

# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

1

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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 March 18<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>

### 34<sup>th</sup> round of talks conclude

The 34<sup>th</sup> round of peace talks concluded on March 27<sup>th</sup>, with the announcement of the de-mining agreement the most important result of this round of talks.<sup>1</sup> The 35<sup>th</sup> round will begin on April 9<sup>th</sup> and run until April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Demining to begin in Antioquia and Meta

The first two regions in which the de-mining agreement will be piloted are Antioquia and Meta, which have the highest and second-highest number of land mine victims respectively. The areas in these departments where de-mining will begin have not yet been defined.<sup>2</sup>

### General Mora and Oscar Naranjo will continue as negotiators: Santos

President Santos stated March 30 that both General Mora and Oscar Naranjo will be in Havana for the next round of talks. Rumors had spread rapidly that the two would not be at the negotiating table for the next rounds.<sup>3</sup> Between the rounds of talks, General Mora will be in meetings to

<sup>1</sup> <http://hsbnoticias.com/noticias/politica/este-viernes-gobierno-y-farc-cierran-ciclo-34-de-los-dialogo-131124>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-desminado-comenzara-por-antioquia-y-meta/15477726>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/santos-molesto-por-nuevas-criticas-al-proceso-de-paz/422627-3>



## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

discuss the peace process with members of the Armed Forces; Oscar Naranjo will be working on preparations for the de-mining agreement implementation.<sup>4</sup>

### **Commission studying transitional justice measures for members of Armed Forces**

Humberto de la Calle announced on March 27<sup>th</sup> that a commission, under the leadership of President Santos, has been studying proposals for transitional justice measures to be applied to members of the Armed Forces. The commission is made up of delegates from the Ministries of Defense and Justice, from the Transitional Command of the Armed Forces, the High Commissioner for Peace's Office, and national and international experts.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Other Voices

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#### **Democratic Center Party announces reasons for opposing peace process**

The Democratic Center Party released a five-page "proposal" with the party's reasons for opposing the current model of peace talks in Havana. The party argues that peace talks have led to an increase in violence; the FARC are making a joke of the agreements; conditions for a better negotiation process; and proposals for steps to take in the immediate future.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Inspector General will continue to will not stay out of peace process debates**

After a series of criticisms by Inspector General Alejandro Ordoñez, President Santos publicly told Ordoñez to stay out of the peace process as it was the President's job and business. Ordoñez responded saying that he will continue to criticize the peace process all he wants, and that he is not using it as a way to make political gains.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/santos-molesto-por-nuevas-criticas-al-proceso-de-paz/422627-3>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/en-antioquia-meta-iniciaran-desminado/422319-3>

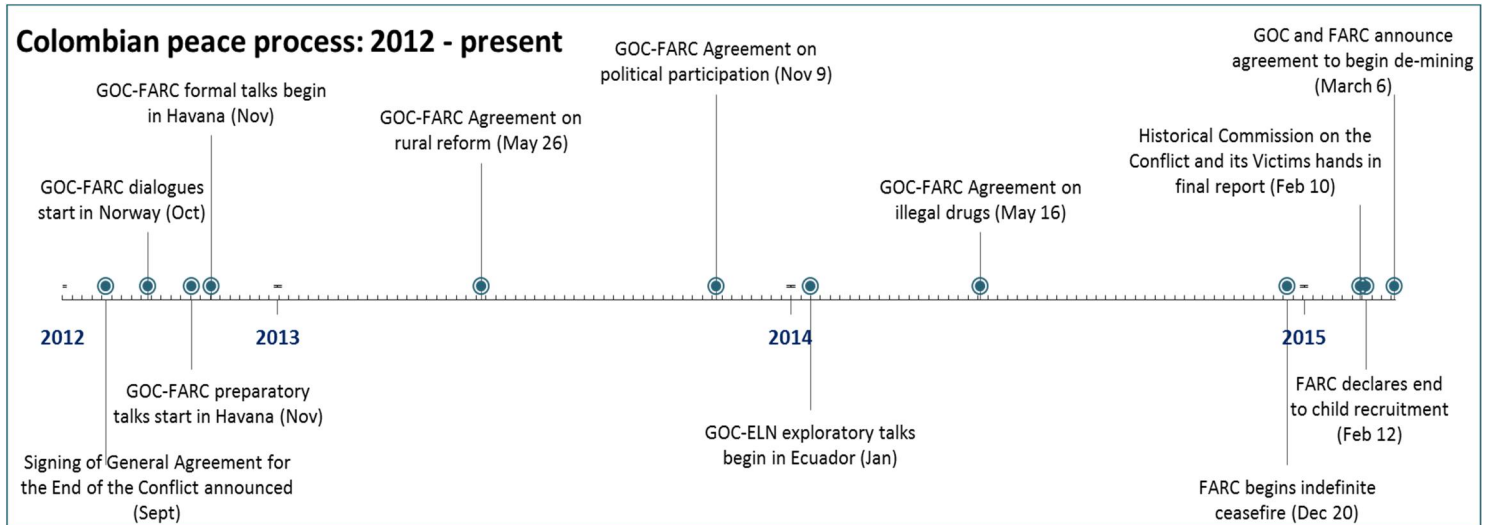
<sup>6</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/contenido/politica/proceso-de-paz/ARCHIVO/ARCHIVO-15490235-0.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-choque-entre-santos-y-ordonez-por-15477736>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

### 4. Timeline



### 5. Further Reading

#### National Development Plan may contradict GOC-FARC land agreement

Jhenifer Mojica, a lawyer who specializes in land issues, argues that parts of the National Development Plan (NDP) contradict the agreement signed by the FARC and GOC regarding integral rural reform. She makes such a point by comparing what is in the NDP, in the integral rural reform agreement and the legal framework for rural economic development.<sup>8</sup>

