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## United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

### Report of the Secretary-General

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#### *Summary*

The reporting period was marked by the start of the Administration of a new President, Abelardo de la Espriella, on 7 August 2026 for a four-year term. In his inaugural address, the President announced significant policy changes planned during his administration. The change in administration took place in a context of continued political polarization and following the start of a new Congress, where no political grouping holds a clear majority.

On 10 August, Colombia faced a major humanitarian emergency after an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 on the Richter scale caused over 300 fatalities, injured thousands of people, and caused displacement and destruction across several Departments, mainly in the western part of the country, including territories historically affected by conflict. The United Nations country team supported national humanitarian response efforts, with backing from the Verification Mission. For the new Government, responding to a disaster of this magnitude and its aftermath – only three days after the inauguration – constituted a major challenge and became a main focus of attention.

As the new administration took office amid indications that it intended to review certain elements of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, representatives of former combatants of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) and other stakeholders raised concerns about the continuity of the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement and its institutional architecture. While stating its intention to comply with the Constitution and legal obligations arising from the Final Peace Agreement, the Government has yet to fully outline its overall approach to the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. The Mission continued to verify day-to-day implementation

of chapters of the Final Peace Agreement as established in its mandate and engaged with the authorities, as well as with stakeholders of the Final Peace Agreement, to discuss progress and challenges and identify opportunities in the interest of overall peace and security in the country.

Comprehensive rural reform is a key element in fostering development and strengthening State presence for the benefit of communities across the country. Initial Government statements indicated an approach to rural development combining stronger State presence and security with expanded economic opportunities, productivity and private sector investment. Meanwhile, the Government announced a comprehensive review of land delivery, restitution and tenure formalization efforts, alongside a 90-day suspension of new actions while ongoing processes are assessed. At the same time, the Agrarian Jurisdiction remained unable to initiate operations due to outstanding legislation, while other concerns persisted, including those related to the security of land beneficiaries.

The reintegration process is one of the most significant achievements on the path towards peace, as more than 11,000 former FARC-EP combatants continue their transition to civilian life. Institutional mechanisms developed under the Final Peace Agreement have contributed to consolidating productive projects for the former combatants and allocating land and housing. Comunes has expressed concern over the potential reduction in the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization funding included in the 2027 budget proposal submitted to Congress by the Government, which would add to funding shortfalls reportedly already affecting the Agency's operations. Continued efforts towards strengthening the institutional architecture, expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhancing security will be important for the long-term sustainability of reintegration.

Deteriorated security conditions in several conflict-affected regions remain a matter of serious concern. Competition between armed groups for control in areas characterized by limited presence of the State, illicit economies and limited access to public services continued to inflict violence on communities, social leaders and former combatants. Official and independent assessments continued to reflect the expansion of armed groups both in terms of their territorial presence and members. Following several months of a downward trend in the killings of former FARC-EP combatants, the mission recorded six killings in August alone. The new Government ended dialogue processes held under the previous Administration and launched intensified military operations against armed groups. Protection measures and security mechanisms established under the Final Peace Agreement provide an important framework for addressing risks for communities and vulnerable persons and strengthening prevention.

Developments during the reporting period underscored both the resilience of Colombian institutions and society and the continued relevance of the Final Peace Agreement for advancing security, development and territorial stabilization. Continued efforts to implement rural reform, support reintegration, strengthen security guarantees and preserve effective institutional coordination constitute important steps towards consolidating peace and addressing the challenges facing conflict-affected communities. The Verification Mission remains committed to supporting these efforts in accordance with its mandate and in full respect of the sovereignty of Colombia.

## I. Key developments, analysis and implications

1. This section presents the key developments during the reporting period and assesses the implications for the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement with a focus on the pillars of the Mission's mandate.

