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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 \(2017\)](#), which requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. The report covers the period from 27 March to 26 June 2026.

II. Major developments

2. Colombia held its presidential election in two rounds, on 31 May and 21 June, culminating in the victory of Abelardo de la Espriella (of the Defensores de la Patria movement) who secured 12.9 million votes (49.6 per cent of the total). Iván Cepeda (of the Pacto Histórico party) placed second with 12.7 million votes (48.7 per cent). In a speech acknowledging the results of the vote, President-elect de la Espriella outlined priorities including on enhancing security, fighting corruption and fostering private sector-led economic growth. He pledged respect for the constitutional rights of the opposition and called for an easing of tensions that arose during the campaign. For his part, Mr. Cepeda described the close result as evidence of a divided electorate and called for national dialogue. Mr. Cepeda and his running mate announced they would assume their seats in the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, accorded to the presidential and vice-presidential runners-up under the statute of the opposition, a provision of the Final Peace Agreement. The President-elect of Colombia is to be sworn in for a four-year term on 7 August. The Secretary-General congratulated the Colombian people and authorities for the peaceful and orderly process, and praised the strong voter turnout. He reaffirmed the readiness of the United Nations to work with the incoming administration and all partners, and to continue supporting national efforts to advance peace, security, sustainable development and prosperity for all Colombians.

3. The elections were held under mostly peaceful conditions and with record-high participation for second round voting. Voter turnout reached 63 per cent out of the 41 million eligible voters. No polling stations required relocation due to security concerns, among the more than 13,800 established for the vote. There was a strong presence of international and national electoral observer missions (reportedly totalling 13,000 individuals), which included the European Union, the Organization



of American States (OAS) and the Electoral Observation Mission, an independent, non-partisan Colombian civil society mechanism, in addition to dedicated teams from both campaigns. The overall conclusion was that the elections were credible, transparent and well-run, despite a number of serious security incidents prior to election day (see para. 4) and high levels of political polarization. The observers noted some shortcomings but deemed that these did not affect the integrity of the results. The Government reported that some 400,000 members of the public security forces were deployed to ensure physical security on election day throughout the country. Under its mandate on security guarantees, the Mission participated in the meetings of the nationwide Unified Command Centre, which brought together the Ministers of Interior and Defence, the Ombudsperson, the Inspector-General, the President of the National Electoral Council 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 during the election, 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. 42).

4. Security remained a key concern before the day of the elections, as had been the case for the legislative election held on 8 March. Prior to the first round, threats were reported by three leading candidates, both on the right and the left of the political spectrum. The Government announced reinforced protection for all three of them. On 15 May, a former mayoral candidate and political activist within the party of presidential candidate Paloma Valencia suffered an armed attack in the municipality of Cubarral, Meta Department. He escaped uninjured. Later that day in the same municipality, a former Mayor who was serving as local campaign coordinator for presidential candidate Abelardo de la Espriella was killed along with a local political activist. Two days before the second round of voting, a recently elected member of the House of Representatives for the Pacto Histórico party and members of the de la Espriella campaign were uninjured following separate armed attacks in the Departments of Antioquia and Cundinamarca, respectively. The circumstances of these crimes remain under investigation.

5. Against this backdrop, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia repeatedly called upon State authorities to guarantee the security of all participants in the electoral process. He also urged all candidates to honour their commitments to peaceful campaigning and to refrain from hate speech and stigmatizing rhetoric.

6. The Electoral Observation Mission, which produces what are widely considered as credible systematic analyses of Colombia's electoral processes, presented a report in mid-May. It identified 386 out of over 1,100 municipalities as facing electoral risks (including ongoing conflict with illegal armed groups; violence against political, social, and community leaders; and forced displacement). Of these, 139 were classified as facing extreme risks, primarily in the Departments of Cauca and Antioquia. On election day, the Electoral Observation Mission concluded that the second round of voting took place in a generally calm and orderly environment.

7. In May, the Office of the Ombudsperson issued its second monitoring report on compliance with the Commitment to a Free and Peaceful Electoral Process – a preventive tool established in June 2025, following the deadly attack against then-Senator and presidential aspirant Miguel Uribe Turbay. The report found a mixed level of compliance among candidates, with stronger respect for institutional and legal frameworks, but weaker performance on curbing misinformation and stigmatizing rhetoric online. The Office also raised concerns about rising

polarization, as well as gender-based political violence and discriminatory discourse against women candidates. The Commitment continued to receive support from the Mission, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia, and the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church.

