

## **GOC and FARC, closer to the bilateral cease-fire**

The GOC and FARC delegations in Havana issued a joint statement on April 14, stating that they are close to reaching an agreement on the “ending the conflict” point of the agenda, which involves guarantees for the safety the FARC, the laying down of arms and ending hostilities through a final, bilateral ceasefire<sup>1</sup>. The FARC leaders in the Technical Subcommittee on Ending the Conflict recognized the “important progress” made and affirmed that they are “almost ready”<sup>2</sup>.

## **Political accords to facilitate the peace reforms**

On April 15, the GOC, its negotiating team in Havana and Colombia’s political parites reached an agreement to promote reforms related to the status of opposition parties, amendments to the electoral system and financing of political campaigns. Currently, a draft bill<sup>3</sup> is being discussed in Congress aimed at accelerating implementation of those peace agreements reached with the guerrillas that will need congressional approval<sup>4</sup>. “We have to be ready in Colombia to make the reforms required by the peace accords,” stated the High Commissioner for Peace<sup>5</sup>.

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