#### Is illegal child recruitment a human trafficking crime?

Mónica Hurtado and Lorena Del Castillo posit that child recruitment could also be a human trafficking crime because it meets two key criteria: (1) that the victim be moved geographically, and (2) that the victim be exploited in some way. The two authors also argue that combatants recruited as children who are now adults are both victims and victimizers.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/politica-y-gobierno-temas-27/8357-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-%C2%BFcontra-la-equidad-y-la-paz.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/8353-menores-en-el-conflicto-%C2%BFreclutamiento-o-trata-de-personas.html>

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April, 2015

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 8<sup>th</sup>

#### **FARC will never hold a gun again: General Mora**

In a visit to the military base in Tolemaida, Cundinamarca, GOC negotiating team member General Mora stated that this is the last chance the FARC have to sign a peace agreement. By doing so, they will have to give up their old philosophy of “all forms of struggle” – with which the group has used both military and political strategies – and abandon the use of weapons.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Next round of talks to begin April 9<sup>th</sup>**

The 35<sup>th</sup> round of peace talks will begin on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and run until April 19<sup>th</sup>. Despite reports to the contrary, President Santos confirmed once again that General Mora will return to Havana for this round of talks.<sup>11</sup>

#### **152 FARC sexual violence victims identified**

The Transitional Justice branch of the Attorney General's Office has compiled a dossier that includes 152 victims of sexual violence carried out by the FARC until now. The Eastern, Southern

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-general-r-mora-las-farc-jamas-volveran-tener-un-fusil-en-sus-manos/422839-3>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.elcolombiano.com/si-al-final-me-toca-correrme-me-corro--santos-sobre-proceso-de-paz-LA1662278>



## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

and Middle Magdalena Blocks are worst offenders, according to the dossier. Currently one of the negotiating points being discussed is that of the victims.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. International

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#### **Germany names Peace Process Commissioner**

The German government named Tom Königs on Friday as its commissioner for the peace process in Colombia. He will serve as a contact for the German government on the peace process as well as “coordinating and concentrating” German support for the peace process.

### 4. Other Voices

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#### **EPL want to join peace talks**

In a communiqué made public on Friday, the Popular Liberation Army – or EPL in Spanish – stated that it would like to join the peace talks between the GOC and FARC. The group stated that it was time that the conflict with all insurgent groups comes to an end. This group is the last dissident front of the EPL guerrilla group which demobilized in 1991 and operates in the Catatumbo region.<sup>13</sup>

#### **Demining will be incomplete without ELN: Álvaro Jiménez**

The head of the Colombian Campaign against Land Mines, Álvaro Jiménez, stated on Friday that the demining of Colombia requires ELN participation in order to be successful. He also stated that he hopes that the timeline for the demining pilot laid out by General Naranjo be fulfilled, but could understand if contingent circumstances made this impossible.<sup>14</sup>

#### **There will be 5,000,000 hectares for post-conflict: Jorge Enrique Vélez**

Jorge Enrique Vélez, the Superintendent of Notaries and Registries, stated that there will be some 5,000,000 hectares of land available to use for implementation in the post-conflict. Currently, roughly two million hectares are in the process of being “recovered.” These lands will make up part of the Land Fund, Vélez stated, and are vacant lands that belonged to the State but were obtained illegally by private owners.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/delitos-sexuales-de-las-farc/15516882>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/colombia-epl-quiere-adherirse-dialogo-de-paz/422920-3>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.vanguardia.com/colombia/305974-para-un-desminado-exitoso-se-requiere-acuerdo-con-el-eln>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-distribucion-de-tierra-durante-el-posconflicto/15517837>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