8. The security situation in areas still affected by conflict remained fragile, as illustrated by a wave of violence in the south-western region of the country during the last week of April, and in the Department of Guaviare in late May. Among the most serious incidents, 21 civilians were killed and 35 wounded on 25 April in the Department of Cauca, when an armed group known as Estado Mayor Central (EMC) set off an improvised explosive device along a main road, hitting a passenger bus and other civilian vehicles. The attack, strongly denounced by the Mission, took place amid confrontations with public security forces. EMC also carried out vehicle-borne explosive attacks and fired at military and police facilities and units in the city of Cali, as well as in other municipalities in Valle del Cauca, and in the Departments of Cauca and Nariño. In late May, armed confrontation between EMC and the group known as Estado Mayor de Bloques y Frentes (EMBF) in the Department of Guaviare escalated sharply. The Mission accompanied the Office of the Ombudsperson to the area, along with several other entities, where they retrieved the remains of close to 50 persons, presumably combatants. Tragically, three girls and eight boys were among the deceased.

9. During the reporting period, the expanding presence of armed groups and competition over illicit economies and territorial control continued to have wide-ranging impact on civilians in conflict-affected regions of the country. Illegal mining has increasingly fuelled these disputes. Clashes and the increasing use of drone-delivered explosive devices contributed to intensified violence and restricted civilian mobility. Confinement generated humanitarian crises in the Departments of Amazonas, Antioquia, southern Bolívar, Caquetá, Cauca and Chocó, while high levels of mass displacement persisted in Norte de Santander. The active recruitment and use of children in conflict by armed groups remains of great concern.

10. During the reporting period, dialogue processes between the Government and the armed groups focused on facilitating the establishment of temporary assembly zones for the gradual concentration of combatants before the end of the current Administration. On 18 June, 99 members of the group known as Coordinadora Nacional – Ejército Bolivariano (CNEB) assembled and disarmed in a specific location in Putumayo as part of talks with the Government. Meanwhile, representatives of the group self-identifying as Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia (EGC), also known as Clan del Golfo, were reportedly discussing arrangements to concentrate in locations in Córdoba and Quibdó; those of EMBF in pre-identified sites in Norte de Santander; and those of the Comuneros del Sur – a splinter group of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) – in designated points in Nariño. However, the Office of the Attorney General underscored that the applicable legal criteria require that dialogue processes demonstrate sufficiently advanced and verifiable progress prior to the establishment of such zones. These differing positions reflected broader discussions among authorities concerning the specific sequencing, conditions and guarantees associated with each process and their compatibility with the existing legal framework.

11. The Mission, together with other entities, including the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Catholic Church and local authorities, continued to facilitate the release of persons held by armed groups. During the reporting period, 26 people (6 women, including 2 members of the public security forces) were released in three Departments by two armed groups

III. Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement

12. The implementation of the Final Peace Agreement continued to show gradual but uneven progress. Important advances occurred alongside persistent structural challenges. The comprehensive rural reform and reintegration processes moved forward, particularly in the delivery of land and steps to improve access to livelihoods and basic services for former combatants. The tangible impact of these efforts remained uneven across territories, reflecting enduring limitations in State presence, institutional coordination and security in conflict-affected areas. The security landscape continued to be shaped by evolving conflict dynamics, with localized violence and competition among armed groups causing harm to communities, social leaders and former combatants. Addressing these gaps will require sustained efforts to strengthen institutional presence, improve coordination across sectors and ensure that implementation translates into tangible improvements for people in conflict-affected communities.

