



Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

November, 2013

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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, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) the guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive negotiations, in Havana, on November 19, 2012. An agreement on the first point on the agenda, integrated rural reform, was announced on May 26, 2013.

2. Key Developments from October 30 to November 5

Photos of FARC on yacht cause controversy

Ex-President Uribe used Twitter to publish photos of FARC negotiators on a yacht in Cuba and in tourist sites around Havana. The images caused outcry over the perceived waste of tax money spent on accommodating FARC negotiators in Cuba, and the fact that while they are enjoying tourist luxuries, their guerrilla group is still fighting. FARC leaders confirmed that the photos are real, and said they have a right to rest after working long days in the negotiations.¹

In addition to Uribe's criticism, negative comments from other politicians have included a request from Vice President Garzón that the FARC "send photos of peace" instead of images of them on vacation.² Politician and ex-M-19 guerrilla member Antonio Navarro also stated that FARC negotiators should be working on a peace agreement and not riding around on a yacht.³

Other voices, like that of Rubén Salazar, the National Cardinal of Colombia, said that the weight of the photo was overstated. What really is important according to Salazar is that the FARC and GOC come to agreements to end the armed conflict.⁴

De la Calle talks to the private sector about reintegration

GOC negotiator Humberto de la Calle appeared in a video played to more than 200 attendees at a "Business for Peace" event in Bogotá. He stated that there is space for the private sector to impact the successful reintegration of ex-combatants by creating jobs for demobilized people and contributing innovative models for public policies that facilitate reintegration.⁵

¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/aparecen-nuevas-fotos-del-supuesto-turismo-de-farc-cuba-articulo-456440> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-justifican-foto-de-descanso-habana-articulo-456430>

² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/vicepresidente-angelino-garzn-pidi-a-las-farc-que-manden-la-foto-de-la-paz_13160596-4

³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/politico-y-exguerrillero-pide-farc-trabajar-mas-y-desca-articulo-456477>

⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/vida-de-hoy/religion/ARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-13161910.html

⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/piden-a-empresarios-que-se-comprometan-con-el-posconflicto_13151764-4



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FARC criticize military breach of protocol

The FARC criticized the armed forces' breach of protocol during the liberation of Kevin Scott last week, when two military planes flew over the area agreed upon for the hand-over of the kidnapped U.S. ex-marine. The guerrilla group drew attention to the fact that the GOC forces had broken this agreed-upon rule even while operating in a context of trust in the peace negotiations in Cuba.⁶

3. Negotiations & Agenda

FARC and GOC close to agreement on political participation

After adjusting the negotiation methodology two weeks ago, the GOC and FARC declared on Friday that they would prolong the current round of talks until Monday, instead of finishing on Saturday as planned. On Monday, they said they have 90% of an agreement on political participation, and that negotiations will continue through Tuesday and possibly Wednesday.⁷

Illicit drugs – the next agenda topic

The next topic on the GOC-FARC negotiations agenda is illicit drugs. Political scientist Rodrigo Uprimny wrote an analysis of this issue, examining drug production's economic role in the conflict, the cost of prohibiting certain drugs, and crop fumigation and alternative policies.⁸

4. International

UK organizations ask Uribe to trust in the peace process

The UK-based RED and Plan Perdón foundations, which support the peace process, sent a letter to ex-President Uribe. They expressed confidence that the dialogues are going well, and hope that Uribe and all Colombians can support a positive outcome of the negotiations.⁹ The letter was sent while Uribe was in the UK giving a talk at the University of London, where his arrival was the subject of protests from students who support the GOC-FARC peace process and oppose his opinions on the negotiations.¹⁰

Context note: Plan Perdón's objective is to disseminate stories of forgiveness that occurred in the context of the armed conflict. RED, or "Rodeemos el Diálogo" (Let us surround the dialogue) is an organization of Britain-based Colombians who wish to raise awareness of and support for the peace process in Europe.

