

 PEACE MAIL

November 25, 2016

**Final Peace Accord Signed between the FARC and the GOC in Bogotá**

This past Thursday, November 24, 2016, the Government of Colombia and the FARC signed the Peace Accord marking the end of a long cycle of violence and conflict between the Government and this guerilla group of more than 50 years. This is a historic moment for the country because going back over the past decades beginning with the Betancur administration (1982-1986) the Government has repeatedly attempted unsuccessfully to reach an agreement with this guerrilla group. However, the road to reintegrate thousands of FARC ex-combatants will only now begin. The following is a brief time-line of the expected next steps for the implementation the Peace Accord and the laying down of arms, and reincorporation of former-FARC guerrillas into Colombian society:

1. November 24, 2016: Formal presentation of the Peace Accord document to the Secretaries of both the Congress and the Senate. Both houses agreed to the request of the Minister of the Interior to receive and debate the Peace Accord.
2. November 29 and 30, 2016: During these two days, both the Congress and Senate will debate the Accord for approval for implementation. Government supporters from both the YES vote and the NO vote from the past October 2 plebiscite will be called to speak. For the YES, Juan Fernando Cristo, Minister of Interior, Sergio Jaramillo, High Commissioner for Peace, and Humberto de la Calle, Chief Government negotiator, all may be called to speak. For the NO vote, Marta Lucía Ramírez, ex-presidential candidate from the Conservative Party, Alejandro Ordóñez, ex-Inspector General, and Andrés Pastrana, former President, may each be called to speak. Debate rules for both houses to note include that the Center Democratic party (the major opposition party to the accord) will have two spokespersons and will be limited to 30 minutes, while the other parties, including the National Unity party (the major supporter of the accord), will have one spokesperson and will be allowed to speak for a maximum 15 minutes.
3. December 1, 2016: This is the day that the government and press have labeled “D Day.” On this day, both the congress and the senate are expected to formally endorse the Accord through a parliamentary majority vote. From that point, the implementation of the accord will roll-out via two simultaneous tracks: first, the beginning of the collective reintegration process of the FARC ex-combatants, and, second, the initiation of the legislative work by congress to create the legal structures to fully implement the contents of the Accord. Following are the major steps in these parallel tracks:

**Concentration of FARC and Laying Down of Arms: Key Milestones**

1. December 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 (D+5): The FARC begin to move to from the pre-grouping zones to the transitional zones and points.
2. December 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 (D+8): The FARC will provide the United Nations with the official number of individuals who will be demobilizing within the framework of the Accords.
3. March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 (D+90): The United Nations will decommissioned 30% of the total FARC arms by this date.
4. March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 (D+120): The United Nations will decommissioned 60% of the total FARC arms by this date.
5. April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 (D+150): The United Nations will decommissioned 60% of the total FARC arms by this date.
6. May 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 (D+180): The transitional zones and points will end and the FARC will convert into a

legal political movement.

### **Legislative Implementation**

While the process for laying down arms in the transitional zones and points unfolds, the GOC will concurrently initiate the legislative changes that Congress will need to approve in order to guarantee a timely functioning of the accords in all of Colombia's territories. During these legislative debates, the FARC will designate three spokespersons in each of the Houses of Congress, who will have voice but no voting authority, and who will only be permitted to participate on themes related to the implementation of the accords. While the time frames for participation are not yet entirely clear, the deadline that the GOC will have in order to advance the most important legislation is June 20, 2017, when the third term of this Congress (2014-2018) closes. This is typically the moment in the Colombian political cycle at which congresspersons begin to focus more on reelection campaigns – in this instance for the 2018 term. Following are some of the legislative highlights for what the GOC will need to promote most urgently in order to guarantee the implementation of the accords in time:

1. Amnesty law.
2. Law for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.
3. Law for the creation of the Criminal Gangs Investigation and Dismantling Unit and the Unit for the Search for Disappeared Persons.
4. Four-year plan for implementing the accord.
5. Law regulating the Opposition Statute.