13. In June, the Government issued a decree extending the mandate of the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement until December 2031. The Commission constitutes the principal mechanism created by the Final Peace Agreement for the parties to coordinate and decide on matters of implementation. Its first session of the year was held in March and included State entities, leadership of the former Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), the Mission and members of the international community. The Special Assets Administration, which manages former FARC-EP assets in order to generate revenue for reparations for victims, issued a report on the completion of the handover to the Government of assets previously owned by the armed group. Under the Final Peace Agreement, all proceedings will be placed by the Government in a fund established for the benefit of victims. During the session, the parties also agreed, and subsequently issued a formal proposal, to request that OHCHR and the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia be part of an international mechanism for the verification of restorative sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and of the implementation of the ethnic chapter of the Final Peace Agreement. A subsequent territorial session of the Commission in Villavicencio brought together institutions and communities from the Departments of Arauca, Casanare, Guaviare and Meta to identify actions for priority implementation and strengthen the link between national decision-making and territorial needs. In a third session held during the reporting period, the High-Level Forum of Ethnic Peoples and the Special Forum on Gender provided an overall assessment and recommendations, focused on the implementation of the ethnic chapter and the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement, to be presented by the Commission for inclusion in the formal handover to the incoming Administration.

Comprehensive rural reform

14. The comprehensive rural reform, central to achieving lasting peace and security, saw significant progress during the reporting period. Implementation of the respective provisions of the Final Peace Agreement remains essential to extend State presence, foster economic growth and offer alternatives to illegal economies, thereby helping to stabilize conflict-affected areas. While land delivery continued to advance, many beneficiaries have yet to receive formal ownership titles and, in some cases, have faced complex security conditions. The Final Peace Agreement set the goal of reducing rural multidimensional poverty by half within 15 years. The National Department of Statistics reported a drop in multidimensional poverty in rural areas from 38.6 to 22.4 per cent between 2018 and 2025; however, multidimensional

poverty in rural areas is still more than twice the national average, underscoring persistent and stark disparities between rural and urban areas in Colombia.

15. On 27 March, the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, enacted the statutory law of the Agrarian Jurisdiction, which established the structure of this landmark institution within the Colombian judicial system. Its effective operationalization, key to resolve land-related disputes, remained contingent upon the adoption of an ordinary law defining its rules and procedures. The ordinary legislative session came to an end on June 20 without Congress approving the bill, requiring the incoming Congress to initiate a new legislative process. On 22 April, the Constitutional Court had urged Congress to promptly conclude the revision of the bill and instructed the lead administrative branch of the judiciary to prepare for the gradual implementation of the Agrarian Jurisdiction by 2027.

16. The National Joint Commission on Peasant Affairs convened in April, with the Mission in attendance. Peasant platforms underscored that sustained institutionalized dialogue has been essential to the implementation of the comprehensive rural reform. However, they called for the participation of Government representatives with greater decision-making powers to speed up progress on agreed commitments.

17. The Mission continued to monitor progress in land delivery and formalization – processes aimed at addressing unequal access to land, which has been one of the pervasive causes of conflict throughout the history of Colombia. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, as at mid-June, almost 370,000 hectares had been delivered to peasants, rural women and victims – 114,000 of which had been issued definitive titles of ownership – out of the goal of 3 million hectares set out in the Final Peace Agreement. Formalization – the process of providing official recognition of land tenure for plots already held by peasants and Indigenous Peoples but without formal titles – reached 4,091,252 hectares out of the 7-million-hectare target established in the Final Peace Agreement. In addition, under a special land allocation programme for rural women established in 2024, the National Land Agency has delivered 1,614 hectares by May, in a step towards addressing women's longstanding unequal access to land.

18. Bringing security and development opportunities to rural areas in the long term requires that land beneficiaries obtain legal ownership of land allocated to them. They also require support in accessing productive and financial assets, as well as technical assistance. Since 2024, the National Land Agency has allocated \$55 million to support 300 productive projects established on land already delivered but yet to receive formal ownership titles, and in peasant reserve zones, a land-use instrument which aims to foster sustainable rural development and safeguard small farmers' access to land and resources. Support has focused on areas such as commercialization of products, machinery, seeds and other productive assets.

19. In selected emblematic cases of land delivery, the Mission continued to verify the implementation of Government commitments to provide comprehensive support. In a particularly symbolic case, 19 female victims of the armed conflict who received in 2025 a plot of land in Córdoba Department that was formerly owned by a paramilitary leader in 2025 are still awaiting the delivery of agricultural equipment and tools to kick-start a poultry farm project.