⁶ <http://www.pazfarc-ep.org/index.php/noticias-comunicados-documentos-farc-ep/estado-mayor-central-emc/1541-otra-violacion-a-los-protocolos-acordados.html>

⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-punto-sobre-participacion-politica_13160278-4

⁸ <http://razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/7170-pensar-el-problema-de-las-drogas-junto-a-la-paz.html>

⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/reino-unido-le-piden-uribe-confie-dialogos-de-habana-articulo-455859>

¹⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/uribe-asegura-acudio-sin-escultas-universidad-de-londre-articulo-456558>



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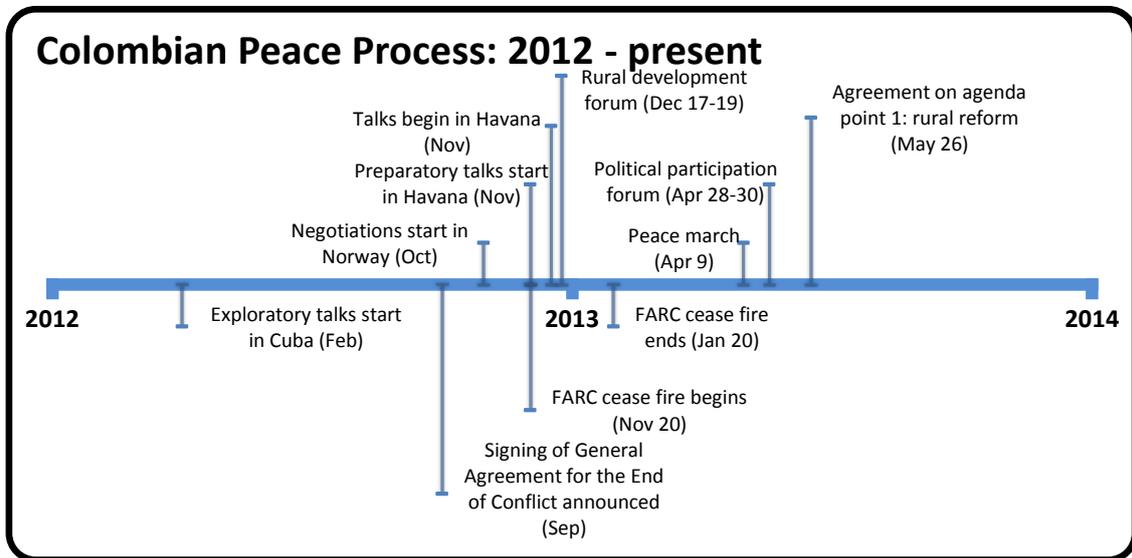
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5. Other Voices

Children not taken into account in peace agreements

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, director of the organization Early Years, which works with children affected by conflict, visited Colombia last week. In interview with El Tiempo, Fitzpatrick discussed the effects of conflict on children, the lack of attention paid to young people in peace agreements, the need to emphasize children’s needs in peacebuilding, and the culture of peace created in her native Northern Ireland after the peace agreement there.¹¹

6. Timeline



7. Further Reading

FARC poem to Uribe

The FARC published a poem dedicated to ex-President Uribe and his followers. The work is an ironic criticism of the political right and those who oppose the peace process in Colombia.¹²

¹¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-de-el-tiempo-a-siobhan-fitzpatrick_13151635-4

¹² <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/el-poema-de-farc-al-procurador-y-uribe-articulo-455985>



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2. Key Developments from November 13 to November 20

Afro-Colombian woman appointed to GOC team

President Santos announced that Nigeria Rentería, the High Council for Women's Equity, will replace Luis Carlos Villegas on the GOC team. This appointment responds to calls for increased representation of women on the GOC side of the talks. Rentería will also serve to represent Afro-Colombians and Chocó, one of the regions most heavily affected by the conflict.¹³

Possible plot to kill Uribe and Montealegre

Debate broke out over reports of FARC plans to kill ex-President Uribe and Attorney General, Eduardo Montealegre, attributed to the Teófilo Forero mobile column. The FARC peace process team in Havana denied these claims, and GOC team leader, De la Calle, and other politicians have stated that the viability of the peace process must be called into question if the FARC commanders ask for protection of their safety in Havana while they are threatening politicians in Colombia.¹⁴

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Next round will begin on November 28th

After initially planning to begin the next round of talks on November 18th, the GOC and FARC negotiating teams issued a statement saying that they will reinstate dialogue on the 28th. The teams need more time to study proposals and information relevant to the next topic on the agenda – illegal drugs – before returning to the table.¹⁵

FARC supports the legalization of drugs

FARC commander 'Timochenko' stated that the group favors the legalization of currently illegal drugs, and expressed the FARC's willingness to find a solution to the problem of drug

