



Security Council

Distr.: General
18 October 2019

Original: English

Report of the Security Council mission to the Republic of Colombia, 11–14 July 2019

I. Introduction

1. In response to an invitation from the Government of Colombia, the Security Council sent a mission to Colombia from 11 to 14 July 2019 whose terms of reference can be found in the letter dated 10 July 2019 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/557, annex). The mission was co-led by Peru, represented by Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Permanent Representative) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, represented by Jonathan Guy Allen (Deputy Permanent Representative), and comprised the following additional members: Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve (Permanent Representative), Belgium; Dianbin Zhang, China; Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (Deputy Permanent Representative), Côte d'Ivoire; José Singer Weisinger (Permanent Representative), Dominican Republic; Anatolio Ndong Mba (Permanent Representative), Equatorial Guinea; Antoine Michon, France; Christoph Heusgen (Permanent Representative), Germany; Dian Triansyah Djani (Permanent Representative), Indonesia; Mansour Alotaibi (Permanent Representative), Kuwait; Joanna Wronecka (Permanent Representative), Poland; Vassily A. Nebenzia (Permanent Representative), Russian Federation; Xolisa Mfundiso Mabhongo (Deputy Permanent Representative), South Africa; and Rodney Hunter, United States of America. The mission was the Council's second to Colombia, the first having been conducted in May 2017. The programme of the visit, annexed to the present report, included meetings in Bogotá (with the Government, the political party People's Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC), Congress, civil society, transitional justice institutions and the United Nations country team) and a visit to the department of Cauca in south-western Colombia.

II. Meetings in Bogotá (12 July 2019)

A. Meeting with President Iván Duque

2. The Council's first meeting was a breakfast at the Foreign Ministry with President Iván Duque. The President welcomed the visit and the engagement of the Security Council with Colombia. He explained his approach to the peace process and reviewed the Government's achievements in the implementation to date, as well as ongoing concerns. The President stressed that those, including himself, who had taken part in the "no" campaign in the 2016 plebiscite had not been opposed to peace, but rather saw the need for changes to the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and



Building a Stable and Lasting Peace negotiated between the previous Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) to allow for a lasting peace. In 2018, as presidential candidate, he had promised that he would work for a successful peace in which justice has its place, and that he would not destroy or disrupt the essence of the Final Agreement. Soon after taking office, he had demonstrated his commitment by requesting the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. Progress on peace implementation during the first 11 months of his Government had exceeded that achieved over the previous 20 months. The President cited examples such as the increased approval of productive projects (24 had been approved, resulting in the employment of some 1,300 ex-combatants), the completion of all 16 development programmes with a territorial focus, and updating of the landregister. He assured the mission that financing for peace implementation was ensured in the national development plan. The President stressed his commitment to the reintegration of former combatants, as illustrated by his visits to three of the territorial areas for training and reintegration, and noted that a successful reintegration process was critical for consolidating peace. With respect to transitional justice, the President recalled his reasons for having objected to several provisions in the Law on the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, although he had signed it into law, thereby respecting the decision of the country's institutions. He pledged to support and work closely with the transitional justice system in the expectation that it will make possible a peace accompanied by truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition, and that persons who do not honour their obligations under the system receive exemplary punishment.

3. President Duque also noted that there were reasons for concern, in particular the killing of community leaders, human rights defenders and former FARC-EP members in rural areas. He expressed his Government's commitment to enhancing security and the presence of the State in the former conflict areas and noted that it was a major challenge to protect social leaders owing to the large number of persons who could be categorized as such. He referred to efforts by the Office of the Attorney General to investigate cases and bring the perpetrators to justice, to his Government's action plan for the protection of social and community leaders, human rights defenders and journalists, which was aimed at preventing attacks and responding better to early warnings, and to some 7,000 individual protection schemes. The Government was developing a national policy for addressing this problem, which was concentrated in 50 municipalities heavily influenced by drug trafficking and illegal mining. The number of killings had been reduced since he had taken office, but it still remained unacceptably high. In response to the killing of former FARC-EP members the President had, during the previous week, announced a package of additional measures to prevent killings and bring perpetrators to justice.

