

# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

September, 2014

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## 1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, initiating the fourth official peace talks with this group. The agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) guarantees for political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) illegal drugs; and 5) victims' rights. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive dialogues in Havana, on November 19, 2012. Three agreements have been reached: one on the first agenda point, integrated rural reform, on May 26, 2013; the second on the next point, political participation, on November 6, 2013; and another on the fourth agenda point, illegal drugs, on May 16, 2014.

On June 10, 2014, the GOC announced that exploratory talks with the ELN were taking place to define an agenda for peace talks. These initial meetings have been held since January 2014, and the issues of victims and societal participation are the first two agenda points. The GOC and ELN will release information on the progress of the exploratory talks as they continue.

## 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Transition Commander post created, responsible for disarmament

President Santos announced a new military unit headed by new Transition Commander General Javier Flórez. He will be in charge of supervising a national ceasefire followed by the disarmament and demobilization of guerrilla groups. Flórez led the military delegation sent to Cuba last week to advise the GOC team on DDR.<sup>1</sup> As part of Flórez' new role, he also supported Santos in visits to military bases to update the armed forces on their post-conflict role.<sup>2</sup>

The FARC leaders stated they will not accept military participation in DDR design, which they consider to be a political issue,<sup>3</sup> and protested the creation of the Transition Command Unit. In response, they will create a Normalization Command Unit to study the return of the military to its "constitutional" role.<sup>4</sup> GOC dialogue team members Humberto de la Calle and General Jorge Enrique Mora Rangel responded that the FARC will have to disarm to enter politics.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/general-javier-florez-asumira-el-nuevo-comando-de-trans-articulo-513630>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/santos-recorre-bases-militares-para-explicar-el-proceso-de-paz/14473799>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-piden-presencia-del-mininterior-habana-articulo-513933>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-crearan-un-comando-guerrillero-de-normalizacion-articulo-514174>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-puedan-hacer-politica-deben-dejar-armas-articulo-513420> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/mindefensa-pide-farc-hablen-menos-y-negocien-mas-articulo-514005>

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### FARC call for emergency meeting, reject GOC statements

The FARC criticized a recent statement by Minister of the Interior Juan Fernando Cristo that the peace process has entered its final stage, which they said was not true.<sup>6</sup> At Monday's start to the current round of talks, the FARC requested a meeting with Minister Cristo and the GOC dialogue team, to clarify the two sides' positions.<sup>7</sup> Minister Cristo denied the request.<sup>8</sup>

### Ex-paramilitary leaders wish to be part of the dialogues

Imprisoned ex-paramilitary leaders Salvatore Mancuso (in Washington D.C.) and alias Diego Vecino (in Bogotá) wrote a letter to President Santos requesting to participate directly in the GOC-FARC talks. They stated that their DDR and transitional justice experience would make a valuable contribution to the talks and the historical truth of the conflict. Describing themselves as victimizers and victims of the FARC, Mancuso and 'Vecino' suggested they be included in the delegations of victims who will travel to Cuba in coming weeks to participate in the talks.<sup>9</sup>

### GOC representatives encourage trust in peace talks

After much criticism of the peace talks in recent weeks, High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo emphasized that even though the FARC have increased their violent attacks recently, the country should trust in the peace process itself, and not interpret this as trusting the FARC.<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, recently appointed Council Minister for Post-conflict General (r) Oscar Naranjo countered criticism that military support for the peace talks is humiliating, stating that the military role in the process is technical and draws on essential military experience.<sup>11</sup>

### Next victims' delegation set for September 10<sup>th</sup>

The next delegation of victims to participate in the peace talks will go to Cuba on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Similar to the last round, the UN and the Universidad Nacional will be in charge of selecting a pluralistic and balanced delegation, representing all types of victimization.<sup>12</sup>

## 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>

### ELN assumes responsibility in conflict

A communiqué from the ELN indicated their assumption of responsibility for the violence and damage they have caused in the conflict. They stated their aim to contribute to guarantees of the non-repetition of violence, and their hope to begin official dialogues with the GOC soon.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-piden-presencia-del-mininterior-habana-articulo-513933>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/anticipacion-oficial-sobre-desarme-rechazada-farc-articulo-513980>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/mininterior-no-ira-habana-peticion-hecha-farc-articulo-513981>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/los-exjefes-para-imploren-estar-mesa-de-habana-articulo-513404>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/no-se-trata-de-creerle-farc-se-trata-de-creerle-al-proc-articulo-513625>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/no-es-humillante-que-los-militares-estén-en-la-habana-naranjo/14446200>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/segunda-delegacion-de-victimas-viajara-cuba-el-10-de-se-articulo-514204>

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### 4. International

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#### **Ex-combatants must have access to politics: Marc Chernick**

Marc Chernick is an expert on the Colombian conflict and Professor of Political Science at Georgetown University. In interview with *El Espectador*, he said it is crucial that members of the FARC be allowed to form a post-conflict political party, even if those responsible for crimes against humanity cannot participate. He compared current peace talks with previous FARC processes and El Salvador and Nicaragua, warning that weak post-conflict provisions to prevent urban violence could result in high levels of violent crime as it has in those countries.<sup>14</sup>

#### **IAHRC report highlights impact of peace on human rights**

The Inter-American Human Rights Commission released its fourth report on human rights in Colombia, titled “Truth, Justice, and Reparation”. The report highlights that peace would be a huge step forward in guaranteeing human rights, but must be supported by appropriate judicial mechanisms. The document also addresses topics such as the Justice and Peace Law, the “false positive” cases, and the profiles of the groups most affected by the conflict.<sup>15</sup>

### 5. Other Voices

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#### **Colombia convenes “Peace Week”**