¹³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/nigeria-renteria-mujer-plenipotenciaria-habana-articulo-459068>

¹⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ivan-marquez-niega-atentado-contra-uribe_13202235-4 and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/inviabile-proceso-de-paz-si-farc-no-rechazan-atentados-a-articulo-459176>

¹⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/aplazamiento-dialogos-de-paz/364971-3>



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production, commercialization, and consumption. He said that FARC supports an illegal crops substitution, once rural conditions are improved, and claimed that the solution cannot be military.¹⁶

“GOC is not negotiating FARC impunity”: Ministry of Justice

Minister of Justice Alfonso Gómez Méndez rejected accusations by political opposition saying that the GOC is negotiating impunity for FARC leaders in the peace process. He emphasized that Colombia will comply with the international laws to which it is subject, and will therefore not provide the guerrilla leaders with impunity.¹⁷

Luis Moreno Ocampo, ex-Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, concurred that international law prohibits issuing amnesty to the FARC. He said that the agreements that were made with the M-19, in the 1980s, would no longer be allowed by international law, specifically the Rome Statute which Colombia signed in 2002.¹⁸

Two issues and three central topics in the debate on illegal drugs

An article in Razón Pública identifies two issues and six central topics in the debate on illegal drugs. The issues are: 1) measures agreed in Cuba will not eliminate drugs trafficking and violence; 2) reforms may challenge the status quo in terms of drugs' legal status. The debate topics are: 1) legalization of marihuana; 2) legalization of coca cultivation; 3) elimination of crops and cocaine laboratories; 4) problems of truth, justice, and drugs trafficking; 5) extradition; 6) decriminalization of consumption and small-scale producing and trafficking.¹⁹

4. International

ICRC believes post-conflict will last for many years

Jordi Raich, the Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Colombia, stated that if the peace process results in an end to the conflict, the post-conflict phase will last for many years due to the intensity of the violence and human rights violations. In interview with El Tiempo, Raich also spoke of the peace process, the work conducted by the ICRC to transfer the FARC negotiating team to Havana at the beginning of the talks, and the BACRIM.²⁰

5. Other Voices

Peace should be framed by a strong judicial and political framework

El Tiempo held a forum to discuss international obligations affecting the peace talks. Ex-judge Carlos Gaviria emphasized the need for restorative justice. Ex-minister Juan Carlos Esguerra

¹⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-favor-de-legalizacion-de-drogas-ilicitas-articulo-458010>

¹⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-no-esta-promocionando-impunidad-el-proceso-de-articulo-458356>

¹⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/derecho-internacional-impide-dar-ampnista-farc-efiscal-articulo-458125>

¹⁹ <http://razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/7200-lanegociaci%C3%B3n-con-las-farc-y-el-debate-sobre-la-pol%C3%ADticaantidrogas.html>

²⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/entrevista-a-jordi-raich-jefe-del-comite-internacional-de-la-cruz-roja_13200390-4