4. In conclusion, the President reaffirmed his commitment to continuing to work with the Security Council and welcomed the Council's unanimous support to Colombia and the Government's good working relationship with the Verification Mission. He presented a letter to the President of the Council, addressed to him and to the Secretary-General, in which he requested, on behalf of the Government and FARC, the renewal of the Mission's mandate for another year starting on 26 September 2019. In addition, the President welcomed a greater international focus on ensuring that FARC, in addition to the Government, comply with its obligations under the Final Agreement, in particular in areas such as the reporting of assets, knowledge of drug trafficking routes and cooperation with the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

5. In response to the President's remarks, the co-leaders and members of the Security Council delegation expressed their appreciation for the Government's invitation to visit Colombia and welcomed its request to renew the mandate of the Verification Mission. They emphasized the unanimous support of the Council for the

implementation of the Final Agreement and the importance of the success of the peace process in Colombia as an inspiration for peacemaking efforts around the world. While acknowledging the difficulties inherent in overcoming more than five decades of conflict, they expressed the hope that polarization around the Final Agreement could be reduced so as to make more unified efforts to consolidate peace. They commended the commitment of the President to implementation, welcomed advances in areas such as the reintegration of former combatants and stressed their concerns about the killings of social leaders and former FARC-EP members. They stressed the importance of extending the comprehensive presence of the State into the former conflict areas in order to spread the peace dividends of security and development. Several Council members voiced their support for voluntary crop substitution coupled with alternative development programmes as a key element of a successful strategy to combat illicit drugs. They stressed the importance of the Final Agreement as a package to be implemented in an integrated fashion. Responding to the comments and questions of the Security Council members, the President elaborated on his Government's approach to the eradication of illicit crops (using a range of instruments, including the intended resumption of aerial fumigation); the issuance of military directives, which had been criticized for the human rights risks that they entailed (the President noted that he had appointed a panel tasked with looking into the situation); and the National Liberation Army (ELN), regarding which the President restated that it had not met the Government's conditions for restarting the dialogue. Finally, the President called for continued international solidarity in the light of the mixed migration flows from the country's neighbour, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. By hosting more than 1.3 million Venezuelans who had left their country, Colombia had taken on a major burden in addition to the responsibilities relating to the implementation of the Final Agreement.

B. Meeting with senior government officials involved in peace implementation

6. Following their meeting with President Duque, the Members of the Council exchanged views with a group of senior officials involved in various aspects of peace implementation and the stabilization of former conflict areas, led by Emilio Archila, Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation. The Council members noted the importance of coordination across State entities and enquired about the difficulties in establishing an effective State presence in former conflict areas, protecting social leaders and implementing voluntary coca crop substitution programmes, as well as about the role of women in the peace process. Mr. Archila stressed the Government's political will to implement the Final Agreement and noted its complexity compared with other peace agreements and the need for long-term planning. In addition to the areas of progress noted by President Duque, he referred to the participation of FARC in Congress and the effectiveness of security in the territorial areas for training and reintegration, in which there had been no killings of ex-combatants. He mentioned the Government's commitment to the continuation of monthly stipends, food and services for ex-combatants and to a smooth transition in the territorial areas for training and reintegration once their legal status expired in August. He cautioned that changing development conditions in the former conflict areas would take a considerable amount of time and pointed out that the national development plan had established a 10- to 15-year road map for stabilization. He called for sustained political and financial support from the international community and understanding for the time frames involved. He noted that the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops had been established without ensuring the requisite financial resources, but that the Government would nonetheless honour the commitments to the families that had agreed to voluntarily eradicate coca under the programme. The Presidential Adviser

for National Security explained that the Government's new defence and security policy was aimed at filling the vacuum left by the disappearance of FARC as an insurgency through the establishment of "strategic zones of comprehensive intervention", and that it was envisaged as a multidimensional approach to stabilization that involved security and civilian institutions and basic services for the population. The Presidential Adviser for Human Rights and International Affairs pointed out that killings of social leaders had begun prior to the current administration (221 had occurred between the signing of the Final Agreement and the inauguration of President Duque) and that their number had declined since the adoption of the action plan. With respect to gender equality and gender aspects of the Final Agreement, officials noted the leadership role assigned to Vice-President Marta Lucía Ramírez, the establishment of a cabinet with equal numbers of women and men, and the role of the High-level Forum on Gender in following up on gender indicators within the Final Agreement. The head of the Government's Agency for Reintegration and Normalization noted the incorporation of a gender focus in productive reintegration projects and mentioned that emphasis was being put on delivering benefits for the surrounding communities. Council members were also briefed on efforts to facilitate the registration of FARC candidates and to ensure transparency in upcoming local elections, as well as efforts to provide reparations to conflict victims and to expand land, credit and technical assistance available to rural populations.