The Catholic Church and various civil society groups will convene the 27<sup>th</sup> annual “Peace Week” on Thursday, aiming to create a climate to support and encourage commitment to the peace process. Activities include marches, forums, and a call for a 100-day ceasefire until December 10<sup>th</sup>, International Human Rights Day. UN Resident Coordinator Fabrizio Hoschild praised the initiative, highlighting its importance given the approach of a possible peace agreement.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Victims advocate a “Yes” vote in referendum**

Some of the victims who travelled to Cuba last week to participate in the talks suggested that campaigns be conducted to raise awareness of the peace process. This, they said, is necessary for a “Yes” vote in a future referendum to approve reforms resulting from a final agreement.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Ex-paramilitary leader encourages alternative sentences**

Salvatore Mancuso, ex-AUC leader imprisoned in Washington D.C., advocates alternative sentences, not jail time, for guerrilla members. In interview with *El Tiempo*, he discussed his

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<sup>13</sup> [www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/E/el\\_eln\\_asumiria\\_su\\_culpa\\_en\\_el\\_conflicto/el\\_eln\\_asumiria\\_su\\_culpa\\_en\\_el\\_conflicto.asp](http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/E/el_eln_asumiria_su_culpa_en_el_conflicto/el_eln_asumiria_su_culpa_en_el_conflicto.asp)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/los-excombatientes-tienen-tener-acceso-politica-articulo-512707>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.justiciaviva.org.pe/webpanel/doc\\_int/doc28082014-181944.pdf](http://www.justiciaviva.org.pe/webpanel/doc_int/doc28082014-181944.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/colombia-convoca-semana-paz-apoyo-dialogos-farc-articulo-513382>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/victimas-del-conflicto-abogan-el-si-referendo-de-acuerdo-articulo-512998>



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possible input to the GOC-FARC talks. He also opined on the Justice and Peace Law and the State's failure to fill regional gaps of authority left behind after the AUC's demobilization.<sup>18</sup>

## 6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

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### Colombian prisons must prepare for post-conflict: WOAT

Eric Sottas of the World Organization Against Torture warned that Colombian prisons must prepare for the arrival of demobilized guerrilla members. He said a separate justice system could be created to manage these ex-combatants, as the prison system is overcrowded.<sup>19</sup>

### **IOM signs agreement to raise awareness on peace agreements**

The International Organization for Migrations (IOM) signed an agreement with the National Federation of Departments to raise awareness of possible final GOC-FARC peace agreements on land and rural development. The objective of the agreement is to ensure that citizens in the regions know about the projects to be implemented in these areas.<sup>20</sup>

### **Ex-manager of Plan Colombia suggests Fund for Peace**

Amid allegations of a lack of funding for post-conflict initiatives, Cali Mayor and ex-manager of Plan Colombia Rodrigo Guerrero suggested the creation of a fund to support post-conflict efforts like productive projects for ex-combatants. In interview with El Espectador, Guerrero discussed the need to increase post-conflict regional institutional presence and input.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/la-paz-necesita-penas-diferentes-a-la-carcel-mancuso/14464575>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/carceles-colombianas-deben-prepararse-el-posconflicto-articulo-513178>

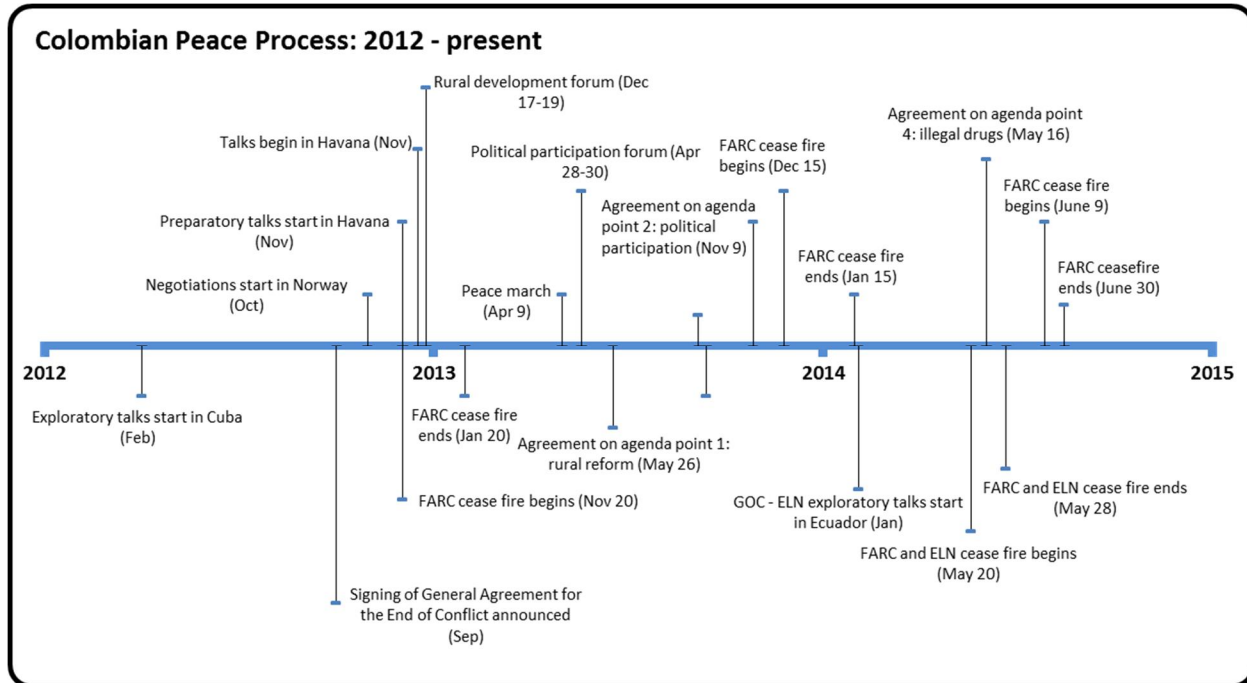
<sup>20</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/firman-convenio-socializar-acuerdos-de-habana-articulo-513857>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/un-forec-el-posconflicto-articulo-513021>

