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# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

October, 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 September 25 to October 1

### **FARC cause surprise and controversy with proposed report**

After President Santos' UN speech criticizing the FARC's slow negotiating pace, the guerrilla group stated its intent to write a report on the "truth" of the peace process. The GOC was surprised and outraged at this suggestion, as the pre-negotiations agreement between the two parties obliges them both to maintain strict confidence about what happens at the negotiating table. The FARC then clarified that their report will not make confidential discussions public.<sup>1</sup>

### **ELN communiqué details five negotiating points**

The ELN issued a communiqué with five points they consider central to a peace process. The points include three that emphasize the ELN's wish to focus on the socioeconomic causes of the conflict rather than demobilization, one on the need to operate without time-related pressure, and one on the need for society's participation in designing a negotiations agenda.<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Negotiations & Agenda

### **Forum on illegal drugs continues in San José de Guaviare**

The regional part of the UN / Universidad Nacional forum on illegal drugs began in San José de Guaviare, a rural town highly affected by drug production. UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator in Colombia, Fabrizio Hoschild, opened the forum, emphasizing the role of state absence in coca cultivation in Colombia.<sup>3</sup> Since Monday, the forum's most commonly supported ideas have been: ending aerial spraying, which affects crops other than coca; cultivation of coca for traditional use; and implementation of viable alternatives for peasants who have been forced by violent

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/discusiones-de-mesa-no-se-haran-publicas-rectifican-far-articulo-449066> and [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-gobierno-le-responde-aa-timochenko\\_13083416-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-gobierno-le-responde-aa-timochenko_13083416-4)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eln-vozes.com/index.php/es/vozes-del-eln/comando-central/665-la-paz-una-obra-colectiva>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/elmundo/onu-asocia-coca-colombia-una-ausencia-del-estado-articulo-449730>



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intimidation and economic hardship to cultivate coca for illegal armed groups. Proposals from the forum will be sent to the negotiating table in Cuba.<sup>4</sup>

### **The importance of the approaching 15<sup>th</sup> round**

El Tiempo reported on the GOC's expectations for the coming 15<sup>th</sup> round of talks, which begins on Thursday. The GOC expects to use the round to measure the sustainability of the process by emphasizing the need for an agreement on a referendum to approve final peace agreements, and by assessing the guerrilla's willingness to move more rapidly in the negotiations.<sup>5</sup>

### **Santos approves Congressional visit to Cuba**

Senate President Juan Fernando Cristo confirmed that President Santos has approved the visit of various Congress members to Havana to meet with negotiators from both sides of the table. The visit is expected to occur during the 15<sup>th</sup> round of talks.<sup>6</sup>

## **4. International**

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### **Jesse Jackson could participate in release of ex-marine**

The FARC have requested that Reverend Jesse Jackson participate in the release of ex-marine Kevin Scott, who they kidnapped in June. Jackson was in Cuba on other business and met with the FARC to discuss the soldier's liberation. He said that he plans to travel to Colombia to meet with President Santos to discuss his involvement in the process of freeing Scott. However, President Santos has stated that only the ICRC, which has already expressed its readiness to assist in the release, will be permitted to facilitate. Santos said this limitation aims to avoid the "media show" that would be caused by Reverend Jesse Jackson's involvement.<sup>7</sup>

### **Mujica speaks about the peace process**

El Tiempo interviewed President Mujica of Uruguay. He discussed his role in the GOC-FARC peace process, his possible role in a peace process with the ELN, his opinion on the approaching Colombian elections and their interference with the negotiations, and the reasons why he thinks an end to the Colombian conflict is important for Latin America.<sup>8</sup>

### **Norway offers to support ELN peace process**

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/debate-sobre-erradicacion-de-coca-en-guaviare/359536-3>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ronda-en-que-se-juega-el-proceso-de-paz-con-las-farc\\_13089537-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ronda-en-que-se-juega-el-proceso-de-paz-con-las-farc_13089537-4)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-avalo-viaje-de-comision-de-congresistas-cuba-articulo-449345>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/jesse-jackson-espere-autorizacion-del-gobierno-liberaci-articulo-449436>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/el-presidente-de-uruguay-ios-mujica-habla-sobre-el-conflicto-en-colombia\\_13089539-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/el-presidente-de-uruguay-ios-mujica-habla-sobre-el-conflicto-en-colombia_13089539-4)