C. Meeting with peace commissions of Congress

7. The mission of the Security Council met with members of the peace commissions of the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives for parties representing both the Government coalition (Centro Democrático) and a range of independent and opposition parties (Alianza Verde, Cambio Radical, Partido Liberal, Partido Social de la Unidad Nacional, Polo Democrático, FARC, Lista Decencia). Council members emphasized the importance of ensuring that the peace process would succeed. They noted the continuing political divisions surrounding the Final Agreement and encouraged cross-party dialogue for the purpose of broadening political consensus to foster progress in implementation and national reconciliation.

8. In their statements, representatives of the independent and opposition parties acknowledged progress in the implementation of the Final Agreement, including the laying down of arms and political participation of FARC, as well as the commitment of the current administration to the productive reintegration of former combatants. The presence at the meeting, and in Congress, of parties at opposite ends of the ideological and political spectrum was in itself a powerful symbol that showed how far Colombia had come. However, members of the opposition considered that the commitment to implementation had been selective, that chapters on rural reform were not seriously being implemented and that the killing of community leaders indicated that efforts to extend the presence of the State and offer security in the former conflict zones had failed. Members of the opposition disagreed with the view expressed by the Government that the killings could be linked mainly to illicit economies because that explanation obscured deeper structural factors, the persistence of paramilitary groups and the impact of a discourse stigmatizing social leaders and former combatants. They expressed concern that the peace process still faced legal challenges and that it had already been subjected to lengthy discussions and review in Congress as well as in the country's high courts. They insisted that any further reform proposals should result from a fully inclusive political process involving all parties. They urged respect for the work of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and underscored the continued commitment of the majority of former FARC-EP members to the peace process, notwithstanding the position of some who had distanced themselves from the process.

9. Independent and opposition parties expressed appreciation for the Verification Mission and strongly welcomed the request to extend its mandate. Several expressed the view that the Mission should remain in Colombia until the peace process was fully consolidated. The Council was urged, as envisioned in the Final Agreement, to include in the Mission's mandated tasks the monitoring of compliance with the sentences to be handed down by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. The Council was also urged to invite members of civil society and FARC to future briefings in New York.

10. Legislators of the governing Centro Democrático party argued that the views of the majority of Colombians who had voted "no" in the 2016 plebiscite on the Final Agreement had still not been taken into account, and that those who continued to voice criticism of the Final Agreement and to propose modifications were unfairly being stigmatized as enemies of peace. They considered that the transitional justice process favoured perpetrators over victims and noted that Jesús Santrich and several other FARC leaders were not complying with their obligations to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. They held the peace process responsible for the expansion of illicit coca crops, which was fuelling the ongoing violence-related problems in the former conflict areas, including the growth in the number of FARC dissidents. They rejected the paramilitary label attached to groups responsible for some of the current violence as wrongly implying military responsibility. While they agreed that the killings of social leaders posed a serious problem, they stressed that the reason for their continued occurrence was not a lack of political will to address them, but the difficulty of extending an effective State presence to former conflict areas. The party representatives expressed appreciation for the Verification Mission and observed that not only the Government's compliance with its obligations should be monitored, but also that of FARC.

D. Meeting with party leaders of People's Alternative Revolutionary Force

11. The Council delegation met with the president of the political party FARC, Rodrigo Londoño, and with FARC representatives to the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement, the National Reintegration Council and two of its representatives in Congress, both women. Council members commended FARC for its commitment to the peace process and encouraged it to continue on the same track. They reiterated the Council's support for the full implementation of the Final Agreement. Members enquired about the views of FARC on current challenges to implementation, including the phenomenon of dissidents. They encouraged full contributions by FARC to victims, and accountability through the established transitional justice process. Several Council members shared thoughts about their own national experiences with peace and reconciliation.