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### 7. Timeline



### 8. Further Reading

#### Ecopetrol in peacetime: A force to be reckoned with?

Semana Magazine interviewed Javier Gutierrez, President of Ecopetrol, about development and peace. He discussed how the violence has affected Ecopetrol's infrastructure and what the benefits of peace would be for the company, among other things.<sup>22</sup>

#### Victim's open letter to Colombia

Constanza Turbay was in the news as she was part of the victims' delegation that went to Cuba last week, where FARC leader Iván Márquez asked for her forgiveness. El Tiempo published a letter she wrote to Colombia, describing her meeting with the FARC and promoting peace.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/javier-gutierrez-en-paz-ecopetrol-iria-como-un-tren/400924-3>

<sup>23</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/carta-al-pais-de-constanza-turbay-sobre-el-perdon-de-ivan-marquez/14470979](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/carta-al-pais-de-constanza-turbay-sobre-el-perdon-de-ivan-marquez/14470979)

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Second delegation of victims announced

The second delegation of victims to participate directly in the talks will travel to Cuba on Wednesday. The group's composition was selected by the UN and the Universidad Nacional, and includes: 1) Teresita Gaviria, President of the Association of Mothers of La Candelaria and mother of a victim of disappearance; 2) Juanita Barragán, victim of FARC child recruitment; 3) Marisol Garzón, sister of journalist Jaime Garzón who was murdered by the paramilitaries; 4) Gloria Luz Gómez, sister of a student leader who was disappeared and killed; 5) Esaú Lemus Maturana, displaced Afro-Colombian person and member of the National Victims' roundtable; 6) Reinel Barbosa Cajica, displaced mine victim; 7) Gabriel Bisbicus, indigenous person from Nariño where all armed groups have committed atrocities; 8) Maria Choles, sexual violence victim; 9) Marleny Orjuela, victims' leader and cousin of a soldier kidnapped by the FARC; 10) Esperanza Uribe, wife of a judge killed in a massacre by the State; 11) Jessica Hoyos Morales, human rights defender and daughter of a union leader killed in 2001 by the State and paramilitaries; 12) Consuelo González de Perdomo, FARC kidnap victim.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/segundo-grupo-de-victimas-a-la-habana-historias/14507136>

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### **Sub-commission on gender to begin work in Havana**

A sub-commission on gender was announced, with the goal of guaranteeing that agreements have a gender focus and contribute to gender equality. The sub-commission will include five members yet to be selected from each dialogue team, and will call on input from experts.<sup>25</sup>

### **FARC request special fund for economic reparations**

The FARC made proposals about victims, including a reparations fund managed by victims' groups, equivalent to 3% of the GDP. They also proposed a "National Plan for the Integral Reparation of Victims" with regional chapters focusing on justice, regional initiatives, and gender<sup>26</sup>, and that victims should be recognized from 1930, not from 1986 as is currently done.<sup>27</sup>

### **Guerrilla will not hand weapons over to army, but will disarm: Santos**

President Santos emphasized that disarmament will be necessary for the end of the conflict, but stated that the guerrillas will not have to hand weapons over to the army.<sup>28</sup> He also reaffirmed the importance of the military's presence to provide input to the dialogue teams in Havana, as they will be in charge of the consolidation of peace.<sup>29</sup>

### **FARC text about Clara Rojas causes controversy, Rojas resignation**

The FARC published a text claiming that Clara Rojas, kidnapped by the FARC and held for six years until 2008, was not a victim as she chose to accompany then-presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt (for whom she was an advisor) into captivity. GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle stated that this contradicts the FARC's supposed acceptance of responsibility for victims.<sup>30</sup> Rojas lamented that the guerrilla group would deny that kidnapping was a form of victimization.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/se-instala-subcomision-de-genero-los-dialogos-de-paz-articulo-515215>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-piden-crear-fondo-especial-resarcir-economicamente-articulo-515194>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-proponen-reconocer-victimas-1930-articulo-515062>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-asegura-guerrilla-no-entregara-armas-al-ejercito-articulo-514983>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/los-unicos-que-tendran-armas-seran-los-militares-santos/14487036>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-exige-farc-aclarar-escrito-sobre-clara-rojas-articulo-514395>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/congreso/es-desafortunado-que-farc-pretendan-desconocer-victimas-clara-rojas/14475968>

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The FARC responded that the text represents only the opinion of the writer, a guerrilla member who supervised Rojas when she was in captivity.<sup>32</sup>

Rojas resigned from her co-president post in the Senate Peace Commission, stating that the publicity she received last week has affected her family and compromised her role in the Commission.<sup>33</sup> De la Calle and other GOC officials lamented her resignation.<sup>34</sup>

### **New addition to the FARC dialogue team?**

Rumors are circulating that alias 'Joaquín Gómez', one of the top FARC commanders, will soon arrive in Cuba to join the guerrilla dialogue team. Gómez is considered one of the key political elements of the FARC and is expected to be viewed by the guerrilla as the counterpoint for General Flórez, who was appointed as leader of the transition command in mid-August.<sup>35</sup>

## 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>

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### **ELN insists on bilateral ceasefire**

An ELN communiqué called on the GOC to agree to a bilateral ceasefire in order to consolidate the peace process with that guerrilla group through increased trust between the two parties.<sup>36</sup>