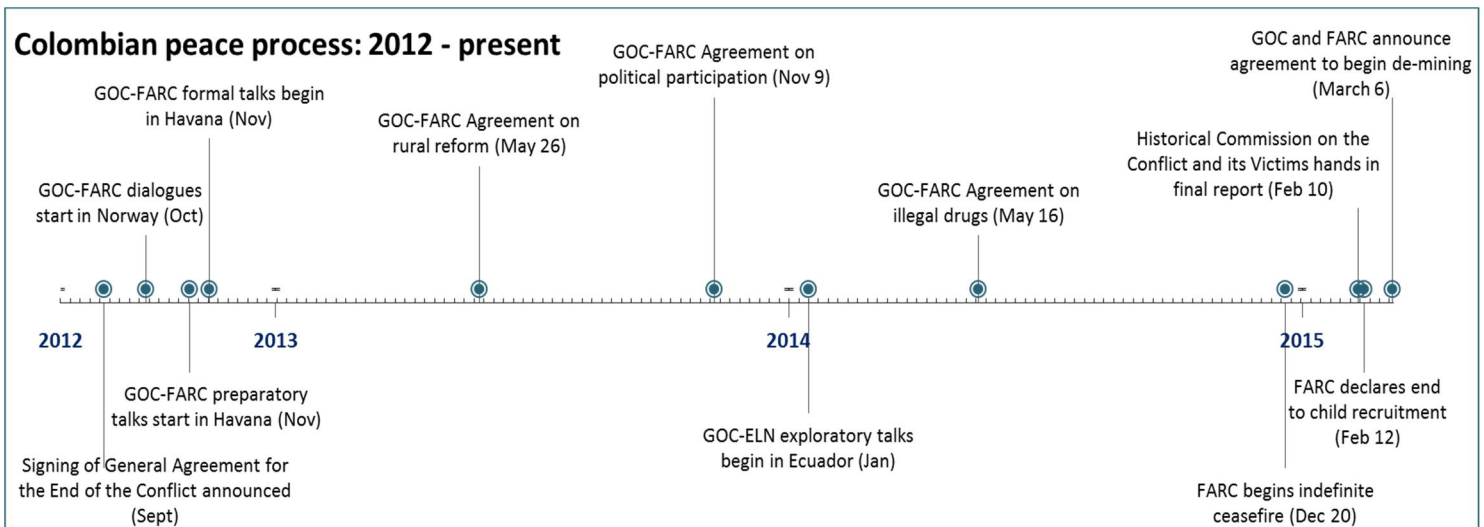
April, 2015

### 5. Emerging Challenges and Responses

#### Some FARC members' attitudes could undermine peace process

President Santos said on Tuesday that it would not be “inconvenient” to stop the peace process because of the attitudes of some FARC commanders and members. Despite his insistence in the negotiations, Santos stated that if he had to break off the dialogues with the FARC, he would, “simple as that.”<sup>16</sup>

### 6. Timeline



<sup>16</sup> <http://www.elcolombiano.com/si-al-final-me-toca-correrme-me-corro--santos-sobre-proceso-de-paz-LA1662278>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>

#### **FARC admits possibility of laying down weapons**

For the first time since the GOC-FARC peace talks began, the guerrilla group has stated its intention to lay down weapons in the case of a peace agreement and assuming guarantees for its members' political rights. Alias 'Pastor Alape', one of the FARC high commanders in Havana and the one who made the statement, said the guerrilla is not tied to its weapons but rather views them as a necessary means of political struggle while actual political participation is not possible. He said that if and when such participation is guaranteed by the implementation of a peace agreement, the group would have no further need for weapons.<sup>17</sup> This is the first time that the FARC has explicitly stated that it is willing to leave its armed campaign behind.

#### **Justice: the key obstacle to peace?**

President Santos reiterated that the GOC will not allow amnesty for the FARC, clarifying that in contrast to guerrilla groups who demobilized in the 1990s, the FARC are subject to standards that require transitional justice to be applied.<sup>18</sup> The justice debate is rumored to be delaying an agreement on victims, which has been the point of discussion for ten months – the longest time taken to reach an agreement on any of the agenda points so far. Santos said that if the FARC

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/las-farc-contempla-la-posibilidad-de-dejar-armas/424077-3>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/santos-dice-a-farc-que-no-habra-borrón-y-cuenta-nueva/15547956>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

*April, 2015*

accept transitional justice, the talks will likely have a positive ending.<sup>19</sup> Meanwhile, the guerrillas continued to insist that they will not go to jail,<sup>20</sup> and asked the GOC to open secret files pertaining to military strategies used against the FARC in Colombia's conflict.<sup>21</sup>

### **Santos extends suspension of bombing one more month**

After having announced a suspension of bombing against the FARC in March, President Santos stated his decision to extend the suspension for another month. The leader said the decision was made based on intelligence indicating that the FARC continue to uphold the ceasefire they initiated in December 2014.<sup>22</sup> The suspension of bombing of the FARC caused controversy when it was announced last month, as some opposition leaders believe it indicated that the GOC has agreed to a bilateral ceasefire before a peace agreement has been reached. Meanwhile, the CERAC think tank released a report stating that the FARC did in fact violate their ceasefire in March 2015. This information has yet to be corroborated by other sources.<sup>23</sup>

### **FARC reiterates commitment to releasing underage members**

The FARC reiterated its commitment to releasing a group of thirteen underage combatants, although they did not specify when or where this hand-over would take place. The guerrilla group had initially stated that they would release the minors in February this year, but action has yet been taken to fulfill this commitment.<sup>24</sup>

## **3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>**

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### **Uruguay reiterates offer to host ELN talks**

Upon arriving in Panama for the seventh Summit of the Americas, Uruguayan President Tabaré Vasquez reiterated his country's offer to host the GOC-ELN peace talks if and when they are made official.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-forcejeo-en-la-habana/15554498>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-rechazan-se-les-aplique-justicia-disenada-bandas-c-articulo-554244>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-piden-que-abra-archivos-secretos-/15547816>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-prorroga-un-mes-mas-suspension-de-bombardeos-con-articulo-554051>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/informe-sostiene-farc-violaron-alto-al-fuego-marzo-articulo-554907>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-reiteran-entregaran-13-menores-estan-sus-filas-articulo-554923>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/uruguay-reitera-ofrecimiento-para-ser-sede-de-dialogo-con-eln/15544255>





# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

## 4. International

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### **Santos and Obama discuss peace talks at Americas Summit**

Presidents Santos (Colombia) and Obama (USA) met at the seventh Summit of the Americas to discuss US Envoy Bernard Aronson's perceptions of the peace talks since his selection in February this year.<sup>26</sup> Obama highlighted progress made in the dialogues and his optimism for peace in Colombia, noting Aronson's appointment as a sign that the two countries have similar hopes for the talks.<sup>27</sup> The Summit has provided space for demonstrations of broad support for the GOC-FARC peace talks from regional leaders,<sup>28</sup> which were welcomed by the FARC<sup>29</sup>.