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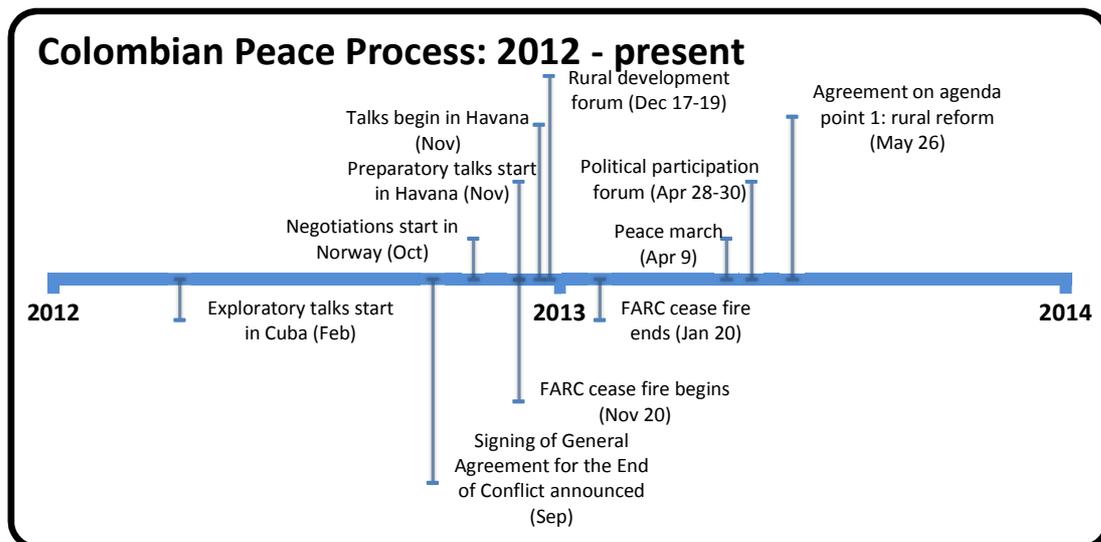
President Santos met with Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg at the UN session last week in New York. Norway offered to provide support for an ELN peace process similar to the assistance it is providing in the FARC negotiations.<sup>9</sup>

### 5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

#### FARC control 46,000 hectares of coca

A police report shows that the FARC control approximately 46,000 hectares of coca crop, representing 96% of the illegal crops in the country. Their control of some of this crop is shared with BACRIM such as the Rastrojos and the Urabeños, as well as with the guerrilla ELN. The Ministry of Defense estimates that the FARC earn US\$3.5 billion per year from this activity.<sup>10</sup>

### 6. Timeline



### 7. Further Reading

#### Referendum would legitimize peace

Members of the Constitutional Court met with constitutional law expert Matthias Herdegen to discuss Colombian jurisprudence. Herdegen was interviewed by El Espectador, and discussed the role of the International Criminal Court in the peace process, impunity in transitional justice,

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/noruega-ofrecio-buenos-oficios-dialogo-eln-articulo-448935>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/las-farc-tienen-en-su-poder-46000-hectreas-de-coca\\_13089553-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/las-farc-tienen-en-su-poder-46000-hectreas-de-coca_13089553-4)



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international opinion regarding the peace process, referendum of the final peace agreements, and other topics.<sup>11</sup>

### **Economy would grow more than 1% faster in peace**

The Minister of Finance and Public Credit was interviewed by El Espectador. In the interview, he discusses the effects of peace on economic expansion. He expects that peace would bring at least a 1% increase in economic growth per year, from 5% per year to at least 6%.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/referendo-legitimaria-paz-articulo-449257>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/economia/paz-economia-creceria-mas-del-6-articulo-449639>



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## 2. Key Developments from October 2 to October 8

### **FARC release much anticipated report**

After last week's controversy regarding the FARC's predicted disclosure of confidential information about the peace process, their "First Report about the state of the peace conversations" was released. The FARC outline their thoughts on a variety of topics. With respect to the legal framework for peace, the guerrilla group perceived a conflict of interest in the State's admission of responsibility for conflict-related crimes and simultaneous judging of other groups for the same crimes. The group also stated that transitional justice should be implemented without outside interference. The next section of the report, about victims, declared that a truth and reconciliation commission should be created to establish the facts of the conflict. Regarding the referendum of the peace agreements, the FARC said that an independent entity should be established to ascertain public support for eventual accords.<sup>13</sup>