12. FARC leaders welcomed the visit of the Security Council mission and stressed the importance of its involvement and of that of the international community in preserving the Final Agreement, including by extending the presence of the Verification Mission. They reiterated their commitment to the Final Agreement and their conviction that they had made the right decision in signing it. They nevertheless expressed the view that its implementation had been insufficient and that the political will of the current administration to comply with its obligations had been limited. FARC saw a difference between the Government's international discourse and its domestic actions, including in Congress, where the governing party was being perceived as seeking to undermine the Final Agreement. FARC leaders expressed particular concern about the killings and stigmatization of former combatants and social leaders, the insufficient implementation of rural and political reforms, the illicit crops substitution programme and actions affecting the independence of the Special

Jurisdiction for Peace. Despite relative progress with respect to reintegration, approved projects had benefited only 1,655 out of the 13,415 accredited former combatants. They argued that, to ensure the sustainability of the reintegration process, territorial and community-based approaches should be fully implemented, given that former combatants were living in 24 territorial areas for training and reintegration and 80 new collective settlements, both in urban and rural settings. Female representatives in Congress emphasized, among other points, the importance of supporting the participation of women and young people in political processes and of mainstreaming and advancing the gender provisions in the implementation.

13. FARC leaders underscored that they did not endorse the position taken by Jesús Santrich and a number of other former FARC-EP leaders who had distanced themselves from the peace process either before the signing of the Final Agreement or during its implementation. They stressed that the leadership of the party had persisted in complying with the Final Agreement and considered that the ongoing struggle for changes in Colombia should be carried out within its institutional framework. FARC delegates restated their commitment to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition and explained that they had been cooperating with the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition. Responding to questions about their compliance with provisions regarding the former guerrilla movement's assets and the fight against drug trafficking, one leader stated that the group had declared its assets as required under the Final Agreement, that it had not been a drug trafficking group and that it had no knowledge to share about routes and organizations. FARC leaders also mentioned that they are working in Congress to pass a law establishing the special transitional electoral districts for peace that were envisioned under the Final Agreement to guarantee the political participation of victims.

E. Meetings with members of civil society

14. The Security Council met with a group of representatives of civil society from various sectors including peace platforms, human rights organizations, the Catholic Church, women's organizations, ethnic groups, think tanks and organizations focused on children and young people in armed conflict. Council members confirmed their strong commitment to the peace process and underscored the important role played by civil society in peacebuilding. They welcomed the close collaboration in Colombia between the United Nations and civil society organizations.

15. Participating organizations stressed the strong commitment of civil society to the peace process. They acknowledged that the peace process had resulted in significant gains, including the laying down of arms by the former FARC-EP, its transformation into a political party and the progress made in reintegrating former combatants. They expressed concern, however, that the Final Agreement was not being implemented across the board as a comprehensive package, given that areas such as rural reform and political participation, the dismantling of criminal groups, and voluntary crop substitution were not, in their view, proceeding apace. The failure to establish special transitional electoral districts for peace was considered a shortcoming in the implementation of the political participation aspects of the Final Agreement. Concerns were also expressed about inadequate funding for peace priorities and insufficient use of implementation mechanisms established in the Final Agreement.

16. The killing of social leaders and former combatants was presented as a matter of grave concern. The National Commission on Security Guarantees, a body joining government and civil society representatives under the Final Agreement, had not been adequately utilized and Government responses had so far been ineffective. The ongoing violence in the former conflict areas, which also included the forced displacement and recruitment of children by illegal armed groups, meant that the hope

felt in the aftermath of the signing of the Final Agreement had given way to fear. The integrated extension of the presence of the State through a non-militarized approach was considered essential. Ethnic representatives noted the disproportionate impact of the current killings of social leaders on ethnic populations, many of whom were from ethnic communities. This pattern had also been felt throughout the armed conflict. They stressed the importance of implementing the ethnic chapter of the Final Agreement and strengthening self-protection schemes. They noted that indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities were open to reconciliation with former combatants, accepting them in their communities and working together on collective projects. Efforts within the reintegration process to treat children differentially, with an emphasis on protection and prevention measures, were applauded. The Council was also encouraged to call upon the State to carry out its obligations under the Final Agreement with respect to children.

