

Report of the Secretary-General

United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia S/2023/701

27 June to 26 September 2023

The present report provides updates on mandated tasks regarding the verification of the Final Peace Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2366 (2017), 2655 (2022) and 2673 (2023). Additionally, following resolution 2694 (2023), it informs about the implementation of the ceasefire between the Government of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN).

Comprehensive Rural Reform

Section 1 of the Peace Agreement

In August, President

Reform System, a key

mechanism led by the

Ministry of Agriculture.

Petro launched the

National Agrarian

inter-institutional

coordination



Access to land

The National Land Agency (ANT) purchased **29,065 hectares** during the reporting period, for a total of **41,651** since the Government took office.

607 hectares of land were delivered, for a total of 968 hectares under ther current administration.



Since August 2022, the National Land Agency has formalized

340,689 hectares, 121,824 during this period.



Development programmes with a territorial focus (PDET)

> The Government reports that, since taking office, the Agency for Territorial Renewal (ART) has approved

418 projects

involving around USD 240 million for implementation within municipalities with development programmes with a territorial focus (PDET) in place.

Socioeconomic reintegration

Section 3.2 of the Peace Agreement



of accredited former combatants participate State-sponsored projects.

INDIVIDUAL

Productive projects Approved by the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization (ARN)



former combatants' cooperatives

56 cooperatives

Grouping some 7,000 former combatants countrywide.

To date, **10,082**

former combatants (2,413 women) reside outside former TATRs.*

*Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration



The ARN and the ANT have extended the scope of access to land to former combatants outside former Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration (TATRs)

Training and Reintegration (TATRs) within the framework of the comprehensive rural reform.

13 out of 24 former TATRs have land purchased by the State.

The ANT granted collective land titles to former combatants' associations in five former TATRs, and one outside of these areas, for productive projects.

Political reintegration



The Comunes party endorsed 299 candidates (128 women) for the upcoming departmental and municipal elections, of which 69 (17 women) are former combatants. Another 76 former combatants (17 women) were endorsed by a broad spectrum of political parties and coalitions.



The candidates, registered in 26 of Colombia's 32 departments, are mostly running for municipal councils and local administrative boards.



Former combatants running for councils and mayorships in Antioquia, Cauca, La Guajira and Meta reported threats and stigmatization during their campaigns, prompting some to withdraw their candidacies.



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Security guarantees - Former FARC-EP combatants

Section 3.4 of the Peace Agreement

Since the signing of the Peace Agreement, the Mission has verified:



in September, the National Commission on Security Guarantees approved the public policy to dismantle illegal armed groups and criminal organizations and its action plan, a long-awaited instrument for halting violence in conflict-affected areas.

Fifteen former combatants were killed in Antioquia, Arauca, Caquetá, Cauca, Huila, Meta, Nariño and Tolima.



2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 UNVMC. 26 September 2023

Two former TATRs in Meta were relocated during this period due to insecurity. The TATR from Mesetas moved to a plot of land purchased by the Government in a nearby municipality.

The residents of the former TATR of Vista Hermosa temporarily relocated to a transitory location while a plot of land purchased by the ANT is made available for their transfer.

Security guarantees

SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR COMMUNITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND SOCIAL LEADERS

During this period, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights received allegations of:

52 ALLEGATIONS OF KILLINGS HUMAN RIGHTS

DEFENDERS

4 verified, 44 under verification, 4 inconclusive.



This represents a 13% decrease when compared to the previous period.

14 Indigenous leaders, 10 peasant leaders, 11 Afro-Colombian leaders, 4 women leaders, and 1 leader of the LGBTQI community.

The concentration of this violence in Nariño, Valle del Cauca and Cauca is particularly concerning.

12 verified (38 victims)



registered:

8,556 person were forced mass displacement.

From 27 June to 30 August, the Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

27,183 person were confined.

This represents a reduction of 31% compared to the same period last year. 59% of those affected are ethnic communities.



The persistent use of landmines continues to affect vulnerable communities.

3 under verification

Most cases were registered in Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca departments.



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Restorative sentences

Section 5.1.2 of the Peace Agreement





In Case 01.

(on hostage-taking, other serious deprivations of liberty and other concurrent crimes committed by the FARC-EP), the SJP issued the first regional indictment against 10 former mid-level members of the FARC-EP central command which operated in Tolima, Quindío, and Huila departments.