### **Three possible scenarios for peace and elections**

President Santos met with the "U" (National Unity) Party, and as the meeting progressed the conversation turned to three possible scenarios for the peace process as elections approach: 1) suspend the dialogues during the elections period; 2) terminate the dialogues altogether; and 3) continue with the talks. Santos wished to hear the politicians' opinions on these scenarios. El Tiempo reported that the third option was analyzed as the most viable.<sup>14</sup>

A columnist for El Espectador proposed a slightly different set of options: 1) The GOC and the FARC reach an agreement before January and a referendum is held on the day of the presidential elections; 2) The negotiations may not reach any agreement and the GOC will terminate the peace process; 3) The GOC and the FARC will reach partial agreements then suspend the process for a

<sup>13</sup> <http://pazfarc-ep.org/index.php/noticias-comunicados-documentos-farc-ep/delegacion-de-paz-farc-ep/1491-primer-informe-sobre-el-estado-de-las-conversaciones-de-paz.html>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/santos-consulta-con-partidos-politicos-futuro-del-proceso-de-paz\\_13109206-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/santos-consulta-con-partidos-politicos-futuro-del-proceso-de-paz_13109206-4)



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year while the elections are held and the new government enters power. The article states that the FARC could be the determining factor in deciding which of these three scenarios is realized.<sup>15</sup>

### 3. Negotiations & Agenda

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#### Forums on illegal drugs draw conclusions

The two forums on illegal drugs organized by the Universidad Nacional and UN highlighted the need to engage responses to illegal crop cultivation with broader efforts to reform rural policy. Access to and use of land was a constant theme, as were property rights, health and education services in rural areas, and access to credit and other financial services. Another conclusion of note was that agrarian communities are against the practice of crop spraying, which damages legal harvests. With respect to crop substitution, forum attendees shared their experiences and it became clear that models designed and implemented by peasant associations have been the most effective in successful transitions from illegal to legal crop cultivation.<sup>16</sup>

#### FARC insist that de-militarization is key for post-conflict transition

The FARC stated a need to deconstruct the military mechanisms that have made state terrorism possible in the conflict. This includes physical military barracks and bases, as well as the national security doctrine, which is geared towards the defeat of an internal enemy. The guerrilla group said that this demilitarization will be crucial for a stable and effective post-conflict transition in the case of a peace agreement.<sup>17</sup>

Meanwhile, the guerrilla group has been in a war of words with the Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzón. They accuse Pinzón of working against the interests of the peace process and trying to label recent social protests as criminal.<sup>18</sup>

### 4. International

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#### UN considers peace agreement “essential” to development

UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator in Colombia, Fabrizio Hoschild, stated that a final peace agreement between the FARC and the GOC is “essential” for economic and social development in Colombia, especially in regions that have been isolated due to violence. Hoschild considered the rural implementation of reforms resulting from the peace agreement to be a significant post-conflict challenge.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/opinion/paz-y-elecciones-tres-escenarios-columna-450619>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/campesinos-deben-ser-duenos-de-tierra-labran-articulo-450316>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-insisten-desmontar-el-militarismo-pactar-transicio-articulo-450649>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-acusan-mindefensa-de-querer-estallar-el-proceso-de-articulo-451136>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/onu-considera-esencial-acuerdo-farc-el-desarrollo-de-co-articulo-450188>



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### 5. Other Voices

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#### Victims' participation highlighted

The Ombudsman, Jorge Armando Otálora Gómez, has joined calls for victims' organizations to be given a place at the negotiating table in Havana, specially after de designation of 46 leaders of victims as the representatives in the National Participation Board, established in the Victims Law. He stated that such participation in Havana is important in the restoration of victims' rights.<sup>20</sup>

Meanwhile, the Senate and the Chamber have called for the victims' organizations to meet with the FARC in Havana before any Congress members are allowed to meet the guerrilla group, as has been discussed in recent weeks. The policymakers state that victims' rights and their contribution to the negotiations are more pressing priorities than the Congressional visit.<sup>21</sup>

#### "It's one thing to silence weapons and another to build peace"

Rosa Emilia Salamanca, leader of the group "Women, peace, and security", was interviewed by Semana. She discussed her organization's ethical pact to bring peace to Colombia, and the 15 paths to peace that conform it.<sup>22</sup>

### 6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

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#### Controversy over politicians' visit to Havana continues

After last week's discovery that politicians had gone to Havana to meet with the FARC with GOC approval, discussion has developed over whether this is a crime. Ex-President Uribe sustains that it is a crime, as Law 782 of 2002 declares that all interaction with illegal armed groups must have approval from the GOC. The Inspector General, Alejandro Ordóñez, will investigate the visit, and the Attorney General, Eduardo Montealegre, has said that the visit is not a crime.<sup>23</sup> The President of Congress, Juan Fernando Cristo, affirmed that as consultations with "experts" are included in the negotiation guidelines, the politicians did nothing wrong.<sup>24</sup>

