

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 15 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communication dated 13 January 2021 by the President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez, in which he makes reference to the addition to the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (see annex).

(Signed) Guillermo **Fernández de Soto**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the identical letters dated 15 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and Spanish]

Bogotá, 13 January 2021

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the addition to the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, approved by Security Council resolution [2366 \(2017\)](#) of 10 July 2017.

This mandate is currently focused on the verification of sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed by the Colombian State with the former organized armed group the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People’s Army (FARC-EP), concerning social, economic and political reintegration and individual and collective security and protection measures for communities and social organizations.

Accordingly, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution [2545 \(2020\)](#) of 25 September 2020, in which the Security Council “Recalls that the Final Agreement envisages a role for the Verification Mission in verifying compliance with the sentences of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, and expresses its readiness to consider, in a timely manner, the addition of this task to the mandate of the Verification Mission”, the Government of Colombia, having carried out the corresponding consultations with the relevant institutions, requests of the United Nations Security Council an addition to the mandate of the Verification Mission in Colombia so that it may support the Tribunal for Peace of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in the task of verifying any “restorative sentences” (*sanciones propias*) that it hands down.

This verification of compliance would seek to determine (i) whether those who are sentenced are fulfilling the terms of their sentences and (ii) whether the national and local authorities are creating the conditions needed for fulfilment of the stipulations made by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in the sentences imposed, in harmony with, and maintaining the integral nature of, the implementation of the other components of the Agreement and the regulatory and legislative measures which give effect to it.

In the areas of its competence, the Verification Mission would share with the Special Jurisdiction for Peace the appropriate information, which should relate to individual sentences and the general course of their fulfilment, specifying their association with the conditions of truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition. The information provided to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace by the Verification Mission should indicate the progress or lack thereof in relation to the various components of the sentences imposed, but should not include any assessment of the decisions of the Special Jurisdiction from the legal standpoint or from the standpoint of compatibility with international standards. Such information may also be shared with other authorities, where their own competence is involved.

The Mission would fulfil a completely independent role of providing support to the First Instance Chamber of the Tribunal for Peace at the latter’s request, with that role being coordinated with national and local entities in a position to assist the Mission with the monitoring and verification concerned, in accordance with the law. To this end, coordination will be placed in the hands of the Office of the Presidential Counsellor for Stabilization and Consolidation, which will act together with the Ministry of National Defence in cases regarding members of the security forces; those

cases, in accordance with the relevant regulatory and legislative measures, in particular Law 1957 of 2019, will be monitored by an agency responsible for supporting the Tribunal for Peace when the latter so requests.

Decisive support for Colombia from the United Nations will be essential to ensure that the implementation in the territories continues as agreed between the parties, and that it is successful.

The additional functions that the Verification Mission would perform under the expanded mandate requested in this communication would begin on the day on which the Special Jurisdiction for Peace hands down its first restorative sentence. This mandate may be extended as necessary and in concordance with the length of the sentences. It should be noted that the People's Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC) party has expressed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Carlos Ruiz Massieu, its agreement with the terms described in this communication.

On behalf of my country, I take this opportunity to reiterate to the members of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations particular gratitude for the continued support for the stabilization and peacebuilding process led by the Government.

(Signed) Iván Duque **Márquez**
President of the Republic of Colombia