### **UN representatives visit Colombia to learn about peace**

UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman and PNUD Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean Jessica Faieta are in Colombia to learn about progress in the peace talks and other related initiatives. The two representatives are also expected to discuss possible UN post-conflict support with GOC officials. Earlier this week, they visited Tumaco and learnt about local authorities' and civil society's hopes for peace.<sup>30</sup> UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Flavia Pansieri will also visit Colombia next week to discuss human rights and the post-conflict phase.<sup>31</sup>

## 5. Other Voices

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### **March in support of victims shows optimism about peace**

Marches were held on Thursday in cities across the country in support of conflict victims. In Bogotá, 300,000 people took to the streets, including President Santos, Bogotá Mayor Petro, politicians, and indigenous and other community leaders from around the country. Santos and Petro met at the new site of the Center for Historical Memory to lay its first brick. Many praised

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<sup>26</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/cumbre-de-las-americas-panama-dialogo-con-las-farc-tema-clave-entre-santos-y-obama-15550876](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/cumbre-de-las-americas-panama-dialogo-con-las-farc-tema-clave-entre-santos-y-obama-15550876)

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/obama-destaca-santos-los-progresos-el-proceso-de-paz-co-articulo-554463>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/lideres-continenciales-brindan-espaldarazo-negociaciones-articulo-554521>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-agradece-apoyo-de-cumbre-de-panama-proceso-paz-articulo-554533>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/altos-cargos-de-onu-visitan-colombia-conocer-avances-de-articulo-554706>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/alta-comisionada-adjunta-los-derechos-humanos-de-onu-vi-articulo-554905>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

the event as an illustration of the unity with which Colombians support peace. Other cities that held marches included Cali, Medellín, Barranquilla, and Bucaramanga.<sup>32</sup>

### 6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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#### **National Development Plan includes rural reform points**

The recently-published National Development Plan includes various components based on points from the rural reform agreement reached by the GOC and FARC dialogue teams in May 2013. La Silla Vacía identified three main areas that stem directly from the agreement: updating of the land titling system; resolution of state absence in rural areas; and creation of a new land authority by the President. National Planning Director Simon Gaviria worked directly with the GOC dialogue team to formulate these parts of the Plan, although the language used in the document varies slightly from the terms used in the agreement itself.<sup>33</sup>

#### **District Administration proposes dialogue team football match**

The Bogotá District Administration proposed that the GOC and FARC dialogue teams play a football match for peace. The match would take place in Havana and be a demonstration of unity and coexistence to stimulate the same characteristics in Colombian society.<sup>34</sup>

### 7. Further Reading

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#### **Americas Barometer shows increase in openness to reconciliation**

The yearly survey taken by the Americas Barometer showed that Colombians are now more open to working with demobilized people than they were one year ago. In 2013, 36.6% of those surveyed responded that they would accept a demobilized person working in the same space as them. This figure rose to 53.3% in 2014. Increases were also seen in the percentage who would accept that their children had friends who were children of demobilized people, and the percentage who would accept having a neighbor who was demobilized.<sup>35</sup>

#### **LGBTQI population invisible in peace talks?**

Verdad Abierta published an article highlighting the invisibility of the LGBTQI population so far in the peace talks. The publication discusses discrimination against homosexual members of the

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/marcha-por-las-victimas-y-la-paz/15545055> and <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/marcha-por-victimas-del-conflicto-armado/15539357>

<sup>33</sup> <http://lasillavacia.com/historia/simon-planta-la-primera-semilla-de-la-habana-49929>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/proponen-partido-de-futbol-entre-equipo-negociador-y-go-articulo-554798>

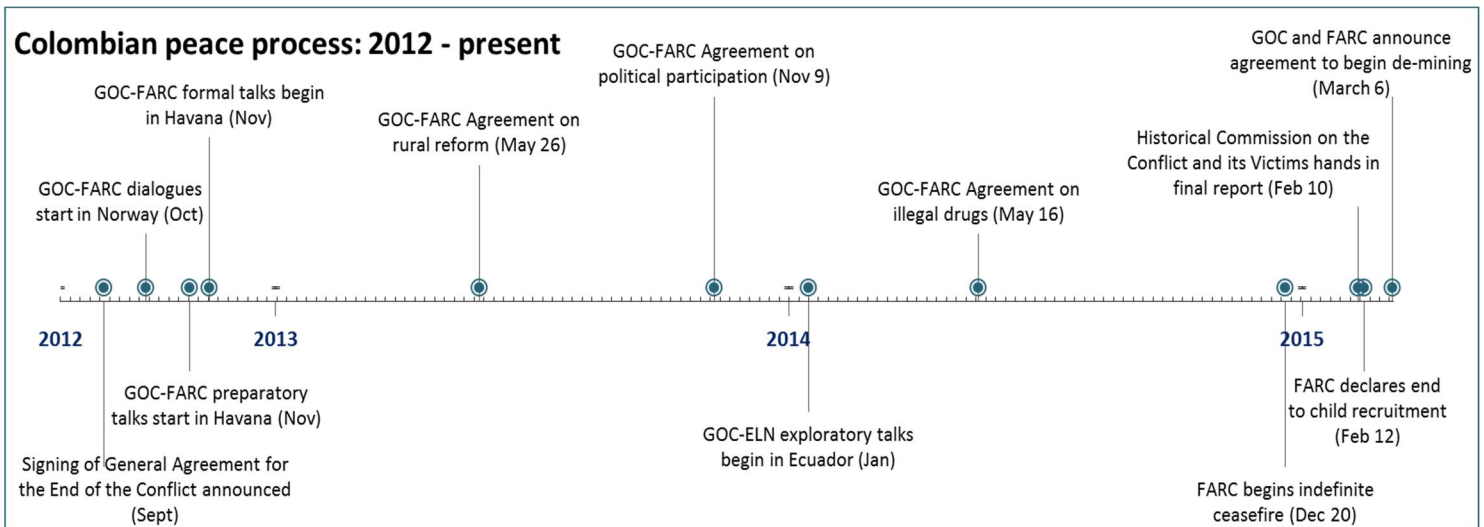
<sup>35</sup> <http://www.reconciliacioncolombia.com/historias/detalle/800/colombianos-hoy-son-mas-receptivos-a-la-reconciliacion>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