### 7. Timeline

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/defensoria-solicita-al-gobierno-victimas-sean-escuchada-articulo-450499>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/piden-farc-primero-se-reunan-victimas-y-no-los-congresi-articulo-451000>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/entrevista-rosa-emilia-salamanca-pacto-etico-para-la-paz/359672-3>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/quienes-se-reunen-farc-incurren-responsabilidad-penal-u-articulo-450803> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/un-desproposito-pensar-ir-habana-sin-permiso-un-delito-articulo-450227>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/turismo-politico-victimas-y-legalidad-articulo-451050>



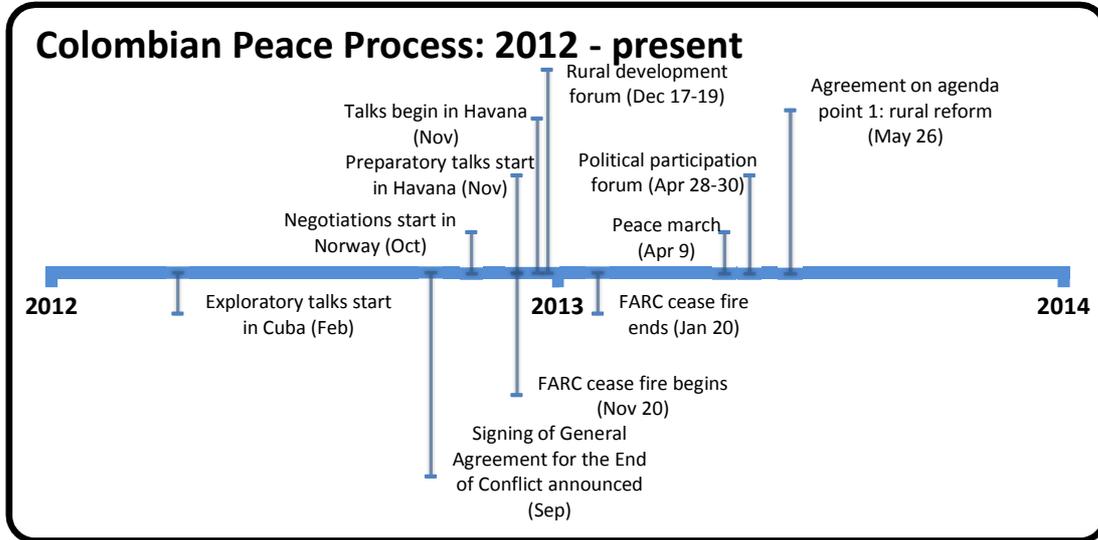
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### 8. Further Reading

#### Ex-President Uribe's Twitter posts gain international attention

The Washington Post published an article highlighting the “attacks” against Santos that Uribe posts on Twitter. These jibes are drawing attention from policymakers in the U.S. government, who expressed shock at Uribe’s practice of publically opining on the peace process.<sup>25</sup>

#### Sexual violence treated with impunity

A report to be published by the Monitoring Roundtable for Law 092 of 2008 highlights the impunity with which sexual violence and related crimes are treated in the framework of the armed conflict. The report shows that there is no efficient and trustworthy registry of cases or of institutional response to this type of crime. Only 11.4% of the reported cases have identified and begun processing of the aggressor, 37.7% of the cases have been filed and are not active, and 51.5% are in preliminary investigative stages.<sup>26</sup>

#### Greatest post-conflict challenge will be dirty war: Attorney General

In an interview with El Espectador, Attorney General Eduardo Montealegre discusses illegal economies in Colombia, the legal framework for peace, the need for citizen support of the peace process, and impunity.<sup>27</sup>

#### Colombian ambassador to the UK speaks about the peace process

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/colombian-ex-president-sounds-off-on-his-successors-peace-talks-with-farc-rebels/2013/10/05/180583e0-2d2b-11e3-b141-298f46539716\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/colombian-ex-president-sounds-off-on-his-successors-peace-talks-with-farc-rebels/2013/10/05/180583e0-2d2b-11e3-b141-298f46539716_story.html)

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/opinion/impunidad-mujeres-y-conflicto-columna-450109>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-gran-desafio-del-posconflicto-va-ser-guerra-sucia-fi-articulo-450425>