17. Civil society organizations criticized attempts to modify the Final Agreement. They expressed strong support for the role played by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and urged that the transitional justice system be provided with the financial resources and political support it required to operate with independence and autonomy. Civil society organizations also called for the renewal of peace talks with ELN in order to end the cycle of violence in Colombia. Women's representatives stressed the importance of strengthening the implementation of the gender provisions in the Final Agreement, which, while considered a best practice, were underimplemented in practice. The Verification Mission was invited to increase the focus on gender in its work.

18. Civil society organizations welcomed the request to extend the mandate of the Verification Mission; several urged that its tasks be extended in the future to include the verification of compliance with the sentences handed down by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. They also stressed the importance of the continuation of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia and noted its complementarity with the Verification Mission.

F. Meeting with leaders of transitional justice institutions under the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition

19. The Security Council delegation met with the leaders of the three institutions of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition that comprise the transitional justice framework established in the Final Agreement: the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the Unit for the Search for Persons deemed missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict. Council members reiterated the support they had repeatedly expressed for the vital work of these institutions, enquired about progress and challenges they were encountering in implementing their mandates and invited suggestions about how the Council and its members could be of additional support. The heads of all three bodies expressed their appreciation for the support received from the Security Council and underscored the importance of its continued engagement in order to ensure the success of the peace process.

20. With respect to progress and challenges facing their institutions, Patricia Linares, President of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, expressed satisfaction that the enactment of the Law on the Special Jurisdiction for Peace had created the normative framework the Special Jurisdiction had been lacking and had given guarantees about the new framework for justice. Nonetheless, the framework was not sufficiently understood by the public, despite having already achieved results since

the start of its operations more than a year earlier. She noted that all the chambers of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace were functioning. More than 11,000 FARC members, 2,000 members of the public security forces and 53 third-party civilians had voluntarily submitted to its jurisdiction, civil society organizations had presented 191 reports, and 7 major cases had been opened involving serious crimes that had affected 830,000 victims of the armed conflict.

21. Father Francisco De Roux, President of the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition, explained that, during the first year of its three-year mandate, the Commission had focused on social dialogues involving, among others, victims and victims' organizations, ex-combatants, members of the private sector, academics, Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. These dialogues dealt with sensitive issues that Colombia had not yet examined, in particular responsibility for and motives behind crimes committed during the armed conflict. More of such dialogues were to be held. The challenge facing the Commission was to extract from the complexity of the armed conflict an approximation of the truth based on the information provided by the victims and a range of institutions. He stressed the importance that victims attached to overcoming polarization and conflict between Colombians, the strengthening of a more inclusive and participatory democracy and the potential of the transitional justice process to contribute to reconciliation.

22. Luz Marina Monzón, Director of the Unit for the Search for Persons deemed missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict, described the Unit as a humanitarian agreement within the Final Agreement. Its task was to determine the whereabouts and identity of an estimated 100,000 missing persons. In less than a year since the start of its operations it had received more than 900 individual and collective search requests, developed 10 search plans in relation to those requests and established a presence in 10 regions. Technological support was required to advance in the identification of and search for those who had disappeared, and the sharing of experiences with other countries was welcome. Special appreciation was expressed to the Security Council for the recent adoption of its resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#), in which the Council had urged States to search for missing persons and to include search mechanisms in peace processes. The resolution was an incentive for the work of the Unit and an obligation for the State.

23. The leaders of the institutions conveyed a shared concern that announced government budget cuts could be applied to the transitional justice institutions, which would severely hamper them in their work. It was strongly felt that such measures should not be applied to the transitional justice institutions, given their special role and transitory nature.

G. Meeting with the United Nations country team

24. The Council members met with representatives of the United Nations country team, who shared their assessments of the challenges facing national peacebuilding efforts and described how the United Nations system was supporting those efforts. Council members, for their part, stressed the importance they attached to the successful implementation of the Final Agreement and welcomed the strong focus of the country team in that regard, as well as the exemplary cooperation with the Verification Mission.