FARC, the fact that the Historical Commission on the Conflict and its Victims did not mention LGBTQI issues, and the widespread lack of acknowledgement of discrimination against the LGBTQI community in institutions associated with the peace talks and transitional justice in Colombia.<sup>36</sup>

### 8. Timeline



<sup>36</sup> <http://www.verdadabierta.com/violencia-sexual/5710-la-homofobia-de-las-farc>

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April, 2015

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from April 15<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>

#### FARC attack threatens peace talks

After the FARC's nighttime attack that killed 11 soldiers in Cauca last week, there has been outcry from all sides of the political spectrum questioning both FARC commitment to the talks and the GOC's decision to reinstate bombing against the guerrilla group. GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle stressed that the FARC had broken their unilateral ceasefire and public trust, thereby affecting their credibility in the talks and putting the dialogues themselves in crisis.<sup>37</sup> President Santos criticized the FARC extensively and called for them to commit to peace and agree to a time limit on the talks, as Colombia's patience is running out.<sup>38</sup>

Inspector General Alejandro Ordoñez and Vice President German Vargas Lleras agreed that an exact date for the end of the talks must be agreed, as Colombians are desperate for the FARC to cease attacks.<sup>39</sup> Ex-President Alvaro Uribe and General Jaime Lasprilla highlighted that the FARC lied to the Colombian people, and Uribe opined that the GOC should suspend the talks.<sup>40</sup> The Conservative Party concurred that there should be a time limit on the dialogues.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-han-lastimado-confianza-gobierno-articulo-556034>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/santos-exige-a-las-farc-voluntad-de-paz/15604976>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/el-pais-ha-llegado-un-punto-de-desconcierto-el-proceso-articulo-555629> and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/vargas-lleras-propone-fijar-fechas-limites-al-proceso-d-articulo-555352>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/uribe-pide-santos-hacer-una-pausa-negociacion-farc-articulo-555363> and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/farc-defraudaron-confianza-de-los-colombianos-comandant-articulo-555318>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/conservadores-respaldan-plazos-dialogos-de-habana-y-pid-articulo-556085>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

The FARC criticized the GOC for reinitiating bombing, and insisted that the dialogues continue, arguing the attack was a defensive against military threats.<sup>42</sup> Politician Ivan Cepeda agreed, and said the GOC should agree to a bilateral ceasefire, not increase efforts against the FARC.<sup>43</sup>

### Sub-Commission on End of Conflict continues talks

The Sub-Commission on the End of the Conflict, comprised of 10 GOC military representatives and 10 FARC representatives, continued discussions this week despite controversy surrounding the guerrilla group's attack on the armed forces in Cauca.<sup>44</sup> The technical Sub-Commission is in charge of providing input to the dialogue teams on topics including disarmament, demobilization, and other related issues.

### 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from April 15<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>

#### 4. International

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##### Villalobos speaks of FARC “military cowardice”

Salvadoran former guerrilla member and politician Joaquin Villalobos published an article criticizing the FARC for their attack in Cauca. Villalobos called it a case of “military cowardice and political clumsiness” as public opinion of the FARC – and the talks – has turned to their disadvantage. He also said it was impossible for the FARC to have been on the defense as they claim, and called on them to end their armed campaign.<sup>45</sup>

##### US supports re-initiation of bombing of FARC

The US government made a statement condemning the FARC's attack on the Colombian armed forces last week, supporting the GOC's decision to reinitiate bombing of the guerrilla group.<sup>46</sup> Secretary of State John Kerry reiterated US support for the talks and for peace in Colombia,<sup>47</sup> while his Deputy, Roberta Jacobson, joined the national and international chorus requesting a time limit for peace talks with the FARC.<sup>48</sup>

##### UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights urges time limit for talks

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Flavia Pansieri highlighted the need for urgent assistance to victims of the conflict, especially given last week's attack. She called on the GOC and

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-critica-santos-reanudar-bombardeos-articulo-555347> and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/dialogos-de-paz-no-pueden-romperse-ningun-motivo-timoch-articulo-555502>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/ivan-cepeda-pide-santos-reconsiderar-regreso-de-bombard-articulo-555389>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/militares-y-farc-retoman-cuba-reunion-tecnica-de-fin-co-articulo-555798>

<sup>45</sup> [http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2015/04/18/actualidad/1429373498\\_565231.html](http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2015/04/18/actualidad/1429373498_565231.html)

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/eeuu-apoya-reanudacion-de-bombardeos-contra-farc-articulo-555687>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/estados-unidos-respalda-proceso-de-paz-de-colombia/15605235>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/secretaria-de-estado-adjunta-de-eeuu-latinoamerica-tamb-articulo-556302>

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

FARC dialogue teams to agree to a deadline by which the peace talks will be finished, saying that the Colombian people should not be made to wait any longer for peace.<sup>49</sup>

### Ex-President Samper asks UNASUR to support peace

Ex-President of Colombia turned Secretary General of UNASUR asked the organization's members to support peace talks and other initiatives to bring an end to the conflict in Colombia. He stated that this support is crucial at difficult times such as this, and urged the FARC to stop all hostilities immediately to demonstrate their commitment to peace.<sup>50</sup> This week's UNASUR meeting addressed peace-related issues such as the possibility that the entity could provide disarmament support and the nature of a future truth commission.<sup>51</sup>