### A. Political context

2. In a departure from traditional practice, President Abelardo de la Espriella was sworn in on 7 August in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department, a departmental capital, instead of Bogotá, indicating that this reflects the importance he intends to attribute to the regions. In his inaugural address, President de la Espriella outlined the priorities of his administration, emphasizing a focus on security, including the fight against drug trafficking and offensive action against armed groups, as well as fiscal austerity and decentralization. He also conveyed a message underscoring respect for the independence of the different branches of Government, with particular emphasis on the judiciary. For his part, the newly elected President of Congress, Senator Honorio Henríquez, emphasized the importance of maintaining dialogue among political and economic stakeholders to address the challenges facing the country.

3. On 10 August, Colombia was struck by an earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale, the highest magnitude recorded in the country this century. Its epicentre was in the Department of Chocó; with the Pacific and south-western regions particularly affected. As at 7 September, 331 fatalities had been reported, 4,505 persons injured, 111 missing and 364 rescued. The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management has estimated material damage at \$9.5 billion. The Government declared a 30-day emergency starting on 19 August, to be able to implement extraordinary measures and issue decrees with the force of law. Several of the most heavily affected territories are also regions affected by decades of armed conflict, with long-standing humanitarian needs and limited State presence. The United Nations country team, in coordination with national and departmental authorities, carried out initial humanitarian assessments and early recovery planning in the most affected areas. The Mission leveraged its field presence, assets and networks at the local level to support these efforts.

4. The new Congress was installed on 20 July, following March 2026 legislative elections. While no political group holds a clear majority, 11 parties were formally registered as supporting the Government. Women account for approximately 30 per cent of its membership, a slight decrease compared with the previous congressional term. On 27 August, the Government presented to Congress its proposed 2027 national budget, amounting to approximately \$201 billion. If approved, it would increase overall spending by approximately 14 per cent, according to Colombia's central bank. The proposal included a modest reduction in investment spending while increasing operating expenditure and debt servicing. The proposed allocations suggest greater emphasis on security, with notable reductions for some entities involved in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement including in areas related to rural development, land distribution and reintegration. The proposed budget is expected to be discussed by Congress before 20 October.

5. With initial indications by Government officials of potential changes to the ongoing implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, representatives of former FARC-EP combatants, in their capacity as the other signatory party to the Final Peace Agreement, expressed concern regarding the continuity of implementation processes

and the future of key institutions and mechanisms established under the accord. In August, the Comunes political organization filed a formal request for information from the Government, notably on the designation of the entity responsible for the overall coordination of implementation; the reactivation of the Commission for the Follow-Up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement, the funding and functioning of the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization and the transitional justice system. As stated above, the Government has yet to fully outline its overall approach to implementation, including the institutional architecture.

6. In September, the Comunes component of the Commission for the Follow-Up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement convened a meeting with representatives of the international community, including guarantor and accompanying countries, international organizations, and civil society and United Nations entities, including the Mission. Participants reaffirmed their support for the Final Peace Agreement and stressed the importance of its institutional architecture and continued implementation. Emphasizing the importance of institutional coordination, continuity across political transitions and shared responsibility for implementation, Comunes called upon the Government to honour existing commitments. It also noted the role of the international community in supporting the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement.

7. In July, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace issued final decisions regarding its first two restorative sentences in relation to Case 01 (on hostage-taking, other severe deprivations of liberty and concurrent crimes committed by FARC-EP) and Case 03 (on killings and forced disappearances presented as combat casualties by State agents). The rulings upheld and amended key elements of the sentences, including those pertaining to the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace ordered restorative actions for the benefit of victims to be carried out by those convicted, including reparative work on mine action and the clarification of the fate of missing persons. The sentences also incorporated 35 restorative projects proposed by victims.

8. Also in July, the Committee for the Follow-up and Monitoring of the Recommendations of the Truth Commission presented its sixth report on their implementation. While noting progress in strengthening legal and policy frameworks for victims, including the extension of the Victims and Land Restitution Law of 2011, the report stresses that implementation of the Final Peace Agreement remains essential to guaranteeing victims' rights and addressing the root causes of conflict.