20. Security risks affecting land recipients remained a significant concern, particularly where State presence is limited and illegal armed groups operate. The situation was particularly problematic for recipients of plots previously held by the Victim's Reparation Fund and by the Special Assets Administration, following seizure from criminal organizations. During the reporting period, government institutions, the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Mission followed up on cases involving land

beneficiaries that are at risk. The Mission participated in visits led by the Office of the Ombudsperson to Magdalena Medio and Caribbean regions to assess the security concerns of beneficiaries and inform them of protection options.

21. In May, the Government convened a national-level conference to discuss strategies to improve implementation of a 2011 law to provide reparations and restitution of land to victims of the armed conflict. Participants, which included victims, members of the judiciary, social leaders, Government institutions and international organizations, highlighted the need for strengthened institutional coordination and structural solutions for victims of land dispossession. Government representatives presented a public policy on durable solutions for victims of forced displacement, approved in December 2025, as a response to these concerns. The policy centred around land restitution as a comprehensive and long-term strategy, including measures to achieve closer coordination between institutions responsible for ensuring compliance with restitution sentences, and a digital tool to monitor their implementation. So far, over 14.2 million hectares have been registered as dispossessed. However, to date, favourable sentences have been issued for only 1.1 million hectares, demonstrating the slow pace of the judicial process. In recent years, the Land Restitution Unit has made regulatory and procedural adjustments aimed at accelerating restitution.

22. The development programmes with a territorial focus constitute a central pillar of the Final Peace Agreement, their implementation can contribute to stabilizing conflict-affected regions through inclusive rural development. As of June, significant financing had been mobilized for the development programmes with a territorial focus since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, reaching \$8.8 billion, according to the Agency for Territorial Renewal. Investments have focused mainly on infrastructure, education and economic reactivation projects. State funding has been the main source of financing to date, although private sector financing has more than tripled since 2022, as part of the “works for taxes” programme, which provides tax incentives for investment in areas prioritized for implementation in the Final Peace Agreement. Challenges in the implementation of these programmes have included financial constraints, problems with accountability for the management of funds and obstacles posed by fragile security and local dependency on illicit economies.

23. During the reporting period, the Agency for Territorial Renewal finalized a consultative process launched in 2024 to update the plans for regional transformation in 15 out of the 16 prioritized regions. These plans constitute a critical operational instrument for the implementation of development programmes with a territorial focus: they translate community-identified priorities into coherent projects aimed at addressing local-level gaps in State presence, infrastructure, and service delivery in these territories. The Mission accompanied related discussions, during which communities, ethnic peoples and local authorities worked on streamlining and prioritizing 33,000 initiatives identified in the early years of implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. They established a clear road map for their implementation and financing. The completion of the update process and the recent extension of the deadline for the implementation of development programmes with a territorial focus (see [S/2026/229](#)) until 2037 constitute an opportunity to expand the delivery of concrete peace dividends to rural communities.

24. The national plans for rural reform are the core public policy instrument created under the Final Peace Agreement to deliver infrastructure, services, and economic support to historically marginalized rural regions. But implementation has remained uneven. According to the National Planning Department, plans on Internet and telecommunications connectivity, the “solidarity economy”, focusing on cooperatives and community-based projects, and electrification have reached implementation

levels above 79 per cent. However, plans for technical assistance, massive formalization of land ownership and irrigation services, average only 19 per cent. The effective implementation of the comprehensive rural reform requires advancing the various national plans in a coherent and well-coordinated manner, ensuring alignment across sectors and levels of Government to maximize impact and avoid fragmentation of efforts.

Reintegration

25. The successful reintegration of over 11,000 former combatants who laid down their arms under the Final Peace Agreement remains key to consolidating lasting peace and security. Their sustainable transition into civilian life depends on ensuring they have access to livelihoods, land and basic services. Moreover, effective reintegration fosters trust between communities and institutions, which is instrumental in strengthening social cohesion. This helps to reduce stigmatization and to mitigate the potential for recruitment by armed groups, thereby contributing to preventing the resurgence of violence.