### South Korea expresses optimism over peace talks

South Korean President Park Geun-hye was in Colombia last week to meet with President Santos. Their agenda included bilateral trade agreements and the GOC-FARC peace process, which Park hoped would have a positive outcome.<sup>52</sup>

## 5. Other Voices

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### Civil society groups stress need for end to conflict

In the midst of controversy surrounding the FARC attack on the military last week, various civil society groups are expressing how they wish the GOC-FARC peace process to proceed. Movice, an organization of victims of the State, made a statement urging the two sides to agree to a bilateral ceasefire.<sup>53</sup> Meanwhile, a group of people tried to block President Santos' entry to an event in Medellín, protesting the attack and the GOC's previous suspension of bombing of the FARC.<sup>54</sup> In addition, representatives of the Catholic Church in Cúcuta advised the FARC to take responsibility for their brutal actions and admit their error.<sup>55</sup>

## 6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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### Experiences of reconciliation lend lessons to Colombia

Ex-combatants, victims, and other representatives of Kenya, Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Northern Ireland, and the Philippines were at a South-South cooperation event in Pereira last week. There, they shared their experiences and lessons learned about

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<sup>49</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/alta-comisionada-de-la-onu-para-los-derechos-humanos-en-colombia/15605969>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/samper-pide-apoyo-el-gobierno-de-colombia-favor-del-pro-articulo-555759>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/8403-las-propuestas-de-unasur-para-la-paz-en-colombia.html>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/corea-del-sur-transmite-su-apoyo-al-proceso-de-paz-colo-articulo-555737>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/movice-pide-cese-bilateral-al-fuego-cesar-perdida-de-vi-articulo-556090>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/medellin/protesta-contra-santos-en-medellin/15602200>

<sup>55</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/muerte-de-militares-en-el-cauca-iglesia-catolica-en-cucuta-insta-a-las-farc-a-reconocer-su-error/15585197](http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/muerte-de-militares-en-el-cauca-iglesia-catolica-en-cucuta-insta-a-las-farc-a-reconocer-su-error/15585197)

## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

reconciliation in their countries. Among the lessons discussed were the need for democratic participation and for a time limit to the peace talks.<sup>56</sup>

### 7. Further Reading

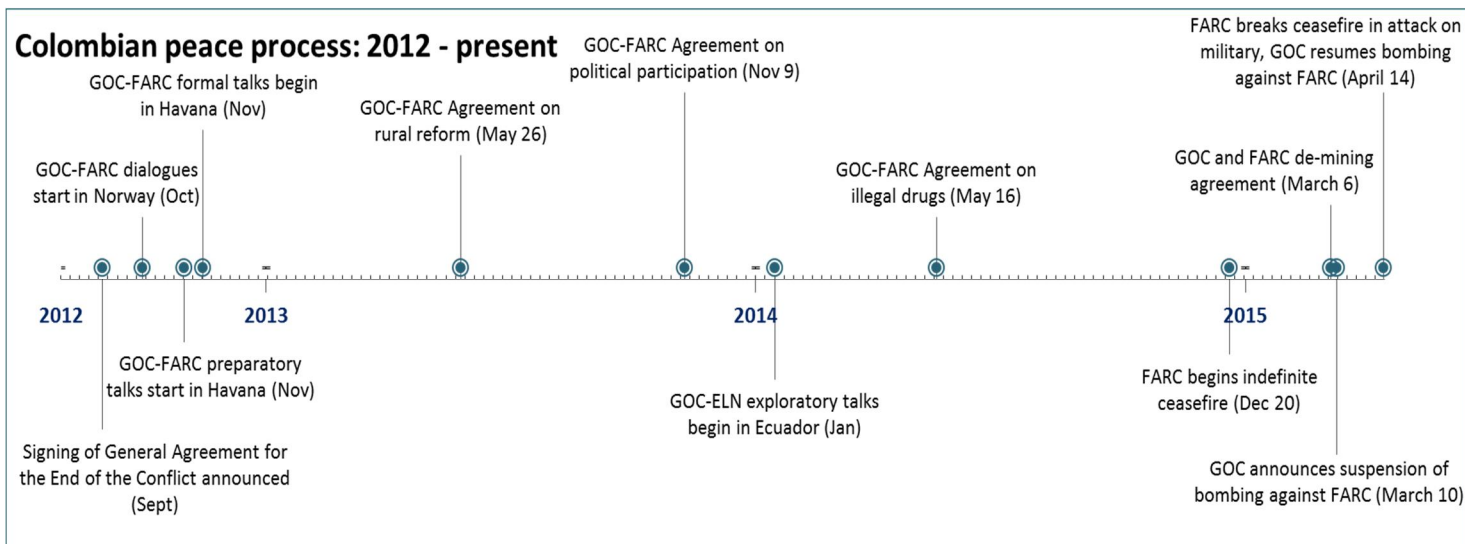
#### International news sources address FARC attack

International news sources discussed the FARC attack in Cauca last week. The Guardian cited UN Representative in Colombia Fabrizio Hoschild as saying that the attack represents a great setback for the peace talks.<sup>57</sup> The New York Times discussed the effect of the attack not only on progress in the talks, but also on public opinion of the peace process.<sup>58</sup>

#### Women: the key to peace in Colombia?

Foreign Policy published an article analyzing women's role in the conflict and post-conflict phase in Colombia. The article emphasizes the need to include women in all aspects of the peace process and implementation phases, and especially the importance of taking their characteristics and objectives into account in the reintegration of ex-combatants.<sup>59</sup>

### 8. Timeline



<sup>56</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-seis-casos-de-reconciliacion-para-aprender-en-colombia/15602795>

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/15/ten-colombian-soldiers-killed-farc-rebels>

<sup>58</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/16/world/americas/colombia-attack-attributed-to-farc-threatens-peace-talks.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/16/world/americas/colombia-attack-attributed-to-farc-threatens-peace-talks.html?_r=0)

<sup>59</sup> [http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/20/are-women-the-key-to-peace-in-colombia-farc-talks/?utm\\_content=bufferb4e90&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer&wp\\_login\\_redirect=0](http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/20/are-women-the-key-to-peace-in-colombia-farc-talks/?utm_content=bufferb4e90&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&wp_login_redirect=0)

# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

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April 29, 2015.