## **B. Comprehensive rural reform**

9. Development is a cornerstone of lasting peace and security in conflict-affected regions. Implementation of the respective provisions of the Final Peace Agreement can contribute to territorial stabilization by expanding and strengthening the presence of State institutions, improving local governance and providing communities with greater access to public services, infrastructure and economic opportunities. It also offers alternatives to illicit economies, thereby helping to curtail crime and violence.

10. The Government has underscored the need for an integrated approach to rural development, combining enhanced State presence and security with measures to expand economic opportunities and, in a departure from previous approaches, a greater emphasis on agribusiness and productivity. Some major stakeholders from the

agricultural private sector welcomed this new orientation. However, criticism by the new Government of its predecessor's handling of issues such as land acquisition and redistribution has generated concerns among peasant and civil society sectors. These sectors have stressed the importance of consolidating gains on access to land and called for dialogue with the new authorities. On 10 August, the Minister of Agriculture announced a comprehensive review of land delivery, restitution and tenure formalization efforts, including a 90-day suspension of new actions while ongoing processes are assessed.

11. In its tenth report on peace implementation, issued in August 2026, the Office of the Comptroller General noted advances in access to land for landless farmers, rural women, victims and Indigenous Peoples in recent years. However, it also highlighted delays in the issuance of definitive ownership titles for land delivered, and called for the strengthening of land acquisition processes. The report also noted that access to productive support for land beneficiaries remained limited. In addition, a 2026 report by the "Agustín Codazzi" Geographic Institute referred to the persistence of disparities in land ownership, with women representing only 35 per cent of individual rural landowners and owning predominantly properties smaller than three hectares. Facilitating efficient and equitable access to land remains an important way to promote economic growth and development in conflict-affected regions.

12. Insecurity continued to affect land recipients. The monitoring mechanism of the Office of the Ombudsperson has documented 84 security incidents, including 8 killings and 26 cases of threats and harassment, between 2023 and August 2026. There was an increase between May and August 2026, with 26 registered incidents, mainly in the Departments of Boyacá, Córdoba, Magdalena, Meta and Valle del Cauca. While relevant cases were referred to the Office of the Attorney General for formal investigation, the Mission, together with State institutions, conducted visits to victims to foster the swift implementation of protection measures.

13. Land restitution to victims, a process based on the Victims and Land Restitution Law of 2011, which the Final Peace Agreement seeks to accelerate, saw a significant development. In June, a land restitution judge issued a ruling which provided for the restitution of 200 hectares and reparative measures for 27 families. The decision sets a precedent in the recognition of collective territorial rights for peasant communities and could have implications for future restitution and reparation processes. In its August report to Congress, the Commission for the Follow-up and Monitoring of the Implementation of the 2011 law concludes that, despite significant efforts, at the current pace it would be unrealistic to complete the restitution process by 2031, when the law expires. The report underscores the need for a legislative debate to extend the law, while reassessing the capacity of the State to fulfil its obligations.

14. The Agrarian Jurisdiction, a key entity established under the Final Peace Agreement to resolve land-related disputes, is yet to become fully operational. Despite being urged to proceed by the Constitutional Court in April, Congress is yet to deliberate on a bill regulating the procedures of the Jurisdiction. Having effective mechanisms to resolve land-related conflicts in rural areas contributes to overall legal security, enabling a more efficient and equitable use of land.

15. The multipurpose cadastre, a provision of the comprehensive rural reform, plays an important role in enabling effective territorial planning. According to the "Agustín Codazzi" Geographic Institute, more than 40 per cent of Colombia's territory had been updated into the cadastre as at July 2026, including 49 per cent of the land pertaining to municipalities prioritized under the development programmes with a territorial focus. While this falls short of the 70 per cent target established by the

2022–2026 National Development Plan, it nevertheless represents substantial progress when compared with the over 9 per cent national coverage reported in 2022. The absence of this important instrument over much of the country's history has been considered a significant barrier to rural development.