26. With the Comprehensive Reintegration Programme serving as the principal road map for the process, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization conducted a technical review of individual reintegration plans to ensure compatibility between some of the objectives set by former combatants and available institutional support. Under the Programme, former combatants had the additional option of developing collective reintegration plans, but progress on these remained limited. The effective implementation of the Programme requires the active participation of over 30 entities beyond the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization, which are coordinated under the National Reintegration System. During the reporting period, the System continued to advance at the technical level, with key policy agreements reached between ministries and sectors.

27. The provision of land and housing to former combatants represents a pillar of sustainable reintegration, enabling individuals to establish stable livelihoods and foster a sense of permanence within their communities. During the reporting period, some 1,700 hectares of land were delivered to former combatants in the Departments of Bolívar, Huila, Meta and Norte de Santander, for a total of 20,628 hectares delivered for reintegration purposes since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. The Mission closely monitored the situation of a group of former combatants, who had to be relocated further to the killing of their leader in 2020. This incident triggered a prolonged search for suitable land, which the Mission accompanied and which culminated in the allocation of approximately 500 hectares in Meta during the reporting period. In general, however, a significant proportion of land has been delivered to former combatants without definitive ownership titles, largely due to bottlenecks and procedural complexities. Secure land tenure is essential for enabling access to credit and investment, which are critical for the sustainability of productive initiatives.

28. To date, land has been allocated for the consolidation of 18 territorial areas for training and reintegration, moving from temporary to permanent locations. However, the Government has not yet identified suitable land for three remaining territorial areas for training and reintegration in the Departments of Chocó, Putumayo and Tolima. Two territorial areas for training and reintegration located in the municipalities of El Doncello, Department of Caquetá, and in Miranda, Department of Cauca, were formally discontinued; in the case of El Doncello, as a result of having successfully acquired land and housing, and in Miranda due to the low number of remaining former combatants. Meanwhile, progress was made in the formalization of special collective reintegration areas, a category established in February 2025 to

provide tailored institutional support to collectives of former combatants, operating both within and outside the territorial areas for training and reintegration. During the reporting period, former combatants from the recently discontinued territorial area for training and reintegration in Caldono, and a former combatants' collective in Santander de Quilichao, both in Cauca Department, were formalized under this framework.

29. The transition from temporary to permanent housing solutions for former combatants in certain territorial areas for training and reintegration – a complex process due to land ownership, viability and administrative challenges – advanced during the reporting period. In June, 145 housing units were handed over in a territorial area for training and reintegration in the Department of Meta, for a total of 556 to date, including in the Departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca and Meta. As nearly 85 per cent of former combatants reside outside territorial areas for training and reintegration, they do not have access to such benefits and require the provision of alternative solutions, for example, access to credit, existing governmental housing support schemes, support for their own housing construction or improvement initiatives.

30. Empowering former combatants to become financially independent remained the main goal of economic reintegration. Since 2017, over 300 cooperatives of former combatants have been established; many of them have generated positive results through their productive projects, in fostering economic activity, community cohesion and institutional coordination. As at June 2026, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization had received 139 applications by cooperatives for support under a strategy, established in 2024, to foster the sustainability of collective productive projects. With funding available to support up to 95 projects, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization has approved 52 so far. These will benefit 1,496 former combatants, including 483 women.

31. Following the decision by the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization in February, as a result of fiscal constraints, to discontinue the monthly allowance for approximately 2,600 former combatants with formal employment contracts (see [S/2026/229](#)), concerns were raised by former combatants, who underscored the need for a gradual and well-supported transition towards economic self-sufficiency. According to the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization, some 2,400 former combatants are currently in formal employment, while 6,634 have expressed interest in developing marketable skills. However, a gap remains between the number of former combatants interested in formal employment and the relatively low placement rate. Overcoming the current barriers will require adjustments to existing policies and focused engagement with potential public and private sector employers.

32. During the reporting period, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization invited organizations of former combatants to submit proposals for projects that engage local communities and promote social cohesion. The Agency has continued to hold dialogues for building trust between former combatants and communities as part of its community-based reintegration strategy.

33. During the reporting period, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization continued to implement its Special Harmonization Programmes, established in 2025 to foster successful reintegration of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian former combatants into their respective communities. Progress was made in relation to projects for community infrastructure and cultural promotion, which had previously been identified in consultation with ethnic authorities. Overall, these initiatives have contributed to strengthening local economies, cultural identity and territorial governance.