## 4. International

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### **FARC invite USA to participate in talks**

The FARC invited the USA to participate in the peace talks in Havana. The group stated that the USA is welcome to come and debate ideas and visions of a Colombia in peace.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/carta-sobre-clara-rojas-no-una-posicion-oficial-de-farc-articulo-514844>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/congreso/no-tengo-garantias-suficientes-de-las-farc-clara-rojas/14503459>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/de-calle-lamenta-renuncia-de-clara-rojas-comision-de-pa-articulo-515540>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/joaquin-gomez-negociador-cuba-articulo-514596>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/eln-insiste-cese-el-fuego-bilateral-articulo-514800>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-invitan-eeuu-y-enemigos-de-paz-dialogar-cuba-articulo-515527>



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### 5. Other Voices

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#### **“Peace Week” began on Sunday**

The Catholic Church and civil society groups convened the 27<sup>th</sup> annual “Peace Week”, aiming to create a climate to encourage commitment to the peace process. Activities include the “With our feet on the ground” march and a call for a 100-day ceasefire until December 10<sup>th</sup>, International Human Rights Day. The events began on Sunday and last until September 14<sup>th</sup>.<sup>38</sup>

#### **Victims in Nariño request representation in Havana**

Families of 4,279 disappeared people in Nariño congregated in the town square of the capital, Pasto. They commemorated International Day of Detained and Disappeared People, and asked the GOC to ensure their representation in the next peace process delegation.<sup>39</sup>

### 6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

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#### **Financing for peace unclear**

A Senate Peace Commission debate addressed financing for the peace talks and post-conflict, concluding that the peace process has no 2015 funding. Post-conflict funds are allocated for victims’ health and education (8 billion pesos) and reparations (8 billion pesos). Five billion pesos will be added to the post-conflict budget due to new bank fees, but has yet to be allocated. Housing Minister Mauricio Cárdenas said funding for some projects remains unclear. Others said the debate must go to the Senate to clarify available funds and allocations.<sup>40</sup>

#### **Legal benefits for guerrilla will also be offered to military**

President Santos affirmed that transitional justice mechanisms providing legal benefits to ex-guerrilla will be applicable to military members who have judicial processes against them.<sup>41</sup>

#### **Private sector: fundamental component of post-conflict**

GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle highlighted the important role of the private sector in the post-conflict phase, especially in terms of rural development and opening up new

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/convocan-gran-movilizacion-paz-de-colombia-articulo-515580> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/cese-el-fuego-100-dias-articulo-515494>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/victimas-de-narino-piden-ir-a-la-habana/14475403>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/el-proceso-de-paz-estaria-desfinanciado-2015-articulo-515572> and <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/citaran-debate-ministros-por-la-plata-de-la-paz/402188-3>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-promete-beneficios-legales-guerrilleros-tambien-articulo-515160>

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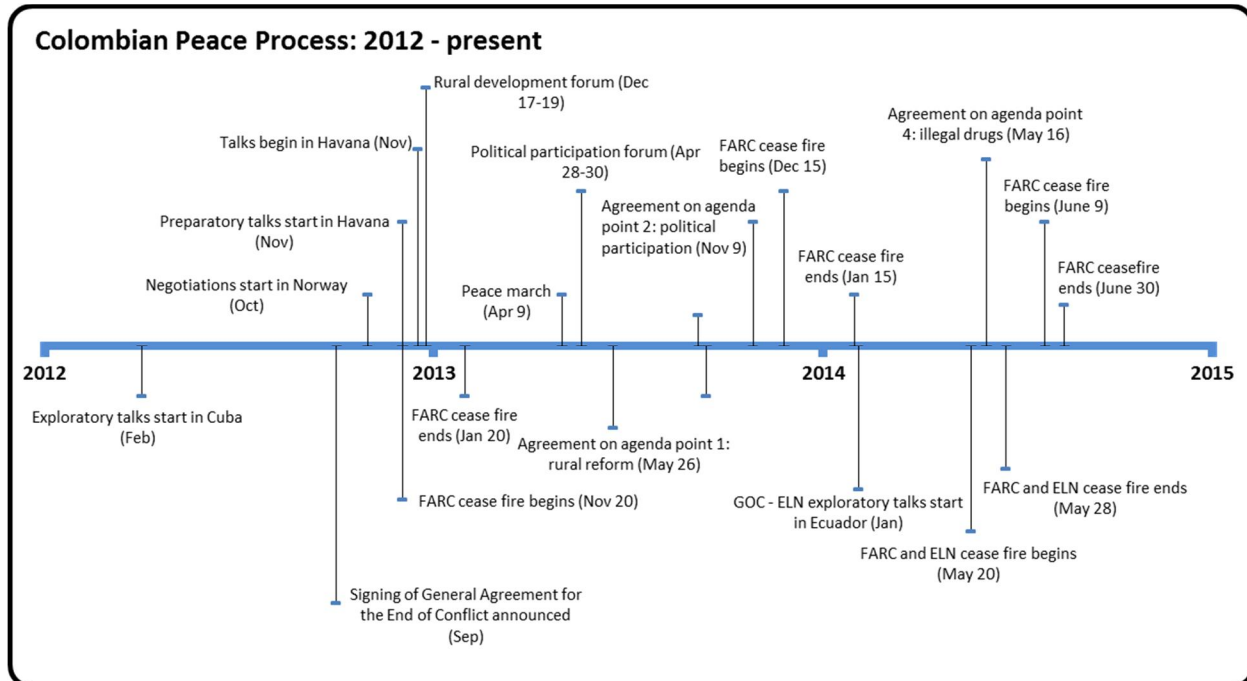
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opportunities for employment at the base of the pyramid. Frank Pearl, also a member of the dialogue team, called on the private sector to take on an active role in post-conflict society.<sup>42</sup>