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Mauricio Rodriguez will finish his term as Colombian ambassador to the UK on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, and will then return to Colombia to work in the Inter-American Development Bank. In interview with El Tiempo, Rodriguez discusses his professional life, the peace process, and his future role in the post-conflict phase.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-de-el-tiempo-a-mauricio-rodriguez\\_13101595-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-de-el-tiempo-a-mauricio-rodriguez_13101595-4)



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## 2. Key Developments from October 16 to October 22

### Referendum law approved

The Chamber of Representatives approved the law that will permit a referendum of the peace process on the same day as presidential elections. This referendum would allow Colombians to vote on political reforms resulting from a peace agreement. The law will be passed to the Senate and President Santos for approval.<sup>29</sup> Presidential elections are set for May 25<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Three campaigns are expected to occur before the referendum. One will promote a “yes” vote, another will promote a “no” vote, and another will propose abstention from voting in the referendum. The last would aim to prevent implementation of the results of the referendum, which needs 7.5 million votes to be considered valid.<sup>30</sup> The referendum’s approval stipulated that the GOC cannot campaign for a “yes” vote even though this is the position it supports.<sup>31</sup>

## 3. Negotiations & Agenda

### Santos denies that peace process will end in November

President Santos stated that contrary to statements he made earlier in the year, the peace process with the FARC will not end in November. Santos originally hoped that the dialogues would progress more rapidly, but he affirmed that progress is being made.<sup>32</sup> GOC negotiator de la Calle said that rumors that the peace process may be suspended or ended are untrue.<sup>33</sup>

### GOC negotiating team meets with President

President Santos met with the GOC negotiating team on Tuesday – one day before they return to Cuba to resume the next round of talks – to discuss advances in the dialogues and perceived issues

<sup>29</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/referendo-por-la-paz\\_13127990-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/referendo-por-la-paz_13127990-4)

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/campana-abstencion-referendo-por-la-paz/361243-3>

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/referendo-para-la-paz-pasa-debate-en-cmara\\_13127102-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/referendo-para-la-paz-pasa-debate-en-cmara_13127102-4)

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-aseguro-proceso-de-paz-no-terminara-noviembre-articulo-453339>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/suspension-de-dialogos-farc-no-ha-sido-discutida-humber-articulo-452735>



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preventing rapid progress.<sup>34</sup> Humberto de la Calle stated that the President instructed the negotiators to ensure that concrete results are achieved in the approaching round.<sup>35</sup>

### 4. International

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#### Panama Summit supports GOC-FARC peace process

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Ibero-American Summit in Panama, regional leaders expressed support for the peace process, and highlighted how a peace agreement would benefit regional security.<sup>36</sup>

#### Academics propose mediators for peace process

It was revealed that a group of academics wrote a letter to the GOC and FARC in March proposing that external mediators be included in the peace process. The group was comprised mostly of academics in prominent US universities who have experience in conflict resolution and negotiation. They based their argument on the fact that non-mediated dialogues between the GOC and the FARC have been attempted before with little success, and that mediators have been used with great success in peace processes elsewhere.<sup>37</sup>

High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo responded to the letter, stating that international mediators are not necessary, especially given that the two parties have already been able to reach an agreement on integrated rural reform. Ex-High Commissioner for Peace Camilo Gómez stated that escalating the role of countries who are accompanying the peace process to mediator would unnecessarily complicate the negotiations.<sup>38</sup>

### 5. Other Voices

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#### NGO asks GOC for special agreement on anti-personnel mines

The Colombian Campaign Against Mines wrote to President Santos asking that a “special agreement” about anti-personnel mines be included in the peace process. Such an agreement would contribute to assistance for mine victims or potential victims in areas where the FARC have historically used mines. The letter stated that 144 civilians have been victims of mine explosions since the peace process began one year ago.<sup>39</sup>

#### Colombians to contribute to historical memory

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-alista-decisiones-trascendentales-sobre-paz-articulo-453777>

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-de-la-calle-dice-que-se-debe-avanzar-en-dialogos\\_13138476-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-de-la-calle-dice-que-se-debe-avanzar-en-dialogos_13138476-4)

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/cumbre-de-panam-respalda-conversaciones-entre-colombia-y-las-farc\\_13135143-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/cumbre-de-panam-respalda-conversaciones-entre-colombia-y-las-farc_13135143-4)

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ARCHIVO/ARCHIVO-13127855-0.pdf> and [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/dilogos-de-paz-entre-gobierno-y-farc\\_13127449-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/dilogos-de-paz-entre-gobierno-y-farc_13127449-4)