25. The Council delegation was informed that about two thirds of the 2018 budget of the country team had been allocated to peacebuilding efforts. This support was closely aligned with provisions of the Final Agreement, including the accords on rural reform, illicit crops, victims, security guarantees and the reintegration of former

combatants. Reintegration is an area of particularly close cooperation with the Verification Mission. The activities of the country team in support of peacebuilding were increasingly aimed at reaching regions affected by the armed conflict; nearly 60 per cent of the work was focused on the 170 municipalities affected by conflict where the Government was implementing development programmes with a territorial focus. Between 2017 and 2019, United Nations agencies extended their presence to all 25 territorial areas for training and reintegration. Furthermore, the peacebuilding fund was supporting a joint effort between several agencies and the Verification Mission to promote community-based reintegration actions with a strong focus on women's economic empowerment and children in 15 territorial areas for training and reintegration.

26. Extending an effective State presence to historically marginalized former conflict regions was highlighted as a matter of paramount importance, especially in view of troubling trends occurring in regions formerly occupied by FARC-EP. Those trends included killings of community leaders, increasing internal displacement and the expansion of illicit crops. Country team members stressed the importance of voluntary coca crop substitution, of actions to protect community leaders and human rights defenders, and of assuring a strong focus on gender aspects of the Final Agreement. In addition, Council members were informed that the United Nations system was supporting the authorities in Colombia, at their request, in responding to the challenges resulting from the mixed migration flows from the neighbouring Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, estimated at 1.3 million persons over the preceding two years.

III. Visit to Cauca Department (13 July 2019)

27. On the second day of its mission, the Security Council travelled to the department of Cauca, in south-western Colombia, in order to visit a territorial area for training and reintegration and to meet with social leaders at the municipal seat of Caldono. Cauca is the department registering the highest numbers of killings of community leaders, human rights defenders and former FARC-EP combatants since the signing of the Final Agreement. The municipality of Caldono, located in the northern part of Cauca, is home to a large indigenous population: 71 per cent of all inhabitants.

A. Meeting in Caldono with community leaders and representatives of non-governmental organizations

28. In Caldono, the Council members met with a diverse group of community leaders and with representatives of social organizations and ethnic and women's groups from Cauca Department. They reaffirmed the commitment of the Security Council to the implementation of the Final Agreement and noted their deep concern about the killings of social and community leaders in Colombia. They regretted being told that one well-known leader who had been scheduled to attend the meeting had been forced to cancel her participation after receiving a threat from an illegal armed group. Council members enquired about the reasons behind the killings and the efficacy of public policies being developed to address the problem. They expressed admiration for the work of the leaders on behalf of their communities and made a commitment to seek the strengthening of their security guarantees.

29. The community leaders welcomed the visit of the Security Council and expressed appreciation for the work of the Verification Mission. They voiced serious concern about the killings of leaders in both Cauca and the country as a whole. They attributed the violence to a range of factors, including the expansion of illegal armed groups competing for illicit economies and resistance to efforts by indigenous and

Afro-Colombian communities to defend territories and natural resources. Leaders who had supported the voluntary substitution of illicit crops and who had advocated the implementation of the Final Agreement were among the victims. One Afro-Colombian leader in attendance had survived a recent armed attack on a meeting of leaders in Cauca in which two bodyguards had been wounded. The organizations faulted public policies that, in their words, undermined the right to social protest and stigmatized community leaders and contributed to their insecurity. Indigenous representatives invited support for the strengthening of the Indigenous Guard, a self-protection mechanism. A weak State presence, the failure to provide public services to the population or to support the licit agricultural economy of the peasants contributed to a context in which illegal economies were thriving and illegal armed groups gained strength in Cauca and other regions, among them ELN, FARC dissidents and paramilitaries. The organizations called for the full implementation of the rural development provisions in the Final Agreement, including the development programmes with a territorial focus and the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops, as well as for renewed efforts at dialogue with ELN in order to achieve a comprehensive peace.

B. Visit to the Santa Rosa territorial area for training and reintegration and productive project

30. During a visit to the Santa Rosa territorial area for training and reintegration in the village of Los Monos, municipality of Caldono, the Security Council mission, joined for the occasion by high-level delegates of the national Government and of the FARC political party, held an open dialogue with residents of the territorial area, members of nearby communities and local and regional officials. The territorial area, in which approximately 237 former FARC combatants of mostly indigenous extraction resided, had been established on lands of the Nasa indigenous group under an agreement with traditional authorities. At the time of the visit, the continuation of the territorial area beyond the expiry of its legal status in August had recently been confirmed as a result of a dialogue between the Government and FARC.

