

PEACE MAIL

May 30 - June 5 2017

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

The final peace accord contains a three-pronged approach to ensuring fulfillment of commitments included in the text: the *Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification of the Implementation of the Peace Accord* (CSIVI), the *National Reincorporation Council* (CNR) and the GOC-FARC-UN tripartite *Monitoring and Verification Mechanism* (MM&V). This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work related to these supports for implementing the peace accords in Colombia.

The Colombian National Electoral Council recently announced that the **Government of Colombia will commit over COP\$ 3,500 million of public funds for the initiation and support of a future FARC political party**. The funds are part of the negotiated agreement to support the future political party's campaign activities and to provide funds for a new FARC political think-tank so as to create a level playing field for their incremental participation in future democratic elections in Colombia. Disbursement of the funds is contingent upon the FARC fully complying with the laying down of arms and creating a new legal political party expected after August 1, 2017, as agreed to in the peace accords signed in Havana. The FARC's current assets, estimated to be in the billions of COP\$ or several million USD\$, are ineligible to fund any political party activities due to being illegally acquired. Those assets are expected to be utilized to fund reparations for victims of the conflict.^{1 2}

FARC REQUESTS LAND FOR REINTEGRATION OF DEMOBILIZED EX GUERRILLAS

FARC leadership has requested plots of land to be available to demobilized ex combatants to support their economic reintegration upon learning of the recent creation of the Colombian National Fund for Land. Through the Fund, 3 million hectares are to be distributed to 800,000 small farmer families—none are to be distributed to FARC ex combatants. “It seems strange that no land will be distributed to demobilized ex combatants considering that the issue of land was the original cause of the conflict,” remarked Ivan Marquez, leader of the FARC. Another FARC leader also emphasized that “we need guarantees with regards to access to land and productive assets so that (demobilized ex-FARC members) have where to go and how to reintegrate.” The Fund was created as part of a law recently signed by President Santos to put into action a component of the peace accords regarding rural development.³

LIFE WITHOUT COCA IN CHARRAS, GUAVIARE

Charras is a rural village in southeastern Colombia selected as one of the FARC transition zones. The 60 families that live there have cultivated coca for over 20 years with FARC guerrillas being a constant and violent presence in the community. During the 90's coca production reached its peak so much so that it became the “currency” within the community; prices for goods were fixed to the price of grams of coca. However, in recent years, government fumigation and the signing of the peace accords between the government and the FARC have infused a new dynamic in the community—local *campesino* farmers want to switch to legal crops and improve their lives. President Juan Manuel Santos recently visited the community to present the government's program for the substitution of illicit crops. His message was general well received because local farmers would like to cultivate and commercialize more stable crops to improve their lives with government help. However, some inhabitants are skeptical saying that coca should not be

eradicated unless viable alternatives are also put in place; that any government plan should include both components. One farmer, a widower supporting himself and his two sons ages 11 and 7, remarked, “Although I survive off the sale of coca, I also plant plantains and yucca--but that is for eating because the only buyers who come here are looking to buy coca.” The government of Colombia’s national program to substitute illicit crops, officially launched in early 2017 as part of the peace agreement, plans to cut by 50% coca production in the 40 highest producing municipalities by eradicating and substituting 100.000 hectares of coca with a cost of COP\$ 1.000 billion (or USD\$ 340,000,000).⁴