February, 137 applications had been submitted by cooperatives and associations of former combatants to receive support from the Agency. Sustainability plans have been approved for 52 applications, including 5 earmarked for projects led predominantly by women. Cooperatives with approved plans involve a total of 1,680 former combatants. The Mission continued to engage with cooperatives at the local level and other stakeholders to help them to strengthen their economic autonomy and access markets and credit, while closely monitoring the security context in which they operate.

35. Access to employment remained crucial for sustained economic reintegration. The Agency for Reintegration and Normalization continued to implement a strategy launched in July 2025, aimed at providing training and counselling for nearly 700 former combatants on seeking employment and accessing the job market.

36. Sustainable livelihoods remain an elusive goal for many former combatants, who therefore continue to perceive the monthly allowance they receive, set at 90 per cent of the minimum wage and initially conceived as a temporary measure, as essential. In February, amid fiscal constraints, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization decided to discontinue the monthly allowance for those former combatants with a formal income; almost 2,800 former combatants are affected by that decision. The measure generated opposition among former combatants, who argued that it could weaken their fragile livelihood projects and discourage efforts to access formal employment. Following engagement and dialogue, with the support of the Mission, the Agency maintained a food stipend for those former combatants earning up to one minimum wage, benefiting 567 individuals. While this measure partially mitigated concerns arising from the change affecting the monthly allowance, significant overall challenges remained in ensuring sustainable economic reintegration.

37. As part of its community-based reintegration strategy, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization continued to foster dialogue between communities and former combatants, aiming to involve nearly 2,000 people in 33 municipalities, where stigmatization persists. The Mission attended dialogue sessions to support the safe participation of community members in complex security contexts.

38. The congressional elections in March were the first time since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement that the Comunes party was required compete on an equal basis with all parties in order to secure seats in Congress as well as to achieve the minimum number of votes in order to retain its legal status. Comunes endorsed 10 candidates among the former combatants, including 3 women, under a left-wing coalition with other political movements. The coalition under which the party ran received over 114,000 votes, but this was below the minimum threshold of 500,000 votes required to maintain its legal status. Four additional former combatants, including one woman, chose to run under the banner of other parties, without success.

39. Enabling former combatants to participate in political life is a key element of the Final Peace Agreement and remains central to their reintegration into society. In the lead-up to the elections, the Mission maintained close coordination with the National Civil Registry and the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization to identify, prevent and mitigate any obstacles affecting the ability of former combatants to vote, with few incidents reported on election day. Particular attention was paid to those displaced for security reasons.

Security guarantees

40. Despite efforts to implement the provisions of the Final Peace Agreement on security guarantees, the reporting period was marked by persistent security challenges for former combatants, communities and political and social leaders. Violence, including killing and forced displacement, continued in conflict-affected regions across several departments, amid clashes among illegal armed groups. Illicit economies, such as the drug trade and illegal mining, remain primary drivers of violence in these regions. The Office of the Attorney General advanced prosecutorial strategies to address criminal phenomena, while the Office of the Ombudsperson strengthened its early warning and risk monitoring capabilities. Protection mechanisms established under the Final Peace Agreement were activated, with support from the Mission, in order to respond to emerging risks. At the same time, progress in operationalizing the public policy to dismantle illegal armed groups and criminal organizations remained limited, given the persisting coordination challenges among concerned institutions.

41. During the reporting period, the Mission verified the killing of four former combatants – one of them Afro-Colombian – in the Departments of Putumayo, Caquetá, Huila and Cauca, and nine attempted homicides (including against one woman and two Indigenous men). These incidents brought the number of those killed since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement to 491 (including 12 women, 64 Indigenous persons and 59 Afro-Colombians) and the total number of victims of attempted homicides to 179 (including 20 Indigenous individuals and 17 Afro-Colombians; 18 were women), while 57 have been registered as missing (including one woman). There was also an increase in security-related incidents, such as threats, forced displacements and the attempted killing of former combatants in the Department of Huila and Meta, which underscores the need for a timely and preventive institutional response. Three former combatants and five family members were evacuated, with the support of the Mission, within the framework of the strategic plan for security and protection of former combatants, developed under the provisions of the Final Peace Agreement.

42. Armed confrontation continued in historically conflict-affected areas, including Antioquia, Arauca, Bolívar, Caquetá, Cauca, Cesar, Guaviare, La Guajira and Norte de Santander. Violence among armed groups escalated in January, when 26 bodies, including those of 4 Indigenous children from the Nasa people, were found on a

roadside in an area of conflict between EMBF and EMC FARC-EP in the Department of Guaviare. The case is under investigation.