## 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 April 22<sup>nd</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>

### Controversy about FARC attack continues

While the GOC and FARC dialogue teams sit down to begin the next round of talks,<sup>60</sup> President Santos requested that the FARC ask for forgiveness for the attack that killed eleven soldiers in Cauca two weeks ago. He highlighted that the State has taken responsibility for violence that affected civilians in the past, and that the FARC should do the same for this and many other human rights violations they have committed.<sup>61</sup> Meanwhile, UN Resident Coordinator in Colombia Fabrizio Hoschild said the FARC must provide an explanation of why they carried out this attack, in order to contribute to resolving the harm it caused to the peace process.<sup>62</sup>

The FARC themselves published an open letter to President Santos, stating that the death of the soldiers had been a tragedy, and expressing disagreement over Santos' widely supported idea that a timeline for the peace process must be agreed.<sup>63</sup> Left-leaning political group "Broad Front for

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-gobierno-y-farc-retoman-negociaciones-en-la-habana/15645535>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-espera-farc-pidan-perdon-ataque-soldados-cauca-articulo-556845>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/si-farc-no-hacen-autocritica-se-puede-danar-aun-mas-el-articulo-556453>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/carta-abierta-de-las-farc-a-santos/15623255>



## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

Peace” admitted that the FARC broke its unilateral ceasefire but said this occurred due to the imminent threat posed by the armed forces operation in the area of the attack.<sup>64</sup>

### **Santos: bilateral ceasefire would favor FARC**

Human rights groups and civil society entities have called on the GOC to agree to a bilateral ceasefire with the FARC. President Santos reiterated the GOC’s rejection of this idea, saying that a bilateral ceasefire would leave citizens exposed to FARC violence if the peace talks fail.<sup>65</sup>

### **Truth Commission, not containment zones, under discussion**

After the media circulated rumors that the FARC would be contained in 20 specific areas in the case of their demobilization, President Santos clarified that such a proposal has not been discussed at the dialogue table. He went on to affirm that no plans for demobilization have yet been confirmed.<sup>66</sup> Instead, the dialogue teams have been working on defining the structure and objectives of a future Truth Commission.<sup>67</sup>

## 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from April 22<sup>nd</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>

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### **ELN says dialogue agenda almost ready**

A statement by ELN commander ‘Gabino’ affirmed that the group and the GOC have agreed on 80% of the necessary dialogue agenda, and hope to begin official talks soon. He agreed with the FARC’s stance on sentencing, stating that high commanders will not go to jail.<sup>68</sup>

## 4. International

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### **Mújica will not serve as GOC-FARC mediator**

Spanish newspaper El Mundo reported that Uruguayan ex-President Mújica will soon travel to Cuba to serve as mediator in the GOC-FARC peace talks. President Santos denied this claim, expressing his thanks to Mújica for his ongoing support of the talks, but clarifying that the ex-President has no formal role in the peace process with the FARC.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/frente-amplio-paz-reconoce-farc-rompio-tregua-articulo-556644>

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/cese-bilateral-dejaria-expuesto-al-pais-si-proceso-frac-articulo-556897>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-aclara-no-ha-evaluado-zonas-de-concentracion-m-articulo-556691>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-los-avances-de-la-comision-de-la-verdad-en-la-habana/15629939>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/dialogos-con-el-eln/15621976>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-agradece-contribuciones-de-mujica-aclara-no-medi-articulo-556725>



# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

## 5. Other Voices

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### High Commissioner for Peace highlights private sector peace issues

High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo addressed issues relating to the private sector and post-conflict. He stated that businesspeople who funded or have been otherwise linked to illegal armed groups will be investigated under transitional justice measures,<sup>70</sup> and encouraged the private sector to become involved in peacebuilding efforts, especially in ex-combatant reintegration where businesses can provide training and jobs.<sup>71</sup> Jaramillo also asked that peace become less political, and instead be an objective and concern shared by all political parties.<sup>72</sup>

### Corruption is the worst enemy of peace: Naranjo

Post-Conflict Minister General Oscar Naranjo spoke at a forum last week, stressing the need to strengthen local, regional, and national institutions in order to avoid corruption and the negative effects it could have on peace. He also stated the need for Colombians at all levels and sectors of society to be involved in peacebuilding efforts in the post-conflict phase.<sup>73</sup>

### ACR Director discusses reintegration and peace

The Director of the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR) Joshua Mitrotti, was interviewed by El Espectador. In the article, he highlights the importance of a strong and effective reintegration process in the post-conflict phase, and states that even if the FARC do not enter the ACR's process, the Agency has many lessons to contribute to a new reintegration process as well as continuing to reintegrate the participants already in the program.<sup>74</sup>

## 6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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### Contradictions over referendum continue

Politicians have made conflicting statements about two issues that have caused rumors in recent months. Attorney General Eduardo Montealegre reaffirmed that Congress is searching for ways to give the President special powers to decide and influence peace-related issues and transitional

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<sup>70</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/hay-coger-el-toro-los-cuernos-comisionado-de-paz-articulo-556552>

