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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.

Over the weekend of May 27-28, **President Juan Manuel Santos signed various decrees** in order to advance the implementation of the peace accords, on topics ranging from land, education in conflict zones, rural electrification, demining, and the creation of the National Council for Peace. He did so under the extraordinary powers granted to him by Congress for decrees related to the peace accords. Among these decrees was the mandate for restructuring of the ACR, an institution that for many years led the process of reintegration into civilian life of ex-combatants in the context of the Colombian armed conflict. According to the outgoing Interior Minister, Juan Fernando Cristo - now adviser on the implementation of the Agreement - the idea is to collect the experiences already applied and to make the process of reincorporation of the guerrilla demobilized have a more collective and rural approach. Additionally, a separate decree (891) secured the rights of all minors exiting the FARC-EP ranks within the Colombia Family Welfare Institute Program "Different Life Paths," even after they reach the age of adulthood.¹

President Santos also announced on May 29th that **the transitional zones would continue through August 1st**, providing an additional 20 days for the FARC-EP to lay down their arms and an additional 60 days for beginning their reincorporation process while still in the zones.²

The **Commission for Tracking, Impulse, and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Accord (CSIVI) released its 19th Joint Communiqué on May 29th**. The Communiqué covered four domains. First, it announced that between June-August 1st, the transitional zones would become spaces for training and beginning reincorporation processes for the FARC-EP. After that date, they will convert to pure reincorporation sites, and are to be managed with a community-based perspective. Second, the FARC-EP are to hand over all arms and transition to legality before July 20th. Third, the GoC will need to complete the process of releasing those FARC-EP prisoners who qualify for amnesty and suspend arrest warrants for those ex-guerrillas who qualify but who are not in jail. The GoC also needs to provide physical security for reincorporating FARC-EP members, and facilitate their socioeconomic reincorporation as well. Fourth, All international accompaniment needs to be activated by June 30th.³

124 FARC-EP have escaped transitional zones to join dissidents

Luis Carlos Villegas, the Minister of Defense, announced that as of May 23rd, 124 members of the FARC-EP have been captured who escaped transitional zones in order to join dissident movements. Estimated 300-350 individuals comprise dissident blocs of the FARC-EP, or less than 5%, according to Villegas.⁴

GoC-ELN continue into their third week in the second round of talks in Quito

The third week of talks between the GoC and the ELN began on May 29th during the second cycle taking place in Quito, Ecuador. Representatives expressed optimism about advancing conversations on how to protect civil society from the armed conflict. The new Ecuadorian President, Lenín Moreno, who assumed power on May 24th, has publicly reiterated support for these peace talks.⁵