16. The Government has expressed its commitment to governing from and for the regions, with a view to reducing territorial disparities and bringing public policies and institutions closer to rural communities. In pursuing this objective, the development programmes with a territorial focus provide an established framework through which targeted interventions can be advanced in the municipalities most affected by conflict, poverty and institutional weakness. Covering 170 municipalities across 16 prioritized regions, the development programmes with a territorial focus offer a mechanism for aligning national and local efforts to promote stabilization and rural development. In July, a technical process to update the 16 action plans for regional transformation, which guide development programmes with a territorial focus implementation, was finalized. Nearly 19,000 community representatives and local authorities participated in the consultations, with support from the Mission. The updated plans identify priorities and projects aimed at addressing gaps in State presence, infrastructure and service delivery, providing a planning basis upon which the Government can build its regional development agenda. The extension until 2037 of the development programmes with a territorial focus implementation time frame offers an important opportunity to sustain these efforts and translate development investments into tangible peace dividends.

17. Successive Governments have invested significant resources in the development programmes with a territorial focus. However, resource allocation remains uneven among regions. For example, according to the Agency for Territorial Renewal, the Sierra Nevada-Perijá subregion, covering 15 municipalities across the Departments of Cesar, La Guajira and Magdalena, has received 14 per cent of total development programmes with a territorial focus resources, compared with only 8.5 per cent allocated in total to the three subregions of Sur de Córdoba (five municipalities), Arauca (four municipalities) and Chocó (14 municipalities across two Departments). Specific constraints in areas affected by illegal armed groups and illicit economies, including violence, have also hindered implementation. Leveraging its presence in the field, the Mission has facilitated dialogue between private sector actors, national and local authorities, and communities in the Departments of Antioquia, Valle del Cauca and Nariño, to foster the establishment of projects under a dedicated governmental “works for taxes” programme, created after the Final Peace Agreement to foster private investment in conflict-affected regions.

18. Within the framework of the comprehensive rural reform, 16 sectoral plans, developed between 2017 and 2022, provide an established policy framework for expanding public services and reducing poverty in rural areas. Covering areas such as electrification, connectivity, roads, education and health, the plans align with several priorities articulated by the new administration regarding regional development and the delivery of public goods. Their implementation has been uneven. According to the National Planning Department, the average implementation stands at 51 per cent, with the greatest progress recorded in electrification and digital connectivity, and the least in irrigation and drainage, land formalization and rural housing. Continued implementation of these plans could contribute to addressing long-standing development deficits and strengthening stability in conflict-affected regions.

## C. Reintegration

19. Sustaining the reintegration process of former FARC-EP combatants, who laid down their arms under the Final Peace Agreement, is an important element for fostering stability and development in conflict-affected territories. The vast majority, over 11,000, remain engaged in the reintegration process, reflecting both their strong commitment to a civilian future and the continued support provided by State institutions, host communities and the international community. The recidivism rate has been very low. Continued support through security guarantees and sustainable socioeconomic opportunities is essential to prevent recruitment by illegal armed groups, facilitate social and economic inclusion and contribute to non-repetition and territorial stabilization.

20. Colombia has acquired considerable experience in the conduct of reintegration processes, refining its approach over decades and across successive administrations. As a result, it has developed a robust institutional architecture, including under the Final Peace Agreement. This includes specialized agencies such as the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization, which provide technical leadership and delivers reintegration support. It also involves coordination mechanisms, such as the National Reintegration Council, which facilitate decision-making among implementing entities with the participation of former combatants, as well as the Comprehensive Reintegration Programme, that guides institutional support towards the achievement of individual reintegration objectives. At the outset of the new administration, perceived uncertainty regarding the future role of institutional mechanisms supporting reintegration generated concern among former combatants. In a public statement, the Comunes political organization expressed concern over the potential reduction in funding for the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization included in the 2027 budget proposal submitted to Congress by the Government, which would add to funding shortfalls reportedly already affecting the agency's operations. The Verification Mission has conveyed to the Government its concerns about the funding situation and institutional uncertainty raised also by officials within the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization, and the importance of ensuring the continuity of reintegration efforts.