31. In addressing the residents and their leaders, the Security Council members reiterated the support of the international community for the peace process and highlighted the importance of hearing first-hand accounts from former combatants and communities about their hopes and concerns with respect to the implementation of the Final Agreement. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, and the Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation, Emilio Archila, reiterated on behalf of President Duque the Government's commitment to the reintegration process and the implementation of the "peace with legality" policy. The Governor of Cauca and the Mayor of Caldono expressed their support for the peace process, acknowledged the efforts and the commitment of the parties, highlighted the importance of working alongside indigenous communities and underlined the benefits derived from the Final Agreement. The Governor of the indigenous reserve of San Lorenzo, in Caldono, underscored the importance of the visit of the Security Council to an indigenous territory. He highlighted the role of the Indigenous Guard and requested that the Government took concrete actions to stop attacks against community leaders and to implement key aspects of the Final Agreement, such as the ethnic chapter, comprehensive rural reform and the development programmes with a territorial focus. Senator Pablo Catatumbo of the FARC party stressed that despite the difficulties they were facing, former combatants maintained their commitment to reintegration into civilian life; the decision made by FARC to commit to peace was irreversible.

32. Former combatants and community members welcomed the visit by the Security Council and shared a range of opinions and concerns. Clarity was sought with respect

to the policy on reintegration into urban areas and to the Government's commitment to voluntary coca crop substitution. There were also calls for measures to stop the killing of former combatants, and questions were asked about why the State had not moved quickly into the areas that had been vacated by FARC. Female indigenous leaders highlighted the need for meaningful political participation by women in decision-making arenas and the eradication of gender-based violence.

33. Council members were briefed in detail about the state of reintegration efforts in Santa Rosa and, more broadly, in Cauca, by the head of the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization and the President of the FARC cooperative in the territorial area for training and reintegration. All in all, Cauca had 1,225 former combatants, the third-largest such population following the departments of Meta and Antioquia, of whom 60 per cent identified as being of ethnic origin. Four territorial reintegration councils and a departmental reintegration board were active in Cauca, connecting various actors in the reintegration process. Council members were informed that two of the three collective reintegration projects approved for Cauca by the National Reintegration Council, were in the Santa Rosa territorial area for training and reintegration: an avocado farm and a fish farm. Other projects had been financed with former combatants' funds received through the reintegration programme, as well as with international donations. In the latter category, Council members viewed a display of traditional handicrafts produced by the "Weaving peace" project led by female ex-combatants. They toured the area in which ex-combatants were being housed and travelled by road outside the territorial area to tour a tree tomato farming project employing some 30 ex-combatants and 10 community members. The project, which had initially been intended for the consumption of the participants only, was expanding and the aim was to produce some 40 tons of fruit per month for sale to national supermarket chains.

IV. Media

34. The Security Council mission visit was prominently covered in the national media. Media interactions included a joint press conference by President Duque and the mission's co-leaders (12 July), a press encounter by the co-leaders at the airport of Popayán in the department of Cauca following the visits to Caldono and the Santa Rosa territorial area for training and reintegration (13 July) and interviews given by several Council members with national and international media in Bogotá (13 July). The visit was also publicized and documented by means of photographs and video posted to the digital platforms of the Verification Mission. The Security Council subsequently referred to the mission in a press statement of 23 July 2019 (available from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13896.doc.htm>).