The SJP indicted nine members of the army within

Case 03 (on killings and forced disappearances presented as combat casualties by State agents), including a former **Commander of the Fourth Brigade and later top** Commander of the Army, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Antioquia during 2002 and 2003, resulting in 130 victims of extrajudicial killings.



The SJP issued its first indictment within Case 02 (on the situation of Tumaco, Ricaurte and Barbacoas, Nariño) against 14 former mid-level members of the Western front of the **FARC-EP** and one former top commander of the Secretariat also indicted in Case 01.



In September, the SJP held a hearing of public acknowledgement within Case 03 in Yopal, Casanare, regarding 296 extrajudicial executions allegedly committed by members of the public security forces and third party civilians in **Casanare between 2005** and 2008.

In August, the coordination mechanism established by the Government and the SJP to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the sentences adopted its regulations, which sets out bases for a more effective interministerial cooperation.

Ethnic Chapter

Section 6.2 of the Peace Agreement



The Office of the **Vice-President has** expanded priority areas to meet the needs of Indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians by including actions to strengthen self-protection and prevent child recruitment and gender-based violence.

A Vice-Ministry of Ethnic Peoples within the Ministry of Equality has been tasked to coordinate actions related to the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter alongside the Office of the Vice-President.

Political Participation



The National Civil Registry has registered 700 Afro-Colombian (319 women) and 416 indigenous (157 women) candidates taking part in the October elections.

Solution to the illicit drugs problem

The Government adopted internal regulations to ensure an ethnic approach to its work in the National Comprehensive **Programme for the Substitution of Illicit** Crops (PNIS).

Security Guarantees



The persistent violent actions of illegal armed actors fighting over territorial control in ethnic territories, notably along the Pacific Coast, continued to hinder implementation of the Ethnic Chapter.

Traditional government and local

authorities in Cauca and Chocó have raised concern about the continuing recruitment of Indigenous children by illegal armed groups.



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Other developments related to the Peace Agreement



Political participation

Section 2 of the Peace Agreement

Two representatives of the special transitional electoral districts for peace were elected president and vice-president of the boards of key commissions in the House of Representatives in charge of environmental and labour issues, respectively.



Unit for the Search for Persons Deemed as Missing

Section 5 of the Peace Agreement

The UBPD handed over seven bodies of missing persons to their relatives in Córdoba, Huila, Meta Santander and Quindío.

Since 2018, the Unit has recovered 929 bodies; handed over 196 to their relatives; found 16 people alive; received 28.815 search requests;

and identified **7.689 locations** where there could be people reported missing.



Solution to the illicit drugs problem

Section 4 of the Peace Agreement

The Government launched a new national drug policy aiming at providing opportunities toterritories and communities affected by the drug problem.

The policy acknowledges objectives set forth in the Final Peace Agreement and stipulates that Government commitments under the PNIS will be fulfilled.



Recommendations of the Truth Commission

Section 5 of the Peace Agreement

The Committee for follow up on the recommendations of the Truth Commission presented its first report, underscoring that around 20% of the recommendations were included in the National Development Plan, and highlighting the approval by Congress of several bills relatd to their implementation.

Developments related to negotiations with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional - ELN



Dialogue continued with a fourth round of talks in Venezuela, from 14 August to 4 September ended with three agreements:

- 1. Framework with principles and approaches for humanitarian actions as defined by the parties in the territories.
- 2. Development of mechanisms to provide assistance to political prisoners of the ELN.
- The definition of critical areas for humanitarian action, namely Bajo Calima (Valle del Cauca), San Juan (Chocó), Bajo Cauca (Antioquia), northeast Antioquia and southern Bolívar.

The ceasefire came into effect on 3 August and, on the same day, the parties established the National Participation Committee during an event in Bogotá with the participation of President Petro, the Government and the ELN delegations, civil society, State entities, political parties and the international community.



The National Participation Committee is composed of 82 members from 30 sectors of society and it is tasked with designing a methodology for the participation of society. Per Security Council Resolution 2694 (2023), the Mission has begun monitoring and verifying the implementation of the bilateral ceasefire between the parties. The Mission assumed its duties within the

quadripartite ceasefire Monitoring and Verification Mechanism on 4 August, alongside representatives of the parties and the Catholic Church.