34. Former combatants voted in the presidential elections without reporting obstacles, despite isolated incidents of stigmatization during the campaign. There was also significant participation by former combatants with no major incidents in the elections for Community Action Boards held on 26 April. Out of the approximately 80 former combatants running as candidates that the Mission was able to identify, 22 men and 5 women were elected across several departments. The Community Action Boards are a foundational element of Colombia's participatory governance, linking communities with local and regional authorities. As elected members on these bodies, former combatants will be able to support local development and strengthen social cohesion.

Security guarantees

35. The security situation in Colombia continued to reflect its increasingly fragmented conflict dynamics. While the country remained more peaceful overall than during critical years of the conflict, serious security problems persisted in specific conflict-affected regions. These were largely driven by armed groups disputing territory and illicit economies in regions with a limited presence of the State. In this context, the Final Peace Agreement offers a comprehensive framework to address these challenges, including instruments to enhance security for conflict-affected communities, social leaders and former combatants. However, the implementation of these measures continued to face structural constraints. Chief among them remained the need for greater coordination between peace, security and development policies, as well as between authorities at the national and local levels.

36. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, between 27 March and 1 June 2026, 5,272 people were displaced and 9,553 confined in 26 humanitarian emergencies across 17 municipalities of seven Departments. Approximately 58 per cent of those affected belonged to ethnic communities. The most severe impacts were recorded in Antioquia, Cauca, Chocó, Nariño and Norte de Santander. Between 27 March and 1 June, at least 316,000 people were affected by restrictions on movement and access in Cauca Department and the Amazon region as part of the control exerted over communities by armed groups in rural areas.

37. Since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, 493 former combatants have been killed, including 12 women, 64 Indigenous persons and 59 Afro-Colombians. The numbers of fatal attacks have declined so far in 2026, with five killings recorded to date, one during the reporting period. However, other forms of violence persisted, including threats against groups of former combatants, pressure by armed groups for them to join their ranks, extortion targeting their productive projects and forced displacements. In addition, the Mission observed risks posed by the allocation of land that had been seized by the State from owners involved in illegal activities, particularly in the Departments of Cauca, Huila and Meta. This situation called for a tailored response, providing adequate protection and aimed at preventing and investigating these forms of violence.

38. Regarding violence against social leaders, between 27 March and 1 June 2026, OHCHR received reports of 33 killings of social leaders (2 verified, 30 under verification, 1 inconclusive), including 7 women, 3 Indigenous persons, 4 Afro-descendants and 4 peasant leaders. During the period, reported violence against social leaders continued to affect ethnic authorities, leaders involved in land-related issues, women leaders and members of Community Action Boards in several departments. Meanwhile, several policy frameworks on prevention and protection which were developed in the wake of the Final Peace Agreement, such as a public policy on guarantees for leaders and human rights defenders, have yet to be approved and implemented, despite the urgency.

39. The Comprehensive Security System for the Exercise of Politics is an important strategic framework which has the potential, if used more optimally, to strengthen institutional coordination and enhance the local-level impact of policies to enhance security for rural communities, social leaders and former combatants. Under the orders issued by the Constitutional Court in 2025, further efforts are required to ensure the effective functioning of the System, including its governing body.

40. During the reporting period, three thematic round tables, linked to the National Commission on Security Guarantees and its public policy to dismantle illegal armed groups and criminal organizations, were held to advance territorial action plans in priority areas, with the support of the Mission. These action plans include targeted efforts to combat the recruitment and use of children in northern Cauca and the expansion of illegal mining in Magdalena Medio. While these initiatives constituted progress, sustained implementation and ownership of the public policy at the local level remained limited.

41. Since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, the Special Investigation Unit of the Office of the Attorney General has issued 1552 arrest warrants, made 627 arrests and obtained 109 convictions, including against 5 main instigators, linked to attacks against former combatants. During the reporting period, the Unit, supported by the Mission, worked towards strengthening its institutional coordination and its engagement with former combatants. It initiated a series of high-level meetings led by the Attorney General to institutionalize a new investigative model, with a view to better aligning approaches and strengthening action against criminal groups targeting former combatants and social leaders. The Unit also broadened its investigative scope beyond killings, attempted homicides and enforced disappearances to include other forms of violence, such as threats (1,065 cases) and gender-based violence (460 cases). In parallel, the Mission facilitated a national tripartite round table in May between the Unit and representatives of former combatants to foster progress in investigations into high-profile cases that have remained unresolved for several years, complemented by eight regional round tables in the Departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Huila, Meta, Norte de Santander, Santander and Nariño.