21. Steady livelihoods for former combatants are critical to ensuring the success of their transition into civilian life. To date, the focus has been placed mainly on the productive projects in which almost all former combatants are involved. Despite having received financial support, many of the 6,206 collective and individual productive projects still face sustainability challenges. Based on a sustainability strategy approved by the National Reintegration Council in 2024, and developed with the support of the Mission, 58 associative organizations, involving 2,052 former combatants, have implemented a total of 64 sustainability plans, while a further 113 plans had projected funding. There is also a need to expand labour-market opportunities, improve access to credit and deepen partnerships with the private sector. On 17 September, during a visit to La Guajira, President de la Espriella announced that plans to expand access to housing would go forward for a group of former combatants and their families residing in that Department.

22. Access to land and housing are two critical factors in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the reintegration process. Since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, 130 land allocations covering more than 20,662 hectares have benefited territorial areas for training and reintegration, associative organizations and productive projects. However, 368 land requests remain outstanding. For many

reintegration projects, particularly those based on agriculture and rural livelihoods, a secure foundation depends on access to land. This enables former combatants to establish stable livelihoods and develop long-term ties within their communities. As for housing, 780 units have been delivered within territorial areas for training and reintegration to date, with an additional 1,600 in the pipeline. Combined, these would cover the entire population of former combatants in territorial areas for training and reintegration.

23. Despite progress made in reintegration, security remains one of the main challenges to its sustainability. This issue was highlighted by the Constitutional Court, which in 2022 declared the security situation of former combatants to be an unconstitutional state of affairs. Overall, this declaration and subsequent orders have sought to promote a comprehensive approach to security. One such example was ruling 1417/2025, which included measures aimed at ensuring that the entity responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement has the necessary institutional hierarchy, capacities and resources to carry out its functions. During the period, security conditions continued to deteriorate in several regions (see para. 27) where many former combatants are concentrated, threatening the sustainability of reintegration efforts.

24. On 29 July, the Comunes political organization held a national event in Bogotá, gathering some 100 former combatants from various regions and their representatives to the Commission for the Follow-Up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement and the National Reintegration Council. Participants analysed the status of the reintegration process and the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement in the context of the transition of Government and following the loss of the party's legal status and representation in Congress. Following the meeting, Comunes issued a statement addressed directly to the then-President-elect, calling for a pact for continuity of the process among the executive and legislative branches and the international community; requesting the inclusion of peace implementation commitments, including on rural reform and reintegration, in the next National Development Plan; and asking for permanent dialogue between the Government, former combatants and conflict-affected communities.

#### **D. Security guarantees**

25. Areas facing the greatest insecurity continued to be those characterized by limited State presence, poor provision of basic services, as well as the presence of armed actors and persistent dependence on illicit economies. The Final Peace Agreement aims to address these issues, including through placing considerable emphasis on the interlinkages between development, security and peace; the presence of State institutions and the provision of services in historically neglected areas; as well as on the dismantling of criminal organizations and armed groups. Its provisions on security guarantees provide concrete instruments to improve overall security and strengthen the protection of communities, social leaders and former combatants. The implementation of the provisions led to the establishment of a specialized unit within the Office of the Attorney General tasked, among other things, to investigate crimes committed against former combatants and social leaders; as well as to the adoption of a policy to tackle criminal organizations, targeting their finances, money-laundering and support networks.

26. Overall conflict dynamics have evolved in recent years. Despite initial improvements following the laydown of weapons by the FARC-EP, by far the largest

guerrilla group at the time, the situation deteriorated in various areas as the withdrawal of the group from territories it had historically controlled was not followed by the full deployment of State institutions, security guarantees and public services. This allowed existing and emerging armed groups to expand their presence and influence, as well as to strengthen their operational and financial capacities in several regions. Today, armed groups are more fragmented and linked to a broader range of illicit economies. Official and independent assessments continued to indicate an expansion in the size and territorial presence of armed groups. They have modified their modus operandi by including new technologies, such as drone attacks and the use of social media for social control and recruitment, including that of children. In September, the Office of the Ombudsperson reported that it had documented 1,173 cases of child recruitment by armed groups between 2024 and July 2026. While their tactics have changed, they continue to compete for control over strategic corridors, as well as regions historically affected by conflict, where State presence remains limited.