43. Between 27 December and 20 March, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported the forced mass displacement of 8,404 people and the confinement of 23,039 people across 26 municipalities in eight departments, with 11 per cent of victims belonging to Afro-Colombian communities. The main causes of the events were associated with the presence of and clashes between illegal armed groups. During the period, the Government adopted a 10-year national policy on durable solutions for victims of forced displacement, enshrined in a dedicated national policy planning instrument (known as a documento Conpes).

44. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights registered 24 allegations (22 under verification and 2 considered not conclusive) of the killing of human rights defenders (4 women, 18 men), including 3 Indigenous persons, 2 Afro-Colombians and 8 peasants. OHCHR also received 32 allegations of massacres (3 of which were verified, with 11 victims: 9 men and 2 children).

45. The Office of the Ombudsperson issued a report in February, which followed up on its electoral early warning issued in September 2025. In the report the Office highlighted that the number of municipalities requiring attention had increased due to a lack of preventive institutional response and weak coordination. The Office also indicated that women, including community or political leaders, continued to face heightened risks due to armed violence and gender-based discrimination, with underrepresentation and gender-based attacks remaining central concerns. It recommended greater coherence in ongoing electoral security efforts, including those established under the Final Peace Agreement for these purposes, such as the Comprehensive Security System for the Exercise of Politics. The latter aims to promote a holistic approach to security, including aspects related to prevention and protection mechanisms for elected officials, people in opposition and community leaders.

46. The specific security needs of former combatants and members of the Comunes party, prior to and during the elections, were addressed through dedicated sessions of the Tripartite Protection and Security Mechanism at the national and regional levels, facilitated by the Mission. The Mission also engaged with local authorities regarding preparations at the local level and monitored security on election day within the interinstitutional unified command centres set up throughout the country. There were no significant security incidents reported by former combatants on election day.

47. The public policy to dismantle illegal armed groups and criminal organizations, provided for in the Final Peace Agreement and adopted in 2024 under the auspices of the National Commission on Security Guarantees, lays out a comprehensive approach to combating armed violence in the country. The policy is aimed at targeting criminal structures and organizations, including the financial networks and illicit economies that sustain their activities; addressing structural causes of crime, including through a focus on preventing the emergence of new groups; and strengthening the State through increased presence of military and civil institutions in conflict-affected areas. The Mission has urged more frequent high-level meetings of the Commission in order to advance the implementation of the policy, which has been limited. The Mission has also continued to support the work of the Commission at the technical level. Under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, specific criminal phenomena were prioritized in the three regions selected by the Commission in 2024 for its pilot projects on the implementation of the policy. The targeted phenomena were child recruitment in northern Cauca and Catatumbo, illegal mining in Magdalena Medio-southern Bolívar, and money-laundering networks at the national level.

48. Following the appointment of the new Director of the Special Investigations Unit of the Office of the Attorney General in December, there has been prioritization of criminal phenomena that affect former combatants and social leaders, including threats and crimes specifically affecting women. While legal action has been taken against top commanders of illegal armed groups involved in deforestation and child recruitment, a simultaneous focus on the intellectual authors and mid-level commanders remains essential to effectively curtail the actions of criminal networks.

49. During the reporting period, the Mission facilitated tripartite round tables with the Special Investigations Unit and former combatants in the Departments of Arauca, Cauca, Huila, Nariño and Norte de Santander. These took place as part of efforts to build trust and improve risk analysis in ongoing investigations into attacks against former combatants.

50. The Office of the Ombudsperson issued early warnings during the period for municipalities in 10 departments, describing risks for communities related to the presence of illegal armed groups or actors. The Intersectoral Commission for Rapid Response to Early Warnings, an interinstitutional coordination mechanism led by the Ministry of the Interior to address early warnings issued by the Office of the Ombudsperson, began applying a new methodology, developed with support from the Mission and aimed at improving institutional response (S/2025/849, para. 50).

51. In January, the Comunes party raised concerns over a restructuring of the National Protection Unit by the Government, which affected the functioning of the Specialized Subdirectorates for Security and Protection, established under the Final Peace Agreement to attend to the specific needs of former combatants. The Mission is facilitating dialogue between the parties to safeguard the Subdirectorates' mandate in accordance with the spirit of the Final Peace Agreement. Meanwhile, the Comunes party took legal action seeking to reverse this measure.

52. The Government allocated some \$1.2 million to accelerate the implementation of key security and protection mechanisms in 2026, in response to a ruling by the Constitutional Court of October 2025, in which it followed up on its 2022 declaration of an unconstitutional state of affairs regarding security for former FARC-EP combatants. At the Government's request, the Mission advised on the establishment of relevant priorities for the attribution of the funds at the local level, such as supporting the evacuation of former combatants facing imminent risks and the functioning of tripartite protection and security mechanisms.