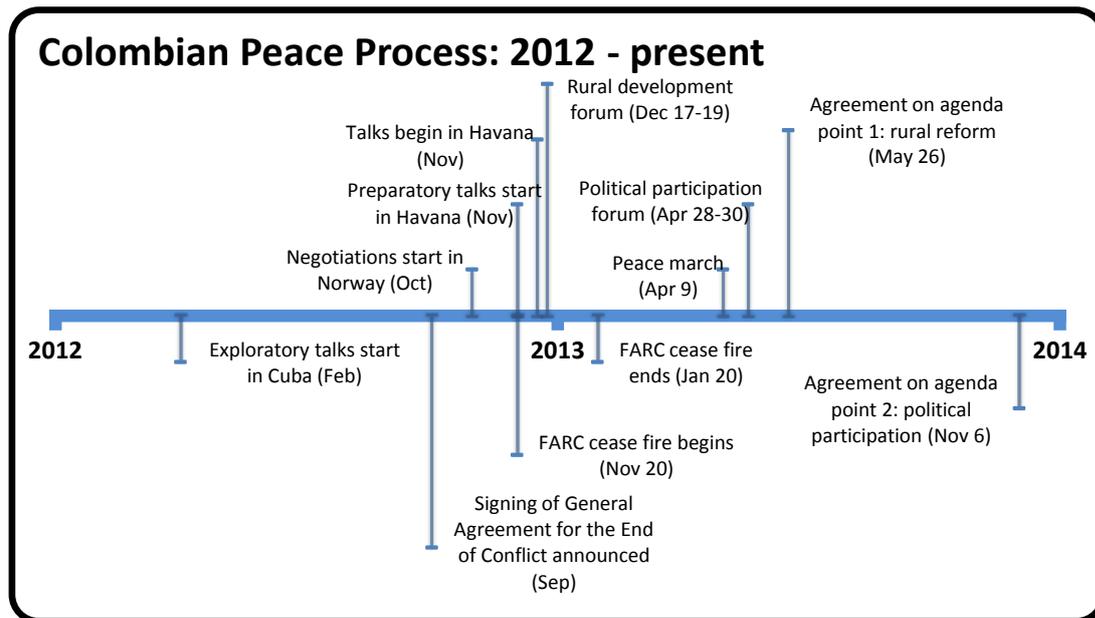


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asked that the process not become more politicized in the approach to elections in May. Carlos Holmes Trujillo, ex-High Commissioner for Peace, stated the need to fulfill Colombia's international obligations, especially not giving amnesty to people who violated human rights.²¹

6. Timeline



7. Emerging Challenges & Responses

The economic transition in Colombia's post-conflict phase

El Colombiano published an article by researchers working at the European Studies Institute, examining the economic transition necessary in the post-conflict phase. The article analyzes Colombia's position in the Latin American region, and its development in the last decade.²²

Experts and politicians question the FARC's unity

After speculation that members of some FARC fronts did not support the peace process, attention to the fragmentation of the group has recently grown. Regional FARC attacks and a possible threat on the lives of ex-President Uribe and Attorney General, Montealegre, caused some to question whether the FARC commanders in Cuba are aware of goings-on in all parts of the organization, and whether their commitment to peace would represent the entire group.

The fronts in question are numbers 7, 27, 57, and the Teófilo Forero mobile column. All are heavily involved in drugs trafficking, which provides the economic incentive to maintain

²¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/foro-de-el-tiempo-sobre-paz-juristas-hablan-sobre-el-proceso-de-paz_13183915-4

²² http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/L/la_transicion_economica_en_el_posconflicto_colombiano/la_transicion_economica_en_el_posconflicto_colombiano.asp



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criminal activity after a peace agreement. The last has indicated a feeling of betrayal that the FARC negotiators in Cuba are not wearing uniforms and organizational insignias during talks.²³

Politicians are calling for reintegration policies to be designed so that governmental agencies can implement them immediately after a final peace agreement. This, they say, will avoid the creation of “FARCRIM”, or groups that splinter off from the FARC after they officially disarm.²⁴

8. Further Reading

One year of talks

Senator Juan Fernando Cristo wrote an article for El Espectador in which he reflected on the first year of dialogues, the background to the peace process, public perception of the talks, the military weakness of the FARC, and government support for the peace process.²⁵

FARC peace processes compared

El Espectador published an analysis of why this peace process is different from previous attempts to sign a peace agreement with the FARC in 1984 and 1998. The article focuses on the FARC’s use of previous peace processes to strengthen itself militarily and occupy new territories. This time, however, the FARC are militarily weaker than they were before and have not signed a ceasefire that allows them to take advantage of the lack of action against them.²⁶

The Economist weighs in on the peace process

Correspondents from The Economist were interviewed regarding the progress of Colombia’s peace process in the last year, in a video published on The Economist’s.

²³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/hay-unidad-farc-frente-paz-articulo-458660>

²⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/piden-politicas-frente-al-posconflicto-evitar-llegar-fa-articulo-458038>

²⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/un-ano-de-respaldo-y-expectativas-articulo-458779>

²⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/un-final-esta-historia-articulo-458883>



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2. Key Developments from November 6 to November 12

GOC and FARC reach agreement on political participation

The GOC and FARC negotiating teams reached an agreement on the second point on the negotiations agenda – political participation. The document includes measures to increase citizen participation at the regional level, as well as guarantees for political opposition parties and access to communications media.²⁷ Humberto de la Calle stated that the agreement represents a step towards peace and is necessary to deepen and strengthen democracy in Colombia.²⁸ More on the content of and reactions to the agreement can be found below.