### 60% of Colombians do not know about peace talks progress

President Santos stated that more than 60% of the Colombian population does not know about progress made in the GOC-FARC peace talks. He recognized that the GOC has met various challenges in trying to communicate information to the population, and expressed his hope that the new Minister of Communications, Pilar Calderón, will alleviate this problem.<sup>43</sup>

## 7. Timeline



## 8. Further Reading

ICRC emphasizes importance of agreement with ELN

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/sector-privado-elemento-fundamental-el-posconflicto-hum-articulo-514922>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-60-de-colombianos-desconoce-los-avances-del-proceso-articulo-514471>



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As ICRC Colombia Director Jordi Raich prepares for the end of his term, he was interviewed by El Tiempo. He discussed his perspective on the peace talks, the changes he has seen during his term, and his view that an agreement with the ELN is essential for peace in Colombia.<sup>44</sup>

### **Montes de María residents expressed doubts about peace**

In a Regional Meeting for Peace, community leaders and victims in Montes de María expressed skepticism about the impact of peace-related initiatives. In a meeting with High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo, they asked for a special voting conscription to give their region more of a voice, and asked about plans to modify the Peasant Reserve Zone in their area.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-14476279>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/expectativas-de-los-montemarianos-paz-articulo-515495>

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from September 10<sup>th</sup> - September 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Victims' delegation leaves Havana optimistic, request ceasefire

The delegation of 12 victims that arrived in Cuba to participate directly in the GOC-FARC peace process left optimistic about the talks. They requested an immediate bilateral ceasefire and a more rapid pace to the talks to stop further victimization, and praised the respectful attitude of the dialogue teams. Consuelo González, FARC kidnap victim, said the FARC recognized the need for guarantees of non-repetition. Teresita Gaviria, mother of a student disappeared by paramilitaries, was "satisfied" about both sides' commitment to finding the truth about this type of crime.<sup>46</sup> She stated her belief that the FARC are considering a 100-day ceasefire.<sup>47</sup>

The FARC seconded the victims' request for a bilateral ceasefire<sup>48</sup>, and a joint communiqué from the dialogue teams highlighted the crucial input of the victims. The next round of talks starts on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the next delegation of victims will go to Cuba on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/victimas-colombianas-exigen-cese-el-fuego-y-celeridad-e-articulo-515993>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-estarian-planeando-cese-el-fuego-100-dias-articulo-517151>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-piden-escuchar-reclamos-de-victimas-sobre-cese-al-articulo-516075>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/termina-nuevo-ciclo-en-cuba-y-sigue-discusion-sobre-victimas/14520040>

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### Women and LGBTQ community take a central role in the talks

The most recent round of talks saw participation by a victims' delegation composed of nine women and three men, and the initiation of a sub-commission on topics related to gender and LGBTQ. This sub-commission will make recommendations on how to best serve gender and LGBTQ interests in the final peace agreements. Its members will be confirmed in the next round of talks, which starts on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>50</sup>

### 3. International

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#### Colombian victims abroad contribute to peace process

An "International Victims' Forum" facilitated the virtual participation of victims in 20 cities including London, Madrid, Geneva, Montreal, Caracas, and Buenos Aires.<sup>51</sup> The proposals included guarantees for non-repetition, a stronger justice system, an immediate bilateral ceasefire, and others that would facilitate return to a non-violent Colombia. They also emphasized the need for an increased focus on gender in the talks.<sup>52</sup>

#### USA highlights Colombia's achievements in peace

Women leaders convened in Washington D.C. at the event "Promoters of Peace and Security", where they highlighted Colombia's achievements in the peace process and peacebuilding more generally. Blake Peterson, Special Advisor at the Department of State Office of Global Criminal Justice, reiterated the US government's commitment to supporting peace in Colombia.<sup>53</sup>

#### Ex-Vice Prime Minister of France addresses conflict

The Ex-Vice Prime Minister of France, Dominique de Villepin, spoke at an event in Bogotá. He praised Colombia's efforts to achieve peace, and highlighted the need to focus on the regions in a final peace agreement and subsequent reforms and peacebuilding initiatives. He also stated that peace will not be possible without an agreement with the ELN.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/mujeres-y-comunidad-lgtb-cobran-relevancia-proceso-paz-articulo-516090>

<sup>51</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/queremos-retornar-a-una-colombia-que-nos-quiera-recibir-victimas/14528995](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/queremos-retornar-a-una-colombia-que-nos-quiera-recibir-victimas/14528995)

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/diaspora-colombiana-contribuye-ginebra-negociaciones-de-articulo-516542> and [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/queremos-retornar-a-una-colombia-que-nos-quiera-recibir-victimas/14528995](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/queremos-retornar-a-una-colombia-que-nos-quiera-recibir-victimas/14528995)

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/estados-unidos-resalta-logros-consecucion-de-paz-colomb-articulo-516285>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/colombia-da-un-ejemplo-de-paz-articulo-517135> and [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/un-proceso-parcial-no-es-paz-ex-primer-ministro-frances-de-villepin/14543382](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/un-proceso-parcial-no-es-paz-ex-primer-ministro-frances-de-villepin/14543382)

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### 4. Other Voices

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#### **Young people ask GOC to go to Havana**

University students across the country collected 100,000 signatures to support an initiative requesting that the GOC allow a delegation of young people to go to Cuba to address the topic of youth and children. The students say this is important as young people have been heavily involved in all parts of the conflict, as both victims and members of the illegal armed groups. They are concerned about the future of young people who are currently members of the FARC and therefore at-risk of joining criminal groups after the demobilization of the group.<sup>55</sup>

