

# IMPLEMENTING THE COLOMBIA PEACE AGREEMENT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

"Peace building is a permanent task for each region [...]. Peace building from the territories is done from everyday relations with nature, with the community to which people belong, with other communities and with the political and community authorities that regulate social relations".

## A Difficulties to implementing the peace agreement

### 1. Delays in the adaptation of the ZVTN (Zonas Veredales Transitorias de Normalización) and the PTN (Puntos Transitorios de Normalización):

- Some areas were agreed late, as is the case of La Montañita (Caquetá) and Caño Indio (Norte de Santander).
- Difficult access to some areas has caused delay in the transport of materials, as it is the case of Miravalle (Caquetá) or Ituango (Meta).
- In some areas the progress was slower because of demands of the FARC commanders.

### 2. Harassment of social leaders associated with the peace process, the defense of human rights and victims' rights:

The violence against social leaders must be understood as a situation that threatens the sustainability of the peace process. According to statistics from the Ombudsman's Office, 52 leaders and human rights defenders have been murdered since January 1, 2016, mainly in Antioquia, Cauca, Córdoba, Meta, Chocó and Nariño, all of which are areas of ZVTN and PTN.

### 3. Territories released by the FARC:

The territories occupied by the FARC's guerrilla and released after they moved to the ZVTN and the PTN, have been appropriated by the guerrilla of the ELN, post-demobilization groups and other criminal structures, to achieve total control of the criminal economies (coca crops, illegal mining and extortion).

## B Ceasefire, disarmament and reintegration

### 1 CEASE-FIRE

The bilateral cease-fire has been accomplished by both parties. Since it was agreed, there have been only a few incidents. This is a great achievement for a peace process when compared to other international experiences.

### 2 DISARMAMENT

Delays in the adaptation of ZVTN, delay in the process of verifying the list of members of the FARC (guerrilla and militiamen) and logistical problems forced the disarmament schedule to be changed. However, on June 26, 2017, the FARC officially delivered 7,132 units of individual weapons being no longer an armed group.

### 3 REINTEGRATION

Reintegration: Development by the Executive of several law and ordinary decrees in relation to the matter, as a first step to establish mechanisms and measures that define the program of collective and individual economic and social reincorporation of the members of the FARC.

## C Policy development of the peace agreement

Two mechanisms are established to ensure a fast, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the peace agreement:

a

The special legislative procedure for peace or fast track that allows the process of the legislative initiatives to be shorter, reducing the debates of the bills.

b

Extraordinary powers granted to the president of the republic for six months to issue decrees with force of law with the aim of facilitating and ensuring the implementation of the peace agreement.

The progress of the legislative initiatives of the six points of the peace agreement is presented in detail in the complete document.



## D Peace at the territorial level

### 1. CHALLENGES

- Financial, institutional and technical disadvantages.
- Problems and weaknesses in management at the national and territorial level (departmental and municipal) because of the absence of an integral presence of the State in many of the areas where it is required.
- Lack of coordination between national, departmental and local levels.
- Absence of mechanisms of participation for the communities in the public management.
- Political polarization emerging from the electoral period.
- Lack of a clear route of articulation between entities and how they will apply and replicate the new regulations in the territory.

### 2. OPPORTUNITIES

- Creation of new spaces to develop programs and strategies that are not disconnected and truly respond from the needs and particularities of each region.
- Opportunity to socialize and build with communities, new programs and strategies.
- Strengthening of inter-institutional coordination.
- Empowering the regions of the concept of "territorial peace" and so the creation of an infrastructure for peace that will have the power to effectively implement what has been agreed.
- Strengthening of institutional developments and mechanisms for the participation of the community in public management.

## To highlight:

- Despite the many difficulties that have arisen in the process of implementing the peace agreement, the parties have demonstrated their willingness and commitment to continue with the fulfillment of the compromises.
- There has been a significant reduction in homicides, kidnappings and injuries by anti-personnel mines in areas where FARC used to operate.
- The success of the implementation of the peace agreement at the territorial level will depend not only of the national

- instances, but on the local instances and the key role that will play the communities as overseers of the commitments.
- To implement the peace agreement effectively, to counteract the rapid reproduction of violence primarily in the face of new criminal structures, to achieve a successful process with the guerrilla of the ELN, and to prevent dissents and new criminal structures from succeeding in illegal markets are just superficial examples of what the State is facing to meet citizens expectations.