ELN approves political participation agreement

Colombia's second largest guerrilla group, the ELN, expressed its approval of the measures taken in the agreement on political participation to strengthen democratic and citizen participation. The group also raised the question of whether the GOC-FARC agreements will be implemented if someone other than Santos wins the presidential elections in 2014.²⁹

3. Negotiations & Agenda

Special Electoral Constituencies for Peace cause debate

Last week's political participation agreement provided for the creation of "Special Electoral Constituencies for Peace" to promote political inclusion in conflict-affected areas. These areas will have special representation in the Chamber of Representatives in post-conflict transition.

Critics of the peace process believe the constituencies provide openings for the FARC to gain seats in Congress by exercising authority in conflict areas. Senate President Juan Fernando

²⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-y-farc-llegan-acuerdo-sobre-participacion-poli-articulo-456851>

²⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-trabajaron-seriedad-lograr-acuerdo-gobierno-articulo-456866>

²⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-n-respalda-acuerdo-politico-entre-farc-y-gobierno-por-articulo-457744>



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Cristo clarified that the constituencies send elected representatives to Congress, and signify political reparation for areas previously unable to exercise the right to representation.³⁰

Two potential routes exist to create the constituencies. One is to send a law for approval in Congress, the Constitutional Court, and finally the referendum of the peace agreement. The second is through constitutional reform. Neither of these options will take less than one year.³¹

Regional reconciliation highlighted in political participation agreement

El Espectador published an analysis of the political participation agreement, stating that the document's clear regional focus is a sign that the GOC believes that efforts for peace and reconciliation will be implemented primarily at the regional level. The article says that this will be especially important in areas affected by conflict.³²

Illegal drugs is next for discussion

The next topic in the peace process will be "a solution to the problem of illegal drugs", point four on the negotiations agenda. Sub-points for this topic are: 1) Illegal crop substitution; 2) Public health and drug use prevention programs; 3) Solutions to the phenomenon of narcotics production and commercialization. The next round of talks is set to begin on November 18th.³³

4. International

International organizations praise agreement on political participation

The United Nations, Organization of American States, and Inter-American Court of Human Rights (ICHR) praised the agreement on political participation. UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon highlighted guarantees for citizen participation in efforts for stable and lasting peace.³⁴ OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza emphasized political participation in achieving an end to the conflict, and ICHR President Diego Garcia stated the importance of establishing transitional justice mechanisms as Colombia moves towards the end of the conflict.³⁵

5. Other Voices

Piedad Córdoba praises political participation agreement

Controversial political figure Piedad Córdoba praised the agreement on political participation. Córdoba has led support for a negotiated end to the conflict for many years, and stated in interview with El Espectador that she believes this point was the most difficult on the agenda and that its resolution signals an important step forward in the peace process.³⁶

³⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/circunscripciones-transitorias-especiales-de-paz-camara-articulo-457175>

³¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/rutas-hacer-efectivas-circunscripciones-de-paz-articulo-457146>

³² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/reconciliacion-regiones-articulo-457187>

³³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-narcotrfico-lo-que-viene-en-los-dilogos-de-la-habana_13174135-4

³⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/onu-felicita-colombia-y-farc-acuerdo-sobre-participacion-articulo-457115>

³⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/elmundo/oea-optimista-acuerdos-de-participacion-politica-proces-articulo-457156>

³⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/cidh-ve-esperanza-acuerdo-de-participacion-politica-farc-articulo-456990>

³⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/farc-van-hacer-paz-articulo-457753>



