

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

May, 2014

1

07 de mayo de
2014

1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) the guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive dialogues, in Havana, on November 19, 2012. Two agreements have been reached so far: one on the first point on the agenda, integrated rural reform, on May 26, 2013; and the second on the next point, political participation, on November 6, 2013.

2. Key Developments from April 30th to May 6th

FARC insist on judicial reform

The Minister of Justice recently stated that the justice sector must be restructured in order to efficiently implement transitional justice mechanisms resulting from a final peace agreement. The FARC dialogue team supported this statement, insisting that broad judicial reform is necessary for peace to be stable and properly supported by the justice sector.¹

Attorney General provokes debate on FARC reintegration

Eduardo Montealegre, the Attorney General, asserted that community service, not jail time, could be a good alternative sentence option for ex-FARC commanders. This statement has provoked a variety of reactions from across the political spectrum. Juan Manuel Galán of the Liberal Party said that it would be necessary to examine Colombia's commitment to international standards on transitional justice and victims' rights before allowing this kind of alternative sentence. Inspector General Alejandro Ordóñez said that Montealegre's proposal shows that he has already accepted that the FARC will receive impunity for their crimes.²

Second security spying office uncovered

After February's scandal involving an unauthorized military surveillance office that seemed to be spying on communications from the peace talks, another hideaway from which peace process emails were being intercepted has been found. Minister of the Interior Aurelio Iragorri stated that

¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-insisten-una-reforma-judicial-cambios-radicales-articulo-489727>

² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/el-fiscal-montealegre-abre-un-debate-necesario-para-la-paz_13927261-4 and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/debate-sobre-propuesta-para-que-farc-pague-penas-con-servicio-social_13911535-4

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investigations into this new site are ongoing, but that public security forces are not involved. Whoever is behind the interceptions is suspected of interfering with national security, as both peace process and presidential email accounts were hacked.³

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Santos links peace agreement to reelection

President Santos, who is in the middle of his presidential campaign as May 25th elections approach, believes that a peace accord with the FARC will be signed this year if he is elected. He also asserted that an agreement on illegal drugs will be reached within a few weeks.⁴

Discussion of illegal drugs continues

The latest round of peace talks closed on Sunday with no agreement on the current topic of illegal drugs. In a joint press release, the two dialogue teams stated that they have achieved a lot of progress, and hope to continue to advance in the next round, which begins on May 12th.⁵

4. Other Voices

Ex-Senator Piedad Córdoba proposes reconciliation initiative

Ex-Senator Piedad Córdoba is leading an initiative called “Reconciliation Committee” that would facilitate reconciliation between imprisoned members of the military and imprisoned members of the FARC. The aim of the project would be to support forgiveness and reconciliation starting with those who previously opposed each other in the conflict.⁶

“Wave of Peace” platform launched to support talks

A group of activists, artists, and other citizens launched an online dialogue platform called “Ola por la Paz” (Wave of Peace). The collective is led by Daniel Quintero, who was a candidate in recent Congressional elections. The Twitter handle for the platform is @Oladelapaz.⁷

Indigenous groups will discuss peace in the framework of their cosmovisions

Organizations of indigenous groups all over the country will send representatives to the “Peace and indigenous peoples forum, for life and the defense of our territories” on May 19th and 20th in

³ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/cti-ocupo-nueva-sala-de-interceptaciones_13941035-4

⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-augura-paz-farc-se-firmara-ano-si-reelegido-articulo-490499>

⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/sin-acuerdo-sobre-drogas-termina-otro-ciclo-de-conversa-articulo-490327>

⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/nueva-mision-de-piedad-cordoba-articulo-490277>

⁷ <http://www.rcnradio.com/noticias/se-gesta-nuevo-movimiento-denominado-ola-por-la-paz-133953>

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Bogotá. The event aims to facilitate discussion of the peace talk agenda topics taking into account the traditional cosmovisions of the indigenous groups. It also aims to seek ways that indigenous groups can use their traditions to contribute to peacebuilding in Colombia.⁸

5. International

Rudi Giuliani discusses post-conflict and peace talks

Former New York Mayor Rudi Giuliani is in Colombia. In an interview with El Tiempo, he discussed anti-crime strategies in New York, and expressed admiration for the decreasing homicide rate in Colombia and the strategies used to drive it. Giuliani also highlighted Colombia's experience in reintegration as a strength going into the post-conflict phase, and evaluated options to prevent ex-guerrilla members from returning to crime.⁹

