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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.

On Tuesday, April 4th, **FARC-EP leadership handed over to the GoC its formal list of 6,804 FARC-EP members, along with 1,541 militia members.** An additional list of militia members will also be forthcoming. This list marks the completion of an important aspect of the peace accords and precedes three subsequent processes: 1) the GoC will review the list for individuals who are not actually FARC-EP members, but who are instead just trying to get in on the transitional justice benefits accorded to them (one such case has already been identified); 2) it will be the benchmark for those eligible for important amnesty and pardon proceedings; and 3) those individuals not on the list will not be eligible for any judicial benefits related to the peace accords.¹

In the face of the challenges facing FARC-EP and GoC representatives in the transitional zones to date, **leaders from both sides have begun to discuss the possibility of extending FARC-EP time in the transitional zones beyond the original D+180 date of June 1st.** This extension would be contingent on the FARC-EP completing their commitment to fully lay down their arms by D+180, according to High Commissioner for Peace, Sergio Jaramillo. Additionally, the legal standing of the zones would also change, and they would be re-purposed to facilitate reincorporation of the FARC-EP through programs such as literacy courses. More development will follow on this possibility in the coming weeks.²

On April 5th, **President Juan Manuel Santos signed a series of decrees that create the legal framework for the Truth Commission (Decree 588), the Unit for the Search for Disappeared Persons (Decree 589), and the Selection Committee for the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations, and Non-Repitition (Decree 587).** These represent major advances in the legislative framework for core transitional justice mechanisms within the final set of peace accords.³

Also on April 5th, Special Representative of the Secretary General to the Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, **Jean Arnault, made a statement on recent progress and challenges facing the implementation of the peace accords in Colombia.** He praised the legislative advances, continued release of minors from FARC-EP ranks, and progress on illicit crop eradication, among other things. Arnault additionally noted that the core area of concern is the slow pace of implementation along several critical axes within the agreements included in the peace accords, especially the construction of the camps, the implementation of the Amnesty law and security guarantees, and plans for reincorporating FARC-EP guerrillas.⁴

Three more minors exit FARC-EP camps

On Sunday, April 2nd, three more minors exited the FARC-EP ranks, bringing the total number of adolescents to emerge since September 2016 to 60. UNICEF received them together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); both agencies operated with support from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), the Presidential Council for Human Rights, and IOM.⁵

FARC-EP dissidents suspected in fatal explosion in Guaviare

In the hamlet of La Momposina in the department of Guaviare, an April 8th explosion resulted in four soldiers injured, one missing, and one killed. The Armed Forces have blamed FARC-EP dissidents for the explosion.⁶

GoC and ELN conclude first round peace dialogues

The GoC and the ELN guerrilla group concluded the first round of peace negotiations on April 6th, in Quito, Ecuador. The two-month initiation to the public phase of the peace negotiations resulted in four distinct agreements: 1) a framework for reference regarding sub-point 5f (humanitarian actions and dynamics); 2) plans for developing a pilot program for humanitarian demining; 3) an agenda to continue discussions on point 1 (Societal Participation in the Dialogues) and sub-point 5f; and 4) terms of agreement for other countries supporting the peace process between the two sides.⁷