### 5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

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#### **Centro Democrático aims to reform Legal Framework for Peace**

Samuel Hoyos, a representative of ex-President Uribe's Centro Democrático party, delivered a request to reform the Legal Framework for Peace. The initiative aims to place limits on the transitional justice mechanisms used to facilitate the reinsertion of ex-combatants, specifically by defining no other option but jail for those identified as responsible for grave crimes.<sup>56</sup>

#### **Uribe supporters ask that Dutch guerrilla member be expelled**

Conservative supporters of ex-President Álvaro Uribe asked that Tanja Nijmeijer, a Dutch FARC member and part of the guerrilla dialogue team, be expelled from the peace process. They requested information regarding Nijmeijer's immigration status to confirm the suspicion that she has been in Colombia illegally. This would also serve as proof that she should be expelled from the FARC dialogue team and that she cannot legally re-enter Colombia.<sup>57</sup>

#### **Stock market launches peace index**

The Colombian stock market presented an index to measure the population's interaction with the 'Soy Capaz' (I Am Capable) campaign on social media. The campaign aims to raise awareness of regional peace initiatives, and interaction with its social media components will be measured by the number of 'likes', tweets, and other indicators.<sup>58</sup>

#### **Peace could mean huge gains in GDP**

Economists from the Universidad de los Andes launched a book titled "Economic and social costs of the conflict in Colombia: How can we construct a sustainable post-conflict?" The book finds that the Colombian GDP would increase by 4.4% in the years immediately following peace, and that

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<sup>55</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/los-jovenes-quieren-ir-habana-articulo-516430>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/perspectiva-uribista-de-paz-articulo-516204>

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/uribismo-pide-guerrillera-tanja-no-se-le-de-ciudadania-articulo-516682>

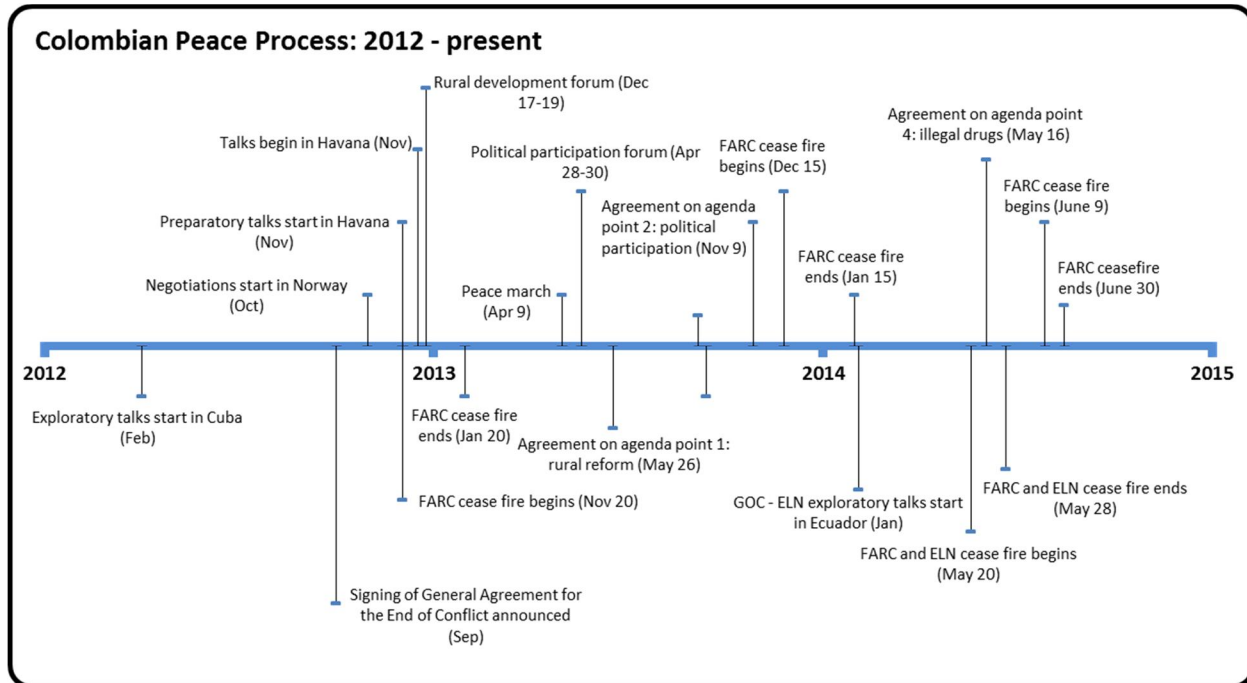
<sup>58</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/bolsa-de-valores-lanza-nuevo-indice-de-paz-articulo-517006>

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events such as high-profile kidnappings or the capture of high-ranking guerrilla commanders can directly affect Colombia's risk level and therefore its external debt.<sup>59</sup>

### 6. Timeline



### 7. Further Reading

#### Interview with member of victims' delegation

Jessica Hoyos Morales was a member of the delegation of victims who went to Havana to participate directly in the peace talks last week. In interview with *El Espectador*, she discusses the trip to Cuba, the proposals she made at the dialogue table, the controversy surrounding the inclusion of non-FARC victims in the delegation, and her optimism about the peace talks.<sup>60</sup>

#### Rojas discusses the controversy surrounding FARC letter

The FARC published a text claiming that Clara Rojas, kidnapped by the FARC and held for six years until 2008, was not a victim. In interview with *El Tiempo*, Rojas lamented that the guerrilla group

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/paz-colombia-podria-ganar-una-decada-de-crecimiento-eco-articulo-517000>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/llegue-mas-dignificada-y-mas-comprometida-paz-articulo-516386>