Gender issues

53. The normative framework for the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement and of the women and peace and security agenda remained a solid basis for their implementation. Some progress was made during the period to foster women's participation in rural reform efforts (see para. 18) and economic autonomy for women former combatants in the reintegration process.

54. During the reporting period, UN-Women, with support from the Mission, successfully concluded projects aimed at strengthening 16 productive initiatives led by women former combatants (approximately 150 beneficiaries) in Caquetá, Cauca, Huila, Tolima, Antioquia and the Caribbean region. Focused on agritourism and garment production, these initiatives promoted women's economic autonomy and employment, while reducing stigmatization, fostering cooperation with local communities and contributing to reconciliation.

55. Nevertheless, overall progress has been uneven and challenges remained to the participation of women in the implementation of key instruments related to gender and peacebuilding. Owing to funding constraints and security risks for women leaders

in several regions, the Special Forum on Gender was unable to carry out the election of its 16 representatives, who are customarily selected through the holding of participatory regional forums with women's organizations. While efforts were under way to address the situation, it nonetheless weakened capacity of this oversight mechanism, which is mandated to monitor the implementation of the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement. A formal civil society engagement mechanism for the implementation of the national action plan on Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security is yet to be defined, despite a four-month deadline for defining terms of reference and selecting members, as set out in the November 2025 decree that established the national action plan.

56. Institutional continuity in implementing the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement and the national action plan was unclear, as the legal status of the Ministry of Equality and Equity, currently one of the principal entities responsible for this portfolio, is yet to be determined. A decision by the Constitutional Court in 2022 set August 2026 as the deadline for the issue to be resolved.

57. Against this background, the Mission actively engaged with national counterparts and international actors to strengthen institutional mechanisms in order to ensure the continuity of gender provisions and enhance the participation of women in peace implementation.

58. In February, the Mission and other international partners actively supported a coalition of women's organizations, formed in early 2025 in response to the crisis in Catatumbo, in facilitating a country visit by the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, which is the OAS monitoring body of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. During the visit, the Follow-up Mechanism received reports of risks of sexual violence, trafficking and forced recruitment facing women in this region. The Mechanism subsequently issued recommendations to ensure that institutions adequately consider the specific needs of women in responding to the crisis and to improve the implementation of the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement.

IV. Coordination with the United Nations country team

59. The United Nations country team, in close coordination with the Mission, continued to support implementation in several priority areas of the Final Peace Agreement. In relation to the comprehensive rural reform, the country team contributed to initiatives relating to the development programmes with a territorial focus; efforts to ensure the participation of women's organizations in childcare infrastructure projects in the Department of Caquetá; and the inclusion of peasant organizations in the Government's municipal agrarian reform committees in the Department of Santander. In relation to reintegration, the country team supported rural productive initiatives, some led by women, in Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Huila and Tolima.

60. On transitional justice, the country team provided expert advice and capacity-building aimed at strengthening legal strategies and fostering the participation of victims of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in Case 11 of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace on reproductive, sexual, gender-based and prejudice-based violence. The country team provided technical assistance to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace on analytical methodologies and data management. The country team facilitated access to psychosocial assistance to individuals participating in Special Jurisdiction for Peace proceedings. Furthermore, the country team supported the preparation and early implementation of projects in the framework of restorative

sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, including through continued work on a mine action project, involving former FARC-EP members.

61. The consultative process for the design of the country's first national action plan relating to Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth and peace and security concluded in December. Led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Equality and Equity, with support from the country team and the Mission, the process involved more than 25 forums with youth leaders and organizations throughout the country, as well as digital dialogues with youth leaders, with assistance from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. The plan is expected to be adopted during the second quarter of 2026.

62. Regarding financing for peace, the multi-partner trust fund allocated \$7.5 million to support the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement through initiatives related to civil society protection, the women and peace and security agenda, and economic sustainability for former combatants. In parallel, the Food and Peace Fund, managed by the World Food Programme, supported food production initiatives for former combatants, victims and conflict-affected communities.

V. Conduct and discipline

63. The Mission completed its annual action plan to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthened its communication strategy on the Organization's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and on prohibited conduct and fraud, including through refresher trainings. In order to enhance fraud risk management, Regional Administrative Officers received targeted training during their annual conference, and risks identified in terms of misconduct have been included in the Mission's enterprise risk management framework for appropriate mitigation. In parallel, the Mission engaged with the task force on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to participate in the coordination mechanism in Norte de Santander.