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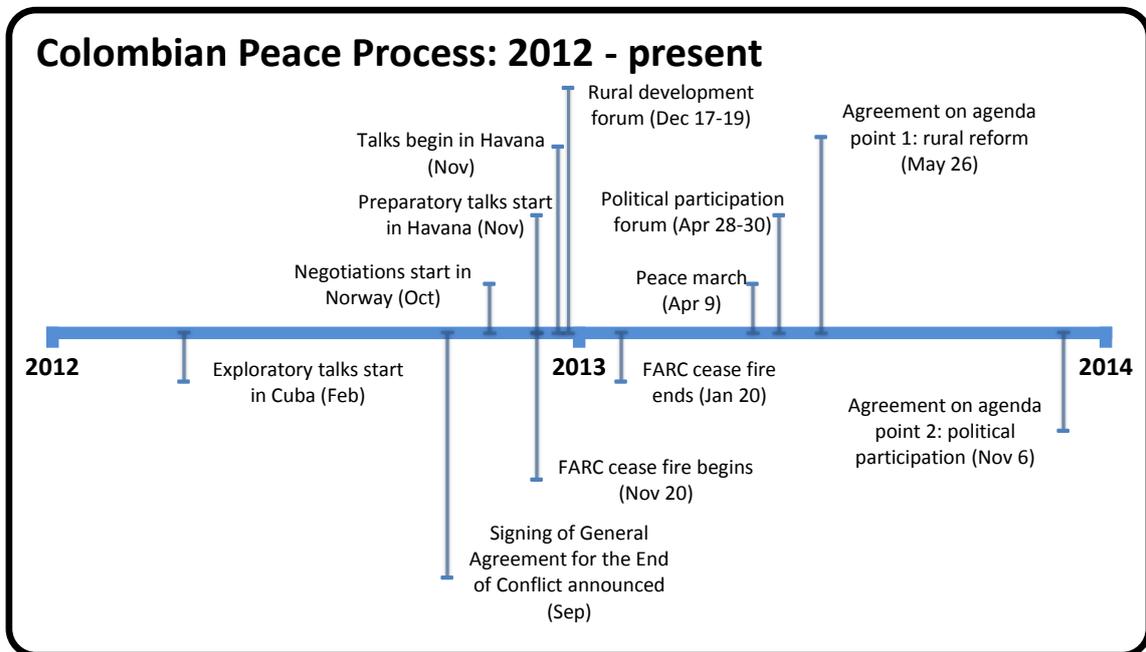
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6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Armed forces will guarantee security of demobilized FARC

General Juan Pablo Rodriguez, Commander of the National Army, was interviewed by Blu Radio. He stated that in the case of a final peace agreement with the FARC and their entry to civil society, the armed forces will have to guarantee the guerrilla group's rights. He revealed that the FARC and the ELN increased attacks on civilians and infrastructure in October.³⁷

7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

'Pablo Catatumbo' in interview with El Espectador

FARC leader and negotiator alias 'Pablo Catatumbo' was interviewed by El Espectador. In the article, he discusses the FARC's perspective on some of the most painful parts of recent Colombian history. He also discusses his life in the guerrilla group, the peace process, the conflict, and his possible aspirations of gaining a seat in Congress.³⁸

Various GOC explanations of the political participation agreement

GOC negotiator De la Calle explained the agreement on political participation in three sections: guarantees, participation, and political system reform. El Tiempo published his explanation

³⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/si-los-querrilleros-se-desmovilizan-ffmm-tenemos-garant-articulo-457010>

³⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/prolongar-el-secuestro-si-fue-un-error-articulo-457628>



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online.³⁹ High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo also explained the agreement, with a slightly different three-point focus: leaving aside weapons as a tool for political participation; reinforcement of citizen participation; and democratic openings for new political parties.⁴⁰

Two opinions on the peace process

Americas Quarterly published an article by two authors, each of whom have a different perspective on the possible outcome of the GOC-FARC peace process. Aldo Civico, a professor at Rutgers University, outlines his reasons for believing that the peace process will succeed. Alfredo Rangel, Director of the Security and Democracy Center at the Universidad Sergio Arboleda describes why he thinks the peace process will not produce a positive outcome.⁴¹

Interview with Director of Verdad Abierta

Verdad Abierta is a media portal aiming to provide high quality unbiased reporting on the conflict. Semana interviewed Director Maria Teresa Ronderos, who discussed the media's role in the peace process, the Justice and Peace Law, and the negotiations more generally.⁴²

Peace and development

Wilson Lopez, a researcher at the Universidad Javeriana, believes that it is impossible to plan for peace without taking development into account. His analysis looks at the relationship between development and peace in the light of Amartya Sen's work on hu

³⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-gobierno-explica-el-acuerdo-sobre-participacion-politica-de-las-farc_13173840-4

⁴⁰ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/acuerdo-de-participacion-politica-de-las-farc/364070-3>

⁴¹ <http://americasquarterly.org/content/alfredo-rangel>

⁴² <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/entrevista-maria-teresa-ronderos-verdad-abierta/364061-3>



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2. Key Developments from November 20 to November 26