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denied that kidnapping was a form of victimization. She discussed her resignation from her co-president post in the Senate Peace Commission, and the victims' right to truth.<sup>61</sup>

### **Interview with Maria Emma Wills, member of Historic Commission**

Gender expert and the only woman on the Historic Commission on the Conflict and its Victims, Maria Emma Wills, was interviewed by El Tiempo. She addressed women's position in politics in Colombia, in historical memory, and in the peace process. She also discussed the Commission's responsibilities and her role as a woman within it.<sup>62</sup>

### **New Human Rights Council coordinator discusses peace process, post-conflict**

Guillermo Rivera, the new coordinator of the GOC Human Rights Council, was interviewed by El Tiempo. He discussed the need to work for a culture of peace in Colombia, in order to support possible final peace agreements. He also talked about his new responsibilities, the challenges of working in conflict zones, and his hopes for the post-conflict stage.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-no-reconocen-que-yo-fui-su-victima-clara-rojas/14533579>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/la-unica-mujer-en-la-comision-historica-del-conflicto/14545056>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/hay-que-construir-una-cultura-de-paz-guillermo-rivera/14533970>



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### 1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, initiating the fourth official peace talks with this group. The agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) guarantees for political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) illegal drugs; and 5) victims' rights. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive dialogues in Havana, on November 19, 2012. Three agreements have been reached: one on the first agenda point, integrated rural reform, on May 26, 2013; the second on the next point, political participation, on November 6, 2013; and another on the fourth agenda point, illegal drugs, on May 16, 2014.

On June 10, 2014, the GOC announced that exploratory talks with the ELN were taking place to define an agenda for peace talks. These initial meetings have been held since January 2014, and the issues of victims and societal participation are the first two agenda points. The GOC and ELN will release information on the progress of the exploratory talks as they continue.

### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from September 17<sup>th</sup> - September 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### Next round of talks begins

The 29<sup>th</sup> round of talks began on Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the FARC calling for an end to paramilitary activity in Colombia. The current topic on the agenda is victims, and the next delegation of victims will arrive in Havana on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to participate directly in the talks.<sup>64</sup>

#### Political polarization could make peace impossible: De la Calle

GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle stated that the political polarization and ongoing verbal attacks between parties could jeopardize a peace agreement. This polarization was highlighted in a Congress debate last week between ex-President (now Senator) Uribe and Senator Iván Cepeda, who represent opposing political opinions on the peace process.<sup>65</sup>

High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo seconded De la Calle, saying even though the work in the talks in Cuba is difficult, uniting society and creating an atmosphere to foster peace is even

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/se-abre-un-nuevo-ciclo-de-los-dialogos-de-paz-en-cuba/14580102>

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/congreso/los-riesgos-de-un-pais-sumido-en-la-polarizacion/14565335>

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harder.<sup>66</sup> Uribe responded that the idea that polarization could hinder peace is a “trick” that aims to hide the real reasons for possible failure of a peace agreement.<sup>67</sup>

### 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from September 17<sup>th</sup> - September 23<sup>rd</sup>

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#### European countries encourage GOC to start ELN talks

The German ambassador in Colombia, Günter Kniess, expressed his country’s hope that the GOC will begin official talks with the ELN very soon, highlighting the importance of these talks for the sustainability of peace in Colombia. French ambassador Jean-Marc Laforet supported this statement and hoped that the GOC-ELN talks will be formalized soon.<sup>68</sup>

### 4. International

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#### Santos arrives at UN with message about peace

President Santos arrived in New York for the UN General Assembly, with three central topics on his discussion agenda: peace, education, and equality. In his Monday meeting with Ban Ki-Moon to discuss peace and illegal drugs, Santos was invited to participate in a presidential summit on peace on Friday.<sup>69</sup> In his various UN meetings this week, he is expected to address ways to define the UN’s role in the post-conflict phase in Colombia.<sup>70</sup> Santos will speak at the UN general meeting on Thursday, and is expected to focus on progress in the peace process.<sup>71</sup>

Santos is expected to meet with the President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa, to compare national peacebuilding experiences. This will be especially interesting given Sri Lanka’s military, not negotiated, end to its conflict, and human rights issues since the violence officially ended.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/polarizacion-colombia-podria-hacer-inviable-acuerdo-de-articulo-517522>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/uribe-pide-al-pais-no-caer-el-engano-del-discurso-de-po-articulo-517940>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/francia-y-alemania-piden-al-gobierno-agilizar-dialogos-articulo-518147>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/colombia-participara-cumbre-mundial-sobre-misiones-de-p-articulo-518112>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/acciones-de-la-onu-en-posconflicto-se-discutiran-con-las-farc-santos/14575935>

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/paz-comercio-y-ambiente-temas-de-santos-en-ee-uu/14569063> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/esta-agenda-de-juan-manuel-santos-nueva-york-articulo-517993>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-lleva-onu-un-mensaje-de-paz-creciente-tension-in-articulo-517716>

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### 5. Other Voices

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#### **Range of religions meet to encourage reconciliation**

Representatives from a range of religions met in a symbolic demonstration of the capacity to overcome differences in the interests of peace and reconciliation. Catholics, Christians, Jews, Muslims, indigenous groups and others attended a concert by Batuta youth orchestra and expressed their hope that Colombia will achieve unity and reconciliation, and thereby peace.<sup>73</sup>

#### **Mockus discusses sectorial contributions to peace**

Former presidential candidate and ex-Mayor of Bogotá Antanas Mockus was interviewed by El Tiempo in anticipation of the event he coordinated to take place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, titled “International Conference on Citizen Culture”. In the interview, he discussed the conflict, the peace process, peace and citizen culture, and the contributions that the business, education, and artistic sectors can make to the construction of peace.<sup>74</sup>