64. During the reporting period, the Mission received five allegations of serious misconduct.

VI. Observations

65. As Colombia has begun its cycle of national elections, it stands at an important political juncture. The moment is propitious to highlight the historic impact of the Final Peace Agreement in expanding the country's democratic space since 2016. The decision by former combatants to lay down their arms in order to participate in the political life of the country opened the way for the more peaceful environment in which Colombians are today able to exercise their democratic rights. The Final Peace Agreement strengthened guarantees for political opposition and fostered broader citizen participation, enabling more diverse and historically excluded groups to enter the political scene. Nevertheless, in the face of polarization and the violence wrought by ongoing armed conflict in the country, the importance of safeguarding these gains cannot be overstated.

66. I commend the participation of the Colombian people in electing their representatives to Congress, and the authorities for the organization of the elections and the efforts to ensure a secure environment. While the voting was conducted in a largely peaceful manner, demonstrating the strength of the country's institutions, I remain concerned about the incidents of violence that occurred during the campaign, and the influence that armed groups continue to exert in conflict-affected areas. Risks

were particularly high in the vulnerable regions that have additional representation in Congress because of the Final Peace Agreement. With presidential elections approaching, ensuring the security of candidates and voters remains essential. It is imperative that the authorities take all necessary measures to guarantee the orderly conduct of the electoral process. I urge all involved to contribute to a campaign environment free of violence and stigmatization, and I welcome the initiative led by the Office of the Ombudsperson in this regard.

67. The responsibility of the State for maintaining and advancing the overarching goals of the Final Peace Agreement will soon pass to a new Government and Congress. In addition to ending more than five decades of armed confrontation between the Government and FARC-EP, the Final Peace Agreement established a comprehensive road map to address the structural causes of conflict and thereby discourage its repetition. The provisions of the Final Peace Agreement are aimed at reducing historical inequalities in land distribution, extending the presence of State institutions in long-neglected areas, providing viable economic alternatives to illegal activities and strengthening the rule of law. The Final Peace Agreement also addresses the all-important issue of providing redress to the victims of the conflict. Significant progress has been achieved since its signing, yet much remains to be done. The areas in which the Final Peace Agreement has not been sufficiently implemented are precisely where many of the acute problems remain present today. Stabilizing the regions still affected by conflict requires deeper implementation of the Final Peace Agreement.

68. The comprehensive rural reform is fundamental for addressing inequalities that continue to fuel conflict in the country, offering the prospect of legal economic alternatives to coca cultivation and other illegal economies. Where such opportunities and effective State presence exist, the space for armed groups and their illicit economies diminishes. I welcome the significant progress achieved in recent years in the delivery, formalization and restitution of land to peasants, victims, rural women and ethnic peoples. I encourage further efforts to uplift rural areas and consolidate the presence of the State throughout the territory, including through the effective establishment of the Agrarian Jurisdiction.

69. The reintegration of the thousands of men and women who laid down their arms continues to advance gradually, despite significant challenges. Faced with a complex security environment, they have persisted in their efforts to engage in the social, political and economic life of the country. Providing a sustainable path forward for them is integral to the broader goal of non-repetition of conflict. I therefore urge the Government to maintain a strong focus on implementing comprehensive policies – with the active participation of former combatants – to ensure their access to land, housing, public services, employment and economic opportunities. The peaceful and productive reintegration of former combatants is central to the success of the Final Peace Agreement and to overall security in the country.

70. Colombia remains at present broadly more peaceful than during the most critical years prior to the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. Nevertheless, security has sharply deteriorated in certain areas, following improvements during the initial years of implementation. The Final Peace Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for addressing many of these persistent challenges and constitutes a key component of an overall security strategy. Its provisions focus on prevention, protection and the dismantling of illegal armed groups and criminal organizations, as well as on addressing the problem of illicit drugs. I strongly encourage the Government to work towards the prompt and full implementation of such measures and urge the State institutions concerned to guarantee the protection of the communities. I note that dialogue, carried out in tandem with such a security strategy, can also contribute to

violence reduction. I call upon all armed groups to act in good faith in the interest of peace and to immediately cease all actions that bring harm and hardship to the civilian population. They must end the forced recruitment of children as well as violence against women leaders, former combatants and members of ethnic communities.

71. Colombians continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination in their pursuit of peace, despite ongoing challenges. I commend their commitment and reiterate the support of the United Nations, expressing our hope that 2026 will bring continued progress and renewed political will. As the presidential elections draw near and political dynamics become increasingly complex, it will be essential for Colombians to maintain a commitment to achieving peace, security and prosperity for all.

VERIFICATION MISSION PRESENCE AND MUNICIPALITIES PRIORITIZED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT COLOMBIA

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