<sup>38</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/academicos-proponer-incluin-de-mediadores-en-dilogos-de-paz\\_13133479-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/academicos-proponer-incluin-de-mediadores-en-dilogos-de-paz_13133479-4)

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/piden-al-gobierno-un-acuerdo-especial-farc-sobre-minas-articulo-453153>



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Álvaro Villaraga, director of the Center for Historical Memory, stated that a call for contributions to the construction of historical memory will be made in November. Colombians will be able to provide personal testimony of their experience of the conflict. Villaraga discusses this initiative in interview with El Tiempo.<sup>40</sup>

### Ex-Minister Álvaro Leyva makes proposals for peace

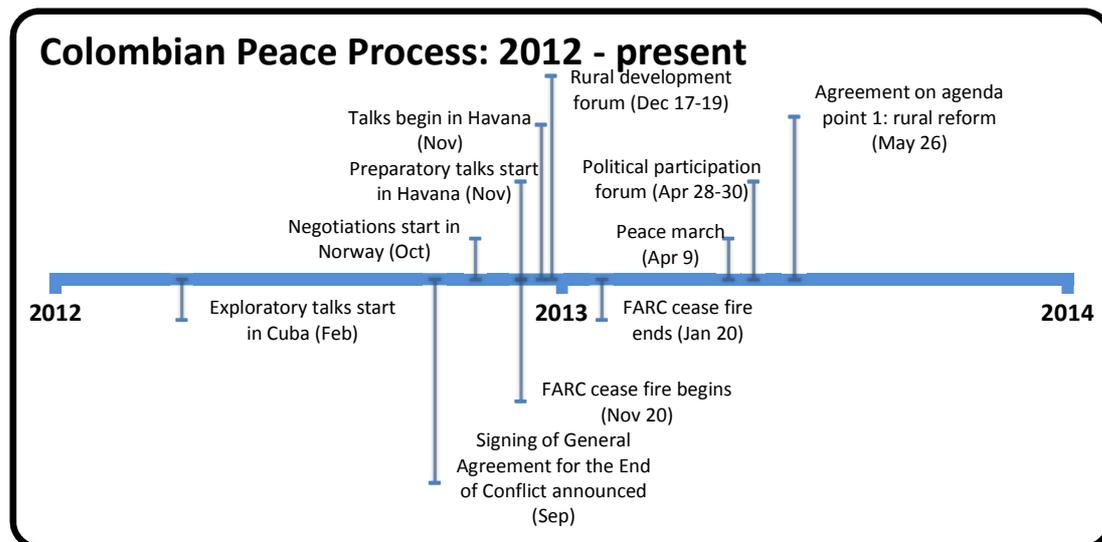
Conservative party politician Álvaro Leyva proposed a bilateral ceasefire between government forces and the FARC beginning on November 18<sup>th</sup> to facilitate a nationwide demining effort. Leyva also proposed international involvement in discussions on how to diminish drug production in Colombia, suggesting countries and bodies such as the United States, Bolivia, Peru, Bolivia, and the European Union for this role.<sup>41</sup>

## 6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

### 14,000 children in the ranks of illegal armed groups

A report to be published by Fundación Restrepo Barco found that recruitment of minors by illegal armed groups is increasing. The report also estimated there are currently 14,000 children in the ranks of guerrilla groups, BACRIM, and other armed criminal organizations.<sup>42</sup>

## 7. Timeline



<sup>40</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/convocan-a-colombianos-para-dar-su-versin-del-conflicto\\_13134676-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/convocan-a-colombianos-para-dar-su-versin-del-conflicto_13134676-4)

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/alvaro-leyva-presento-gobierno-y-farc-su-propuesta-de-p-articulo-453567>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/judiciales/mas-de-14000-menores-siguen-vinculados-a-grupos-ilegales/20131022/nota/1999419.aspx>



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### 8. Further Reading

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#### **Guerrilla women for peace**

'Victoria Sandino', 'Camilia Cienfuegos' and 'Viviana Hernández' are three of the 13 women who form part of the FARC's peace process delegation. El Espectador interviewed the three guerrilla members about their reasons for joining the FARC, their experiences inside the group, and the role of women in its ranks.<sup>43</sup>

#### **48% of Colombians want peace process to continue**

A Datexco survey showed that 48% of Colombians want the peace process to continue during elections next year, and 42% think the talks should be suspended. The majority – 76% - of those surveyed did not believe that the FARC have legitimate and positive intentions to reach a peace agreement. Optimism that the current peace process could bring about the end of the conflict has dropped from 39% in June to 21% now.<sup>44</sup>