42. Some progress was observed in strengthening coordination and policy frameworks for the protection of former combatants, particularly through the consolidation of the Tripartite Mechanism on Security and Protection as a key coordination platform. The Mechanism – bringing together Government authorities, representatives of former combatants and the Mission – continued to facilitate dialogue, joint risk analysis and the coordination of protection measures. In the context of the presidential and Community Action Boards elections, the Mechanism convened sessions focused on risk prevention and on reinforcing security guarantees for the political participation of former combatants. At the policy level, incremental advances were made in the implementation of the Strategic Protection Plan for former combatants adopted by the Government in 2025. To date, seven Departments and 11 municipalities have adopted the plan, reflecting gradual territorial uptake, albeit with funding among the main challenges.

43. In line with recent Constitutional Court rulings, the Government strengthened the Intersectoral Commission for Rapid Response to Early Warnings as a key coordination mechanism to respond to early warnings issued by the Office of the Ombudsperson. The measures included reinforcing the Commission's Technical Secretariat with additional staff and establishing seven macroregional structures to optimize coordination, information-sharing and monitoring at the local level. These efforts were complemented by a national-level simulation exercise, facilitated by the Mission.

Gender issues

44. During the reporting period, concerns persisted regarding institutional continuity related to the implementation of the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement, as well as of the national action plan on Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security. The Ministry of Equality and Equity, currently one of the principal entities responsible for this portfolio, will cease to exist, as legislative efforts to re-establish its legal basis did not result in the adoption of the necessary legal framework before the deadline of 20 June 2026 established by the Constitutional Court in May 2024. Some of its functions are expected to be redistributed across existing Government entities. The implications for the overall coherence of policies and institutional coordination remain uncertain at this stage.

45. Key inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in which the Ministry plays a leadership role convened during the reporting period, including the Government's High-Level Forum on Gender, focused on the implementation of the gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement, and the Monitoring Committee of the national action plan on women, peace and security. A gap remained, however, between procedural progress and measurable outcomes on the ground. For example, although a national action plan exists for the Comprehensive Programme for Safeguards of Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders, implementation has been slow in critical areas, including strengthening women's organizations, incorporating more effective preventive measures and ensuring greater ownership of protection programmes by local authorities.

46. During the reporting period, security-related incidents targeting two national women's organizations were reported, including theft and digital intrusions. Women leaders in conflict-affected areas, such as Catatumbo, continued to operate in challenging conditions, facing security risks and limited access to protection, as well as humanitarian needs, risks of child recruitment and conflict-related sexual violence. These dynamics were also observed during a second visit to Colombia, in May, 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. Participants noted the interlinkages between drug trafficking, illegal mining, sexual violence, trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation, at times facilitated by technology. These challenges were further noted during a visit in May by the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, which engaged with national counterparts to support efforts to address them through rule of law assistance.

IV. Coordination with the United Nations country team

47. The United Nations country team, in coordination with the Mission, continued to support the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. With regard to the comprehensive rural reform, the country team supported the implementation of the multipurpose cadastre in municipalities across the Departments of Bolívar, Cauca and Nariño. Under the Final Peace Agreement, the cadastre constitutes a comprehensive land information system designed to update, classify and geo-reference properties nationwide for public policy, land formalization and taxation purposes. The country team also provided technical assistance in the design of the Agrarian Jurisdiction and in fostering awareness among communities regarding its purpose, functions and potential benefits. The country team promoted the participation of beneficiaries in institutional forums for prevention and protection, such as the National Round Table of Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders and the Tripartite Mechanism on

Security and Protection. The country team continued to support the transitional justice process, including assistance to ensure the meaningful participation of victims.

48. During the reporting period, the multi-partner trust fund for sustaining peace in Colombia approved more than \$13 million for peace initiatives at the local level, including to support the restorative component of the sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace as well as comprehensive action against anti-personnel mines.