Two women appointed to GOC team

President Santos announced that Nigeria Rentería, the High Council for Women's Equity, and Maria Paulina Riveros, human rights advocate, will join the GOC dialogue team, responding to calls for increased representation of women in the talks. Rentería will serve to represent Afro-Colombians and Chocó, one of the regions most heavily affected by the conflict, while Riveros brings a strong human rights perspective, as she previously worked as Human Rights Director for the Ministry of the Interior. Luis Carlos Villegas, previously reported to be leaving, will continue on the GOC team while fulfilling duties as Colombian Ambassador to Washington.⁴³

New ideas and debates highlighted at Serie Colombia forum

Members of the peacebuilding and development community convened at the Serie Colombia event in Barranquilla, representing a range of ideas and opinions. High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo affirmed that peace in Colombia is essential to guarantee human rights.⁴⁴

General Jairo Delgado Mora, an analyst from the Latin American Observatory on policy and strategy, stated that the BACRIM will be a great post-conflict challenge, while Decisive Point analyst, Román Ortiz, said that the FARC will only partially demobilize as groups, will splinter off and form new organizations. Other participants included Maria Victoria Llorente, from Fundación Ideas para la Paz, Police General Luz Marina Bustos, and analyst León Valencia.⁴⁵ Peter Natiello, from USAID and Marcelo Pisani, from IOM, were also panel participants.

Santos re-conceptualizes peace discourse

The President introduced two concepts to his discourse on peace, which will be a central message in his recently announced re-election campaign. The first is peace as "definitive" or

⁴³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/nigeria-renteria-mujer-plenipotenciaria-habana-articulo-459068> and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/dos-mujeres-reforzaran-equipo-de-gobierno-habana-articulo-460571>

⁴⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/dialogos-de-paz-se-reanudaran-el-proximo-28-de-noviembr-articulo-460071>

⁴⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/tenemos-que-repensar-el-sector-de-la-seguridad-ideas-para-la-paz/366017-3>



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all-encompassing security, and the second is a desire to improve bipartisan work to strengthen peace.⁴⁶ Santos asked that the dialogues move faster to avoid more deaths in the conflict.⁴⁷

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Vice President Garzón makes minimum proposals for the dialogues

In an open letter to GOC and FARC dialogue teams, Vice President Garzón made proposals that he believes will facilitate a successful end to the talks. His proposals for the FARC included an end to kidnapping, child recruitment, and anti-personnel mines, and recognition of the group's victims. Suggestions for the GOC included prioritization of investment in rural areas, increased efforts to stop corruption and impunity, and promotion of reconciliation and forgiveness.⁴⁸

4. International

Ecuador expresses satisfaction with progress of dialogues

The Chancellor of Ecuador, Ricardo Patiño, stated the "happiness" of his government about the progress made in the GOC-FARC dialogues. He affirmed that peace in Colombia is very important to regional security and development.⁴⁹ At a meeting in Ipiales (Nariño) on Monday, Santos thanked Ecuadorian President Correa for his country's support of the peace talks.⁵⁰

5. Other Voices

Indigenous groups support the peace process

Approximately 3,000 representatives from indigenous groups in 17 Latin American countries met in Colombia to discuss the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the topic of a 2014 conference in New York. They praised the peace dialogues being held in Havana and requested that indigenous proposals and needs be taken into account in the talks.⁵¹

High Commissioner for Peace, Sergio Jaramillo, assured indigenous groups that they will benefit from the talks, and their proposals will be considered as other civil society proposals are reviewed. Indigenous rights will not be a stand-alone topic on the agenda for talks, however.⁵²

Peace process receives support from infrastructure guild

⁴⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/reeleccin-de-juan-manuel-santos-presidente-pide-apoyar-la-paz_13209716-4

⁴⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/operativo-del-ejrcito-contra-el-eln-en-arauca_13218915-4

⁴⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/propuestas-de-angelino-garzon-para-los-dialogos-en-la-habana_13220446-4

⁴⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/ecuador-muy-contento-los-avances-del-proceso-de-paz-articulo-460128>

⁵⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-agradece-correa-su-apoyo-al-proceso-de-paz-articulo-460390>

⁵¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/indigenas-del-continente-respaldan-proceso-de-paz-articulo-459321>

⁵² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/derechos-de-indigenas-no-tema-de-dialogo-farc-gobierno-articulo-460008>