#### **Interview with ex-Mayor Antonus Mockus**

Ex-Mayor of Bogotá Antonus Mockus was interviewed by El Tiempo. He discussed various aspects of the peace process, including the timeline of the negotiations, his belief in the FARC's ability to imagine a peaceful Colombia, and Colombian society's reaction to the dialogues.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/guerrilleras-paz-articulo-453313>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/40-por-ciento-de-colombianos-quiere-que-el-proceso-de-paz-siga> 13129120-4

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-con-el-exalcalde-antanas-mockus> 13137534-4



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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 23 to October 29

FARC liberate Kevin Sutay

Kevin Sutay, a U.S. ex-marine kidnapped by the FARC on June 20<sup>th</sup> while travelling in Guaviare, has been freed. The operation to liberate him took place on Sunday and was facilitated by the Red Cross and representatives of the Cuban and Norwegian government. The FARC have called Sutay's liberation a "gesture of peace" that aims to benefit the GOC-FARC negotiations.<sup>46</sup>

## 3. Negotiations & Agenda

### FARC make 99 proposals for political reform

Speaking from Havana, the FARC stated that they have compiled a document containing 99 proposals on political participation and reform. The guerrilla group declared that GOC approval of the proposals would facilitate an agreement on the second point on the negotiations agenda – political participation - and a transition to the next topic, expected to be illicit drugs.<sup>47</sup>

### Possible change in negotiation methodology

The GOC and FARC negotiating teams are considering changes to the negotiation methodology of the peace process.<sup>48</sup> Discussions of a possible change of strategy have been frequent recently due to concern over the slow pace of the dialogues. President of Congress Juan Fernando Cristo suggested that the two negotiating teams should stay in Havana until an agreement is reached on the current agenda point – political participation – and another possibility is that the rounds of talks are made longer or even permanent.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-esperan-liberacion-de-scott-influya-positivamente-articulo-454982> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/kerry-expresa-profundo-gradecimiento-colombia-liberaci-articulo-454887>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/las-99-condiciones-de-las-farc-proceso-de-paz/362060-3>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-estudian-cambiar-metodologia-proceso-de-paz-aceler-articulo-453996>

<sup>49</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-congreso-pide-cambio-de-metodologia\\_13140095-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-congreso-pide-cambio-de-metodologia_13140095-4) and [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ Mesa-de-dilogos-con-las-farc\\_13139499-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ Mesa-de-dilogos-con-las-farc_13139499-4)



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### FARC label referendum as a “unilateral” effort

The FARC have labeled as “unilateral” the law aiming to allow referendum of a final peace agreement on the same day as presidential elections. The guerrilla group stated that they were not consulted in the design and proposal of the referendum law, and that they continue to prefer the constituent assembly model for popular approval of a final peace agreement.<sup>50</sup>

The referendum will be considered for Congressional approval on Wednesday, and will then go to the Constitutional Court and finally to President Santos for approval.<sup>51</sup>

### Church could play a key role in ELN peace process

El Tiempo interviewed ‘Antonio Garcia’, a member of ELN Central Command. In the interview, he discussed the guerrilla group’s belief that there is a lack of political will to initiate a peace process. He also detailed the involvement of the international community in the ELN peace process model, and the likelihood that the Catholic Church will play an important role in such a process.<sup>52</sup>

## 4. International

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### International opinion of peace process is positive

Ex-President of Spain Felipe González spoke at a conference on peace pedagogy in Bogotá. He stated that the peace process with the FARC presents an important opportunity for Colombia to achieve peace, and called for Colombians to have more confidence in the negotiations. González also said that international opinion of the peace process is positive.<sup>53</sup>

### Stopping the negotiations would be a mistake: French expert

Daniel Pecault is a French academic who has spent more than forty years researching the Colombian conflict and related topics. El Tiempo interviewed him at an event in Cali. He discussed the FARC’s current military and social condition, their political participation, the legal framework for peace, and the possibility of stopping or pausing the negotiations, which he said would be a grave mistake.<sup>54</sup>

### US donates texts to support recruitment prevention

The United States donated 18,000 texts to support an educational strategy that aims to prevent child recruitment in Meta. The strategy encourages children to take advantage of educational and

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-tachan-de-unilateral-el-referendo-paz-articulo-454231>