49. In May, the Government unveiled its national action plan on Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth and peace and security. The plan was developed through participatory consultation forums supported by the country team and the Mission, which engaged over 500 youth across various regions. It aligns existing institutional frameworks and programmes with the five pillars of the youth and peace and security agenda: participation, prevention, partnerships, protection and reintegration. The plan aims to strengthen guarantees for the protection and participation of youth in peace and security processes. It also seeks to integrate a youth perspective into key advances arising from the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, including in areas such as rural reform and reintegration.

V. Conduct and discipline

50. The Mission continued its strategy to prevent misconduct through sustained leadership messaging and awareness-raising on the Organization's zero-tolerance policies on racism, discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse, and protection against retaliation. This was done through townhalls, mission newsletters, social media messaging and trainings. During this reporting period, there was one new report of serious misconduct.

VI. Observations

51. With Colombia's presidential elections now completed, the transition to a new administration is under way at a critical juncture for the peace process. Record high voter participation and the largely peaceful conduct of the polls – despite prior security incidents and a tense pre-electoral environment – reflects the democratic commitment of the Colombian people and the resilience of their institutions.

52. As a new Government prepares to take office, I wish to underscore the willingness of the United Nations to continue to accompany the authorities and people of Colombia in efforts to achieve lasting peace and security. A smooth and cooperative transition between the Administrations would help to preserve the progress that Colombia has made under the Final Peace Agreement and to set the foundations for addressing ongoing challenges. My Special Representative in Colombia will engage with incoming authorities in the period ahead to understand their views and priorities, and to offer the experience and capacities of the Mission, drawing on nearly 10 years of assistance throughout various administrations.

53. Following a campaign in which issues of peace and security ranked again among the primary concerns of the Colombian people and featured prominently in the electoral debate, I underscore the importance of adopting holistic solutions that respond to the complexity of the challenges ahead. The worrying security situation described in this and previous reports has deep roots. Persistent violence affecting civilians in conflict-affected areas is a product of the evolving dynamics of conflict between armed groups competing for control of territory and illicit economies in mostly remote regions that have long lacked an effective presence of State institutions, services, and development opportunities. Reversing this situation will

require patient, sustained and coordinated actions to fill these security, governance and development vacuums, ensuring the protection of communities while addressing the deeper underlying causes. Fuller implementation of the Final Peace Agreement's provisions on reintegration, security guarantees and rural reform can make critical contributions; the areas where violence is most acute are precisely those where implementation has been insufficient. Security policies and peace initiatives can work harmoniously with one another.

54. Comprehensive rural reform remains central to achieving peace and security in rural areas, as it addresses structural problems by expanding access to land, combating rural poverty and extending State presence and public services in historically marginalized regions. While progress to date demonstrates its transformative potential, implementation has been uneven. Advancing the reform will be essential to stabilizing conflict-affected regions, combating illicit activities and improving the lives of rural communities.

55. Sustainable peace and security will also depend on continued guarantees for those who laid down their arms under the Final Peace Agreement and have maintained their commitment to peace but still require the support of the State for their security and full reintegration. It is essential that support for the reintegration process be strengthened, including through the provision of security guarantees and sustainable socioeconomic opportunities, so that former combatants, who have now spent a decade in this transition, can fully assume their role as citizens.

56. Lasting peace will also require that Colombians work across deep political divides after a tense and sharply polarizing electoral period. There is no room for political violence, and I hope that leaders from all sides will make efforts to deescalate confrontational rhetoric and maintain constructive channels of dialogue. Looking ahead, it will be important for all stakeholders to act in the broad interest of the country and seize the opportunity to foster a more stable and prosperous future. These efforts are especially critical as entire regions continue to await the dividends of peace and victims still seek justice and reparations.

57. International support for Colombian-led efforts to consolidate peace and security remains critical at this key moment. I encourage the Security Council to maintain its focused support, which is central to that end. As entrusted by the Council, the Mission remains fully engaged and committed to advancing peace and stands well positioned to continue contributing to these efforts alongside the United Nations country team and the broader international community.

**VERIFICATION MISSION PRESENCE AND MUNICIPALITIES PRIORITIZED
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COLOMBIA**

Verification Mission
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