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Constitutional Court convenes public debate on Legal Framework for Peace

The Constitutional Court will hold a public debate to hear opinions on the Legal Framework for Peace, after a new legal case was presented against the Framework by ex-Minister of Defense Rafael Guarín. The case asserts that the Framework allows the State to renounce its obligation to investigate and judge human rights violations, which is unconstitutional. It also proposes that those responsible for human rights violations should not be able to participate in politics. The debate will convene the Inspector General, Minister of Justice, Senate President, Attorney General, and Ombudsman. Other attendees include victims' organizations representatives, the Red Cross, and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).¹⁰

The costs of conflict and peace

An analysis by El Tiempo states that Colombia would have to assign 2% of its GDP over the next decade to peacebuilding initiatives in order for them to be sustainable. This cost would be compensated by growth that would be seen as a result of new economic activity. In contrast, the conflict currently prevents approximately 12 billion pesos (US\$6 billion) from entering the economy. This is approximately 1.6% of the current GDP of US\$370 billion.¹¹

⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/indigenas-de-amazonia-colombiana-debatiran-paz-su-cosmo-articulo-490742>

⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/entrevista-con-rudolph-giuliani-exalcalde-de-nueva-york_13939736-4

¹⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/corte-cito-audiencia-publica-nuevo-debate-sobre-marco-j-articulo-490373>

¹¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/el-coste-de-la-guerra-y-la-paz-en-colombia_13904422-4



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Peace: The topic that divides presidential candidates

A debate was held between presidential candidates Clara López (Polo-Unión Patriótica), Marta Lucía Ramírez (Partido Conservador), Enrique Peñalosa (Alianza Verde), and Oscar Iván Zuluaga (Centro Democrático). López said that as President she would continue talks with the FARC conditioned on a unilateral ceasefire, while Ramírez stated that he would continue dialogues but limit them to a four-month term. Peñalosa reiterated his support for the talks and his belief that they should not be tied to a government, but rather transcend transition. Zuluaga would suspend the talks and give the FARC one week to cease all criminal activity if they want to reach a negotiated end to the conflict. President Santos did not attend, but has frequently stated that a peace agreement could be reached this year if he continues as President.¹²

7. Further Reading

IOM and other international organizations agree on truth and reparations

Gonzalo Sanchez from the National Center for Historical Memory, transitional justice expert Rodrigo Uprimny, Asfamipaz representative, Marleny Orjuela, Katie Kerr from IOM, and other representatives from relevant national and international entities spoke at an event titled “Victims and their right to truth, justice, and reparation” hosted by El Tiempo. All agreed that finding the truth is key in fulfilling victims’ rights and constructing lasting peace.¹³

Minister of Defense emphasizes need for FARC punishment

Minister of Defense Juan Carlos Pinzón was interviewed by El Tiempo. He discussed his expectations and hopes for the post-conflict phase, highlighting the need to continue strengthening the armed forces and police in order to support peace. Pinzón also asserted that the Colombian citizenry is nervous about impunity, and needs to be assured that members of the FARC who committed human rights violations will be punished.¹⁴

¹² <http://www.eltiempo.com/elecciones-2014/presidencia/foro-decandidatos-presidenciales-de-teleantioquia/13912218>