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/comisionado-de-paz-pide-empresarios-aportar-mas-posconf-articulo-556479>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/comisionado-de-paz-pide-sacar-paz-de-politica-articulo-556737>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/corrupcion-el-peor-enemigo-construccion-de-paz-general-articulo-557344>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-verdadero-proceso-de-paz-reinsercion-articulo-557402>

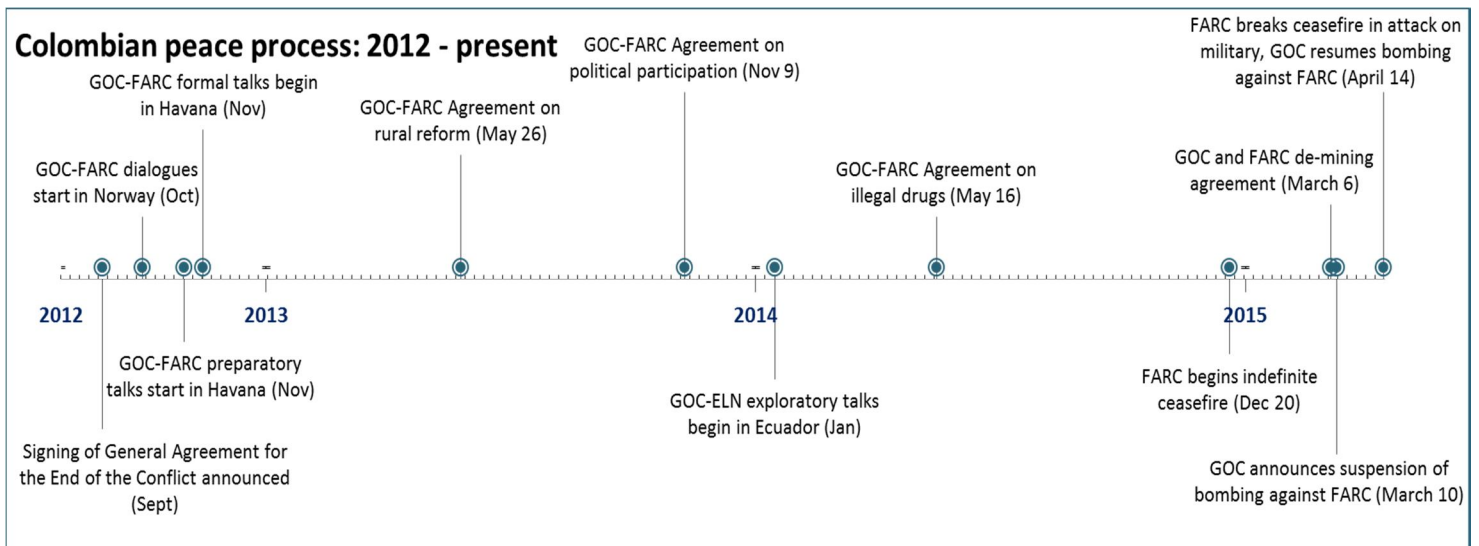
## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2015

justice. He also said that there is still time for a referendum to be held in October, to coincide with local elections.<sup>75</sup> However, Minister of the Interior Juan Fernando Cristo denied both assertions.<sup>76</sup>

La Silla Vacía claims that Montealegre and ex-President Gaviria continue to push for a referendum and special capacities for the President. The publication says that the idea behind the referendum is to approve special presidential capacities so that when there is a final agreement, it does not have to go through Congress in order to be implemented.<sup>77</sup>

### 7. Timeline



### 8. Further Reading

#### Analysis of the GOC and FARC discourses

Analyst Juan Carlos Palou analyzed GOC and FARC discourses this week, concluding that the FARC have lost confidence at the dialogue table and decreased in favor in the national and international arenas. Meanwhile, he says, GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle's speech, which was very hard on the FARC after the recent attack in Cauca, indicates that the GOC have lost some public support but are coming out on top in the dialogues.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/fiscal-confirma-buscan-poderes-especiales-santos-tema-d-articulo-556833>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/no-habra-referendo-el-25-de-octubre-ni-una-ley-habilita-articulo-556256>

<sup>77</sup> <http://lasillavacia.com/historia/el-referendo-del-fiscal-esta-muerto-los-problemas-estan-vivos-50110>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/8426-¿que-hubo-y-que-sigue-tras-el-ataque-guerrillero-en-el-cauca.html>



## Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

*April, 2015*

### **US Deputy Secretary of State discusses crop spraying, peace process**

US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken was interviewed by El Tiempo. In the article, he discusses the dangers of crop spraying as a form of illegal crop eradication, his hopes for the GOC-FARC peace process, and the US' continued support for Colombia.<sup>79</sup> In a separate event, Blinken confirmed that the US would invest \$5 million in demining efforts in Colombia in the close future.<sup>80</sup>

### **Three former peace process participants discuss strategies**

El Tiempo interviewed a former founding member of El Salvador's FMLN, a participant in the Phillipines peace process, and a former member of the IRA about their thoughts on bilateral ceasefires and the importance of public opinion for peace processes. All three lent lessons learned and perspectives on their respective processes, but emphasized that each process is different and Colombia should do what is best for the country.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/fumigacion-de-cultivos-ilicitos-con-glifosato-entrevista-con-subsecretario-de-estado-de-estados-unidos/15643395](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/fumigacion-de-cultivos-ilicitos-con-glifosato-entrevista-con-subsecretario-de-estado-de-estados-unidos/15643395)

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/eeuu-invertira-us-5-millones-desminado-colombia-articulo-557318>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/foro-mundial-de-reintegracion/15613455>