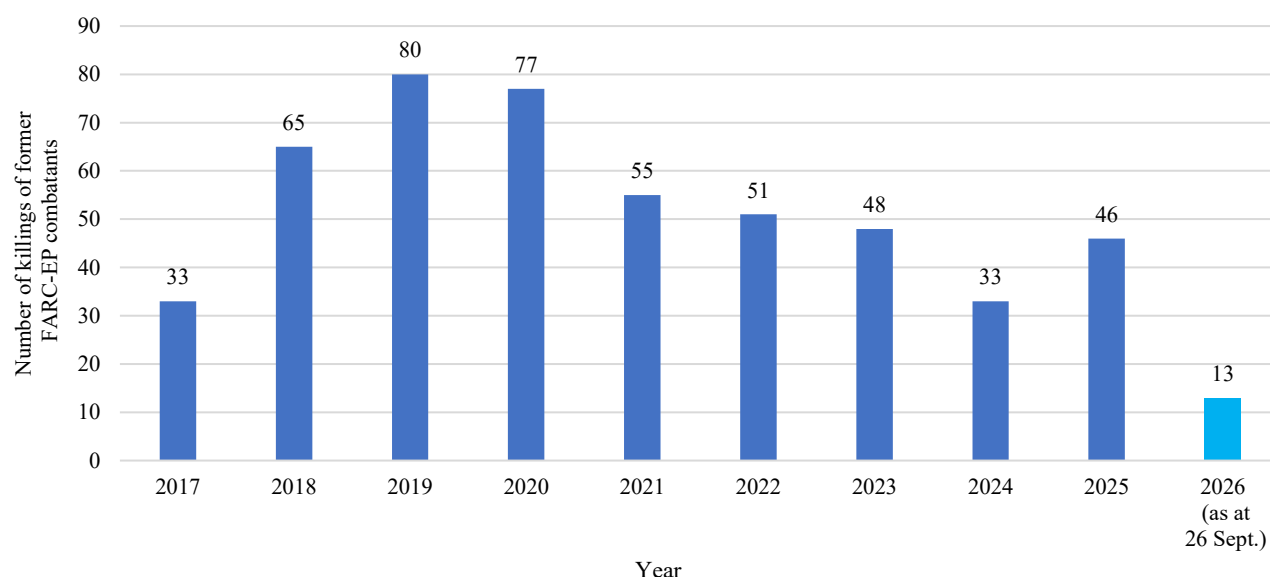
27. Since taking office, President de la Espriella has ended dialogue processes with armed groups and intensified military action, with a focus on territorial control and the capture of their senior leaders. Additionally, in August the President announced the classification by his administration of all armed groups as terrorist organizations. Multiple operations have been reported across several regions, including an aerial strike on 11 August against the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) in Norte de Santander and another two against the groups known as Estado Mayor de Bloques y Frentes (EMBF) and the Estado Mayor Central (EMC) in Guaviare on 27 and 30 August, respectively. During the latter, 36 individuals were reportedly killed, including five children aged 15 and 16 years old. As a result, the forced recruitment of children came to the forefront of public attention. Attacks by armed groups against the public security forces also increased, notably in the Departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca, Chocó, Nariño and Tolima, as well as in Norte de Santander, where a car bomb attack on a police station took place on 31 August, killing one civilian and injuring 11 people, including two police officers. The Office of the Ombudsperson has warned that continued hostilities could negatively impact civilians living in conflict-affected territories, with a potential for casualties and displacement. In the municipality of Cajibío, Cauca Department, violence by illegal armed groups displaced or confined local communities, killing two former combatants and two social leaders on 1 September.