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The president of the infrastructure guild discussed the peace process with Semana, and highlighted the benefits that peace will bring for the sector he represents.⁵³

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

FARC, ELN and BACRIM are active in illegal mining

Deputy Attorney General, Jorge Perdomo, affirmed that illegal mining is currently the main environmental crime in Colombia. The FARC, ELN, and BACRIM are participating directly in this illegal activity in 22 departments. Chocó, Antioquia, and Bolivar are most heavily affected.⁵⁴

‘El Negro Tomás’ discusses weakness of FARC

FARC ex-combatant alias ‘El Negro Tomás’ spoke with the Spanish press. He discussed the FARC’s organizational weakness after the high numbers of demobilizations and combat deaths in the last few years. He also criticized the inequalities and injustices of the organization, and its involvement in drugs trafficking and illegal mining. ‘El Negro Tomás’ expressed his hope that the GOC-FARC peace process will end in the signing of a peace agreement.⁵⁵

Report on gender-based violence released

A Sisma Mujer report highlights types of gender-based violence, including violence against women in the conflict. In 2012, eleven women per month were victims of sexual violence associated with the conflict. Thirteen percent of these victims identified their aggressor as a guerrilla member, 55% as a member of the armed forces, 22% as a member of paramilitary or drugs trafficking groups, and 10% as private security forces. The report gives information from the Unique Victims’ Registry, and on victimization of female human rights advocates.⁵⁶

⁵³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/juan-martin-caicedo-gremio-infraestructura-apoyan-paz/365289-3>

⁵⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/minera-ilegal-farc-y-eln-estn-relacionadas-con-esta-actividad_13214378-4

⁵⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-se-debilitan-dice-desmovilizado-espana-articulo-460368>

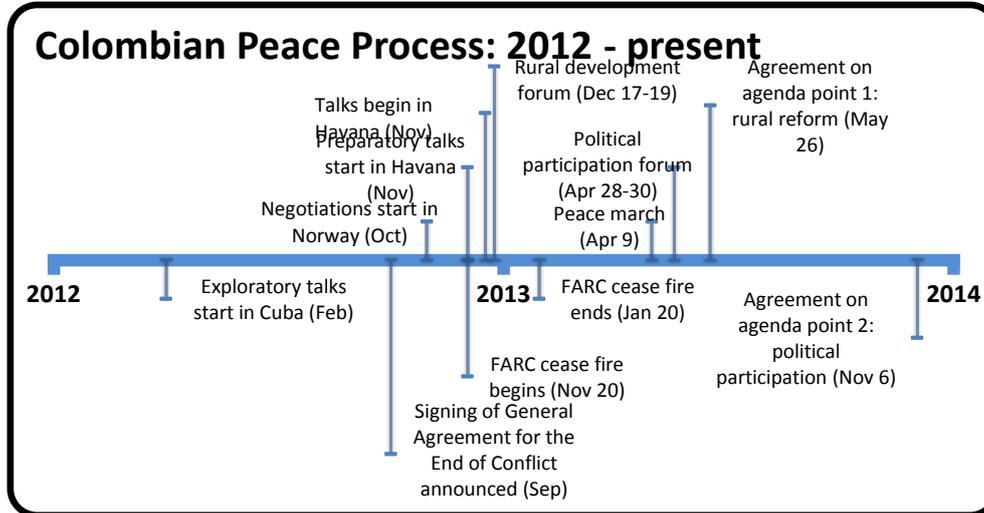
⁵⁶ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/cifras-de-la-violencia-contra-la-mujer-en-colombia/366030-3>



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7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

CNN highlights Colombian ex-combatant reintegration program

Colombian journalist Claudia Palacios produced a short video for the CNN website, describing the reintegration process experienced by ex-combatants in Colombia. The video includes footage of the ACR income generation projects supported by USAID and IOM.⁵⁷

Analysis of the peace process

El Tiempo published an analysis of the peace process with a focus on the advantages and disadvantages of the longer-than-expected timeline of the dialogues. The article highlights the fact that most peace processes last one year or more, and that the Guatemalan case – similar in many ways to Colombia – lasted six years.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ <http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/spanish/2013/11/19/cnnee-palacios-col-farc-demobilize.cnn.html>

⁵⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/un-proceso-de-paz-largo-no-es-necesariamente-mejor-analisis_13218567-4