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/aprobacin-de-referendo-por-la-paz-en-el-congreso\\_13148735-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/aprobacin-de-referendo-por-la-paz-en-el-congreso_13148735-4)

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/ecuador-admite-los-rastrojos-ya-operan-su-territorio-articulo-455072>

<sup>53</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/felipe-gonzalez-apoy-negociaciones-de-paz-en-colombia\\_13142107-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/felipe-gonzalez-apoy-negociaciones-de-paz-en-colombia_13142107-4)

<sup>54</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-negociacion-debe-seguir\\_13144852-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-negociacion-debe-seguir_13144852-4)



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other opportunities available to them in order to facilitate life choices that do not involve becoming part of an armed group.<sup>55</sup>

### 5. Other Voices

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#### **National Summit for Women and Peace in Bogotá**

Approximately 400 women who have been victimized or otherwise affected by the armed conflict met at the National Summit for Women and Peace in Bogotá last week. Discussions centered first on the role of women in the verification and referendum of a final peace agreement, and then on the representation of regional women's organizations in the talks.<sup>56</sup> The event was organized by the UN in partnership with various local entities. Proposals from the summit will be sent to the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber, the peace commission, the congressional gender equity team, and the UN.

### 6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

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#### **Military justice reform not approved**

A legal effort to reform military justice processes and allow more military cases to be processed in military courts was rejected last week due to an error in the paperwork used to approve the law. The GOC stated that it would look for other ways to protect the military and provide judicial guarantees that allow them to continue the fight against criminality.<sup>57</sup>

### 7. Timeline

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<sup>55</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ee-uu-dona-cartillas-a-colombia-para-prevenir-reclutamiento-forzado\\_13148298-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ee-uu-dona-cartillas-a-colombia-para-prevenir-reclutamiento-forzado_13148298-4)

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/mujeres-paz-y-propuestas-articulo-454143>

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-piden-blindar-al-proceso-de-paz\\_13143272-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-piden-blindar-al-proceso-de-paz_13143272-4)



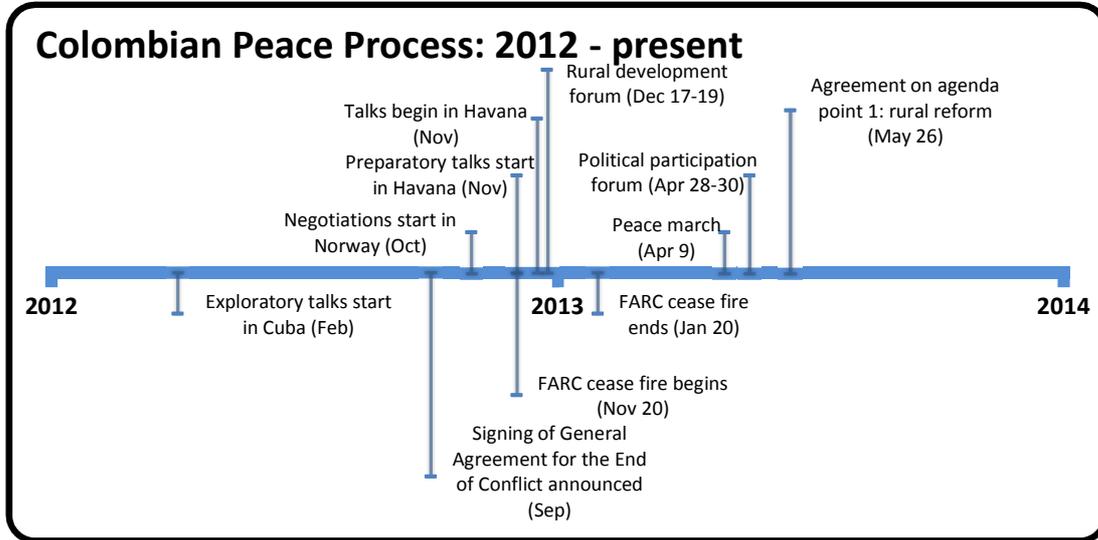
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### 8. Further Reading

#### Interview with Minister of Defense

Minister of Defense Juan Carlos Pinzón talked about the peace process in interview with El Tiempo. He affirmed that if the negotiations with the FARC are not successful, the military will continue to weaken the guerrilla group. Pinzón also discussed national security and regional cooperation.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>58</sup> [http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ministerio-de-defensa-dice-que-las-farc-odian-a-los-pobres\\_13145821-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ministerio-de-defensa-dice-que-las-farc-odian-a-los-pobres_13145821-4)