#### **Delegation to receive Papal blessing**

One victim, one ex-guerrilla member, and one ex-paramilitary member will travel to the Vatican to receive a blessing from the Pope on Wednesday. They are accompanied by ACR Director Alejandro Eder in what aims to be a gesture of reconciliation and peace.<sup>75</sup>

#### **Perspectives on the peace process from El Caguán**

El Espectador interviewed various residents of San Vicente del Caguán, where the last formal peace process with the FARC was held in 1998. The article addresses local perspectives and skepticism about the current peace process, as well as illegal drugs and mines in the area.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> <http://www.reconciliacioncolombia.com/historias/detalle/429/abrazo-de-religiones-por-la-reconciliacion-en-colombia>

<sup>74</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/necesitamos-una-terapia-colectiva-contrala-vengeza-antanas-mockus/14569061](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/necesitamos-una-terapia-colectiva-contrala-vengeza-antanas-mockus/14569061)

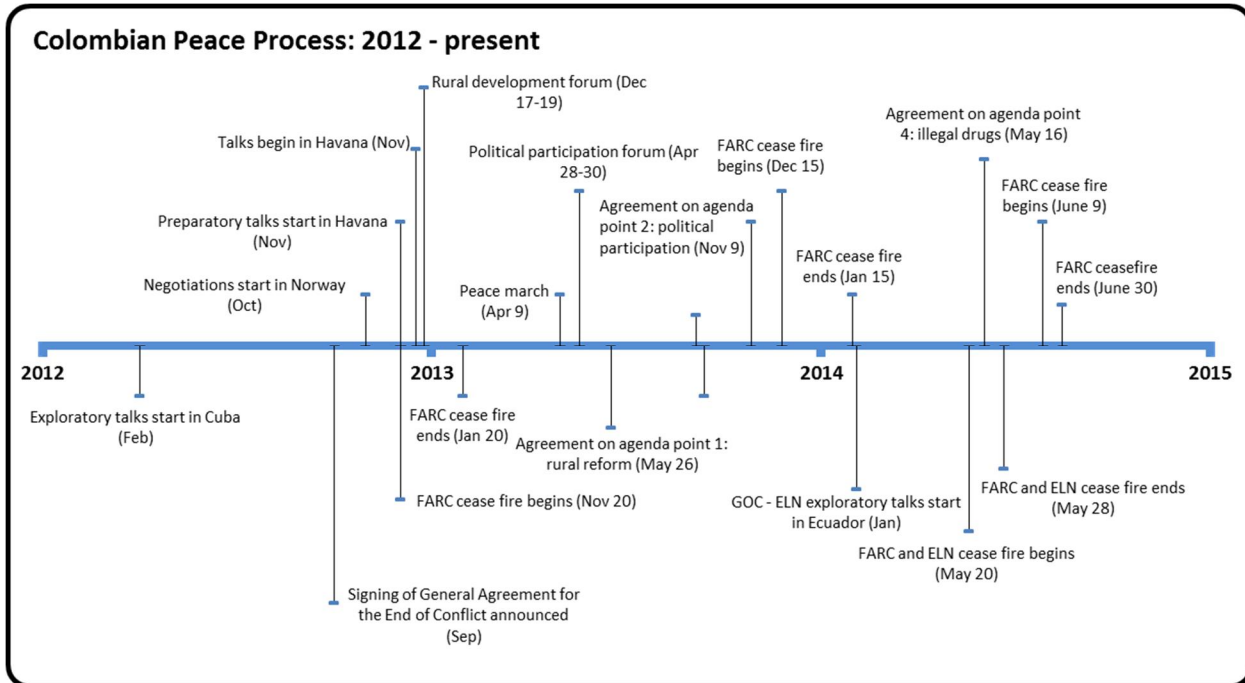
<sup>75</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/papa-francisco-bendecira-a-victimas-y-victimarios-del-conflicto-/14580735>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/del-caguan-cuba-articulo-518030>

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### 6. Timeline



### 7. Further Reading

#### Latin America is convinced that the time for armed struggle has passed: De la Calle

GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle spoke at a Colombian-American business forum in Miami. He stated his belief that there is a real possibility to bring an end to the conflict in Colombia, but that this achievement implies many great challenges still to come. He also emphasized that the FARC have lost relevance because Latin Americans have now moved past the belief that armed struggle is necessary to influence politics.<sup>77</sup>

#### El Tiempo TV to foment understanding of peace process

El Tiempo's television channel will show a series of five debate and discussions on different aspects of the peace process this week. Starting on Monday, the program "My Voice Counts in the Peace Process" will give Colombians a chance to see experts discuss victims (Monday), justice and peace (Tuesday), the demobilization of the FARC and the ELN (Wednesday), and the role of the

<sup>77</sup>[www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/hay-conviccion-en-latinoamerica-de-que-la-lucha-armada-ha-terminado/14555957](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/hay-conviccion-en-latinoamerica-de-que-la-lucha-armada-ha-terminado/14555957)



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military in the post-conflict phase (Thursday). Friday's show will include everyday Colombian citizens and ask them to express their thoughts on the peace process.<sup>78</sup>

### **FARC: We negotiate with Santos because he recognizes causes of conflict**

The FARC stated that they are negotiating with President Santos because in contrast with ex-President Uribe, Santos recognizes that there is a conflict in Colombia and admits that the causes of the conflict must be resolved.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/debates-cruciales-del-proceso-de-paz-en-serie-de-el-tiempo-television/14572355](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/debates-cruciales-del-proceso-de-paz-en-serie-de-el-tiempo-television/14572355)

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/negociamos-santos-porque-admitio-causas-del-conflicto-a-articulo-518200>