Annex

Programme of work

Friday, 12 July 2019 –meetings in Bogotá

- Breakfast with President Iván Duque

President Iván Duque Márquez; Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Adriana Mejía, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs; Guillermo Fernández De Soto, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations; Emilio Archila, Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation
- Press stakeout

President Iván Duque Márquez; Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations; Jonathan Guy Allen, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations
- Technical meeting with Government entities in charge of the implementation process

Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Adriana Mejía, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs; Emilio Archila, Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation; Francisco Barbosa, Presidential Adviser for Human Rights and International Affairs; Rafael Guarín, Presidential Adviser for National Security; Andrés Stapper, Director of the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization; Juan Carlos Soler, Vice-Minister of Interior; Marcela Urueña, Vice-Minister for Agriculture; Ramón Rodríguez, Director of the Victims Unit; María Mercedes Liévano, Deputy Director of Colombian Institute of Family Welfare
- Meeting with the peace commissions of Congress (representatives of political parties)
 - **Senate:** Antonio Sanguino, Alianza Verde; Temístocles Ortega, Cambio Radical; Paloma Valencia, Centro Democrático; Victoria Sandino, FARC; Luis Fernando Velasco, Partido Liberal; Roy Barreras, Partido Social de la Unidad Nacional; Roosevelt Rodríguez, Partido Social de la Unidad Nacional; Iván Cepeda, Polo Democrático; Guillermo García Realpe, Partido Liberal; Harold Suárez, Centro Democrático; Pablo Catatumbo, FARC; Armando Benedetti, Partido Social de la Unidad Nacional; Richard Aguilar, Partido Cambio Radical; Alejandro Corrales, Partido Centro Democrático; Ruby Helena Chagui, Partido Centro Democrático; Carlos Manuel Meisel Vergara, Partido Centro Democrático; Carlos Lozada, FARC
 - **House of Representatives:** Carlos Eduardo Acosta, Colombia Justa Libres; Marco Calarcá, FARC; María José Pizarro, Lista de la Decencia
- Lunch with United Nations country team
- Meeting with FARC leadership

Rodrigo Londoño, President of FARC; Jairo Estrada, Representative to the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement; Pastor Alape, Representative to the National Reintegration Council; Pablo Catatumbo, Senator; Sandra Ramírez, Senator; Carlos Antonio Lozada, Senator; Rodrigo Granda, Representative to the Commission; Victoria Sandino, Senator

- Meeting with civil society
 - Peacebuilding organizations:

Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Corporación de Investigación y. Acción Social y Económica; Daniel García Peña, Planeta Paz; Atahualpa Hernández, Diálogo Intereclesial por la Paz de Colombia; Guillermo Rivera, Defendamos la Paz
 - Human rights organizations:

Jahel Quiroga, Corporación Reiniciar; Gustavo Gallón, Comisión Colombiana de Juristas; Franklin Castañeda, Coordinación Colombia, Europa, Estados Unidos; Claudia Mejía, Sisma Mujer
 - Catholic Church:

Monsignor Héctor Fabio Henao, Pastoral Social
 - Women’s organizations:

Olga Amparo Sánchez, Cumbre Nacional de Mujeres; Martha Sánchez, Alta Instancia de Género; María Eugenia Cruz, Red Nacional de Mujeres Defensoras
 - Ethnic organizations:

Ariel Palacio, Instancia Especial de Alto Nivel de los Pueblos Étnicos; Héctor Marino Carabalí, Instancia Especial de Alto Nivel de los Pueblos Étnicos
 - Child protection and youth issues:

Hilda Beatriz Molano, Coalición Contra la Vinculación de Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes al Conflicto Armado en Colombia
 - Think tanks:

Jorge Restrepo, Centro de Recursos para Análisis de Conflictos
- Meeting with the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition
 - Patricia Linares, President of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace
 - Francisco De Roux, President of the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition
 - Luz Marina Monzón, Director of the Unit for the Search for Persons deemed missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict

Saturday, 13 July 2019 – Visit to Cauca Department

- Meeting in the municipality of Caldono with community leaders from Cauca
- Visit to the Santa Rosa territorial area for training and reintegration
 - Dialogue with residents, community leaders and authorities

Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Emilio Archila, Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation; Andrés Stapper, Director of the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization; Óscar Rodrigo Ocampo, Governor of Cauca; Paulo Andrés Piso, Mayor of Caldono; Alfonso Díaz, Governor of the Local Indigenous Council San Lorenzo de Caldono; Jhon Carlos Moreno, Legal Representative of Board of Directors of Santa Rosa Cooperative;

- Tour of the territorial area for training and reintegration
 - Visit to tree tomato productive project
 - Press Encounter at the regional airport of Popayán
-