28. Overall conflict dynamics continued to negatively impact communities, social leaders and former combatants. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, between 27 June and 30 August, 5,600 people were displaced and 4,400 were confined in 15 municipalities across 7 Departments. Approximately 11 per cent of the affected people belonged to ethnic communities, mostly Indigenous Peoples. For its part, between 27 June and 26 September, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded 40 allegations of killings of social leaders (7 verified, 30 under verification and 3 non-conclusive), including nine women, one LGBTIQ+ person, nine Indigenous People, one Afro-Colombian and five peasant leaders, in 32 municipalities across 17 Departments, including 19 community leaders and three ethnic authorities.

29. Since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, the Mission has verified 501 killings of former combatants (12 women, 66 Indigenous People, 59 Afro-Colombians), as well as 185 attempted homicides and 56 enforced disappearances. During the reporting period, the Mission verified the killing of 8 former FARC-EP combatants, bringing the total to 13 in 2026. The Verification

Mission continues to register a lower level of lethal violence compared with previous years (see figure). Other forms of violence also persist, including displacement, stigmatization, extortion targeting productive projects and harassment of former combatants following land allocation, as well as attempted homicides, with 5 recorded in 2025 and 15 in 2026. Important measures have been implemented, such as those related to the prevention of physical harm through protection and reaction mechanisms. During the period, 6 Departments and 21 municipalities adopted the strategic security and protection plan for former combatants, a public policy established in 2025.

#### Number of killings of former FARC-EP combatants verified by the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (2017–2026)



30. Since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement, the Special Investigation Unit of the Office of the Attorney General has issued 1,579 arrest warrants, made 627 arrests and obtained 110 convictions involving 137 people, including against five main instigators, linked to attacks against former combatants. In line with the Unit's recently adopted investigative approach prioritizing impact at the level of intellectual authors, several indictments, including in absentia, were issued against alleged senior leaders of criminal organizations responsible for homicides, including those of former combatants and of persons protected under international humanitarian law. The Mission continued to engage with the Unit, for example, by supporting high-level judicial meetings, bringing together regional prosecutors, to strengthen coordination between them on cases of common interest.

### E. Women and peace and security

31. The security of women, including leaders and former combatants, continued to be a key challenge in conflict-affected regions. Women continued to face threats, restrictions on movement, limited access to protection and services and gender-based violence. A well-known Indigenous leader, María Ovidia Pelechó, from the Department of Cauca was killed with her partner on 1 September. Women leaders in

the Departments of Bolívar, Cauca, Meta and Putumayo continued to express concern regarding various challenges in maintaining their existing protection measures. The recent adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Safeguards for Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders as public policy contributes to strengthening the institutional framework for their protection. However, sustained implementation, adequate resources and gender-responsive risk assessments remain essential to yield results.

32. The gender provisions of the Final Peace Agreement refer not only to women's protection and economic empowerment, but also to overall local development. Comprehensive rural reform has been a key example, accounting for the largest share of gender-focused investment in recent years, including support for women's access to land, according to the tenth report on peace implementation of the Office of the Comptroller General issued in July. One such example is a project to establish a community food reserve on a 700-hectare plot of land delivered to 54 women peasants, victims of the armed conflict, in Norte de Santander.

33. The closure of the Ministry of Equality (see report [S/2026/528](#), para. 44) has created uncertainty regarding institutional arrangements for 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 and peace and security. The Ministry bore the main responsibility for coordinating those processes.

## **II. Coordination with the United Nations country team**

34. The country team supported the earthquake response through humanitarian assistance and early recovery planning in highly vulnerable, conflict-affected areas. The revised Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requires an additional \$148 million to assist 670,000 earthquake-affected people through December 2026. This brings the total request to \$618 million, which is 47 per cent funded. The United Nations, through its Central Emergency Response Fund, allocated \$5 million. In addition, the United Nations supported national damage assessments through satellite and drone analysis to estimate exposure and recovery costs.

