Letter dated 9 January 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

I thank you for inviting the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to submit written advice, under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, in connection with the briefing on Colombia, scheduled for Wednesday, 11 January 2023 (see annex).

I kindly ask you to bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Muhammad Abdul Muhith
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
Annex to the letter dated 9 January 2023 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on Colombia

Since 2020, at the request of the Government of Colombia, the Peacebuilding Commission has continued to mobilize support for Colombia’s efforts to build peace following the ratification of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace in 2016. The Commission reiterates the importance of Colombia as a successful example of inclusive peacebuilding and expresses its appreciation for the strong engagement between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Colombia to share experiences with conflict-affected countries and regions.

Building on the Peacebuilding Commission’s most recent remarks to the Security Council on Colombia, on 12 October 2022, the Commission would like to make the following points:

1. The Commission commends President Petro and his Government for their continued commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the Final Agreement on its sixth anniversary and welcomes the efforts by the Government of Colombia to deepen and consolidate peace.

2. The Commission commends the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army) for the resumption of negotiations towards lasting peace in Colombia and for the strong representation of women on both sides, and welcomes the broad international support for the process, including the accompaniment role of the Secretary-General through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and of the Catholic Church and guarantor countries.

3. The Commission takes note of the Government’s initiative to launch participatory dialogue to feed into the National Development Plan for 2022–2026 and welcomes the progress made in promoting women’s participation in regional dialogues. The Commission further takes note of the recent establishment of the Ministry of Equality and Equity in Colombia.

4. The Commission takes note of the request made to expand the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to include verification of the implementation of section 1 and the ethnic chapter of the Final Agreement and expresses confidence that the Mission’s participation will help to consolidate progress, as the Secretary-General has noted in his recommendations to the Council.

5. The Commission reiterates its commitment, within its mandate, to continue supporting Colombia in its peacebuilding efforts and engaging with the Government of Colombia, and welcomes Colombia sharing its experiences and lessons learned with conflict-affected countries.