35. With support from the United Nations multi-partner trust fund for sustaining peace in Colombia and an approved a \$5 million set of programmes, the country team and partners supported land restitution and 20 development programmes with a territorial focus initiatives. It also supported victims of landmines; restorative justice projects on humanitarian demining and explosive ordnance risk education; as well as for the operationalization of the international monitoring mechanism for the implementation of Special Jurisdiction for Peace restorative sentences and the ethnic chapter of the Final Peace Agreement.

## **III. Conduct and discipline**

36. The Mission received one new allegation of prohibited conduct, which is being addressed in accordance with applicable procedures.

## IV. Conclusions

37. I wish to express, once again, my condolences to the families of the victims of the recent earthquake and my solidarity with the people and Government of Colombia. Hundreds of lives were lost; thousands of people were injured, hundreds remain missing and damage affected 15 Departments. The Verification Mission, as part of overall United Nations support efforts, placed its field presence and logistical capabilities at the disposal of the authorities in affected areas.

38. The solidarity shown in the wake of the earthquake underscored the strength of Colombian society and its ability to come together in support of those most affected. As the country enters a new political chapter, following a peaceful democratic transition, I hope that this spirit of collective purpose and constructive engagement will help create the conditions for effective recovery, reconstruction and the consolidation of peace.

39. The new Administration is the third to inherit institutions, commitments and progress made possible by the Final Peace Agreement. The implementation of the Final Peace Agreement has set in motion processes key to overall stabilization and development, which aim to strengthen the State, in areas where violence is most acute today. As implementation enters the final third of the 15-year period set by the Final Peace Agreement, the years ahead will be pivotal to consolidate progress achieved to date and fully leverage the opportunities afforded.

40. My Special Representative is engaging with the new Government regarding its priorities and to exchange views on how to strengthen implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, drawing on the nearly decade-long experience of the Mission in accompanying the peace process across successive Administrations and on its presence in conflict-affected regions. The Verification Mission stands ready to support the national authorities as they advance in defining policies in this regard. Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement can contribute to the achievement of a range of the priorities of the Government, such as the reduction of violence and the extension of State presence. I welcome the openness demonstrated by the Government to dialogue with the United Nations and trust that continued engagement between the Government and the Mission, with full respect for the sovereignty of Colombia and the mandate provided by the Security Council, will enhance complementarity between their work.

41. The effective implementation of the comprehensive rural reform can contribute significantly to consolidating peace and security, through provisions that expand State presence, strengthen economic development and address the conditions that sustain illicit economies. At the same time, persistent challenges, including delays in operationalizing the Agrarian Jurisdiction and continued insecurity facing beneficiaries of land, risk undermining success. Sustained commitment to advancing development in rural areas, accompanied by effective security guarantees and institutional coordination, will be critical to ensuring that its potential translates into lasting benefits for communities.

42. The reintegration of more than 11,000 former combatants constitutes a major accomplishment, reflecting sustained efforts by national and local institutions and communities. Ensuring its adequate funding and sustainability remains critical to preventing the recurrence of violence, deterring recruitment by armed groups and sustaining confidence in the peace process. The institutional architecture for reintegration, strengthened through the Final Peace Agreement and informed by

decades of national experience, is a key framework for safeguarding progress, responding to challenges and maintaining the confidence and engagement of former combatants in the peace process.

43. The insecurity in conflict-affected regions and violence against social leaders, ethnic communities and former combatants remains a major concern. An effective response to the challenging security situation requires complementarity and coordination between security actions, development measures and the extension of State presence. Security instruments created under the Final Peace Agreement continue to be strategically relevant for the protection of both communities and former combatants.

44. Colombia has repeatedly demonstrated its capacity to overcome adversity. As the country recovers from the recent earthquake, amid a new political chapter, the support of the broader international community is as important as ever. Sustained international engagement will be essential for accompanying Colombian-led efforts to overcome remaining obstacles, deepen the gains achieved to date and build a more peaceful and secure future for all Colombians. The United Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to support these efforts, and the Verification Mission stands ready to continue contributing in close coordination with national and international partners and consistent with the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

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

Verification Mission  
Geospatial