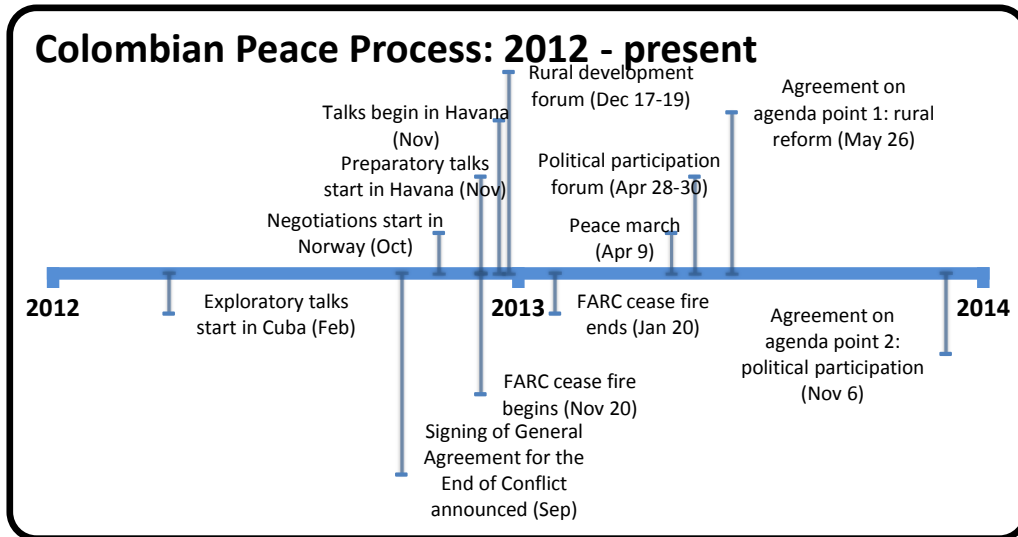
¹³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/verdad-justicia-y-reparacin_13904400-4

¹⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-13927271.html

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8. Timeline



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1. Background

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2. Key Developments from May 7th to May 13th

Communications interceptions aimed to interfere with peace talks

Scandal erupted after last week's discovery of a hacker intercepting communications between the President, the dialogue teams, and others relevant to the peace talks. GOC dialogue leader Humberto de la Calle assured that the dialogues have not been affected by the interceptions¹⁵, and the Attorney General stated that the man behind the illegal activity could face up to twenty-five years in jail. Information found in the office included secret military documents, lists of demobilized people, emails from the FARC, and reports on political campaigns.¹⁶

After, Attorney General Eduardo Montealegre stated that there is evidence that the armed forces could be linked to the hacker, the Minister of Defense published a communiqué asserting that the military supports the peace talks and would not interfere in such a way.¹⁷

FARC hopes citizens' support for talks will not be swayed by election campaigns

The FARC hope that Colombians' support for the peace talks will not be swayed by presidential candidates' varying opinions of the peace talks. The group said they are not worried about the outcome of the elections as they believe Colombians will vote in the interests of peace.¹⁸ The FARC

¹⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-13962695>

¹⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/hacker-presos-por-sabotear-proceso-de-paz-busca-acuerdo-con-fiscalia/13947255>

¹⁷ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/fuerza-publica-respalda-proceso-de-paz-ministerio-de-defensa/13977717>

¹⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-dicen-no-estan-campana-electoral-articulo-491808>



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have also released a rap song calling on Colombians to support the peace process and participate in the dialogues.¹⁹

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Round 25 begins with high hopes for agreement before elections

The FARC stated to the press that as round 25 of the talks began on Monday, they were three or four paragraphs away from reaching an agreement on illegal drugs. Hopes for such an agreement are high, especially given that good news from Havana in this round, which ends on May 22nd, could affect the outcome of the presidential elections on May 25th.²⁰

GOC team lead Humberto de la Calle said the talks are not timed according to elections. Both agreements reached so far have taken six months, implying that the accord on illegal drugs could be reached soon as talks on this topic started in November. However, the upcoming elections mean that announcement of an accord could affect electoral outcomes.²¹

FARC links solution to illegal drugs with rural reform

Members of the FARC dialogue team stated that the solution to the problem of illegal drugs and associated cultivations is tied to rural reform. The group said that many peasants were driven to illegal crop cultivation due to inadequate support for legal livelihoods, so the solution to illegal drugs must take their agrarian needs into account.²²

4. Other Voices

Peace process expert makes recommendations for Colombia

Francisco Diez of the Peace Accords Matrix at University of Notre Dame is presenting a study of peace processes to the GOC dialogue team. In interview with El Tiempo, Diez discussed

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwvF-58ZgkY&list=PL4BUIQBKuHenYyAxsWRD41eAWnrUFDIU>

²⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/acuerdo-de-drogas-bajo-fuego-electoral-articulo-491737> and www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-dicen-que-queda-poco-para-concretar-el-tema-del-narcotrafico/13976917

²¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/gobierno-farc-entra-en-una-nueva-ronda-de-negociaciones/387052-3>

²² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-insisten-reforma-agraria-acabar-cultivos-de-ilicito-articulo-492048>

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transitional justice, the post-conflict transition, ways to include vulnerable groups, and the particularities of negotiating while presidential elections are taking place.²³

Michel Wieviorka, an influential political scientist, assessed the peace process in interview with El Tiempo. He discussed social issues such as land and their influence on the talks and in the post-conflict stage, as well as memory and transitional justice.²⁴

Army general says military key in post-conflict development

General Lasprilla, director of the Army, was interviewed by El Tiempo. He stated that rumors that the armed forces will be reduced in the post-conflict phase are untrue, and that the military will be a key player in ensuring post-conflict security. Lasprilla also asserted that the armed forces will be important in strengthening development projects in the transition.²⁵

5. International

Chilean President elects new peace process delegate

President Bachelet of Chile has chosen Luis Maira, ex-Minister of Planning and Cooperation, as the new Chilean delegate to the peace process. Maira is a high-profile left-leaning intellectual and his new position is seen as an attempt by Chile to take an important role in peace in Colombia. Maira replaces Milenko Skoknic, who will now be Chile's Consul in Bolivia.²⁶

Norwegian ambassador discusses post-conflict in Montería

Norwegian ambassador Lars Vaagen went to Montería to see the city's post-conflict plans. He stated that the emergence of criminal gangs is the greatest risk of post-conflict, and it is crucial to ensure that the countryside and the city are benefited by post-conflict development.²⁷

Ex-commander of Salvadoran FMLN evaluates peace talks

Joaquín Villalobos, an ex-commander of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), a main actor in El Salvador's civil war, was interviewed by El Tiempo. Villalobos stated that while the FARC are still fighting, they will prevent leftist political parties from gaining support due

²³ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/experto-en-procesos-de-paz-pide-mirar-casos-internacionales/13947279>

²⁴ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/un-estado-fuerte-es-clave-para-salir-de-la-violencia-wieviorka/13946935>

²⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/con-obras-para-el-desarrollo-tambien-se-lucha-por-la-paz-ejercito/13980064>

²⁶ www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/presidenta-chilena-eleva-perfil-de-delegado-en-proceso-de-paz-con-farc/13947277

²⁷ <http://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/cordoba/embajador-de-noruega-llego-monteria-para-hablar-de-postconflicto-159009>

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to perceived links to the guerilla group. He is optimistic about the talks, but warned that the FARC could form the structural basis for new criminal groups if they demobilize, like FMLN structures led to the formation of the “maras” in El Salvador.²⁸

Politicians send letter of support to dialogues

Two hundred and forty-five politicians from the USA, Ireland, the UK, and Northern Ireland have sent a letter of support to both dialogue teams in Havana. The text encourages the teams to consider a ceasefire in the interests of peace, and to take other measures necessary to reduce the humanitarian cost of the conflict and achieve stable peace in Colombia.²⁹

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

ICRC will stay for post-conflict transition

The ICRC released its latest report on Colombia, titled “Colombia: the humanitarian situation in 2013 and perspectives for 2014”. The document evaluates how a peace agreement and consequent transition will affect the country, highlighting that work such as demining and finding disappeared people will still need to be done.³⁰

Demining as an option for demobilized people

At a Semana forum titled “Post-conflict and the surveillance and private security sector”, the President of the federation Fedeseguridad proposed that ex-combatants be incorporated into private security companies’ demining teams as non-technical demining operators. National Police Director Rodolfo Palomino asserted that demobilized people could not be integrated into the armed forces due to the level of technical and academic training this would require.³¹

UNODC report highlights organized crime in Colombia

The UNODC 2013 Global Homicide Report was released. It states that Colombia is the second most violent country in South America. The document highlights that organized crime and illegal economies are key to continuing violence in the region, and that these factors could influence the persistence of violence during Colombia’s post-conflict transition. A lack of state presence also facilitates organized crime, and should be resolved in the post-conflict phase in order to prevent the continuation of violence in conflict-affected areas.³²

²⁸ <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12837766>

²⁹ www.justiceforcolombia.org/news/article/1635/politicos-de-los-estados-unidos-el-reino-unido-e-irlanda-declaran-su-apoyo-para-e

³⁰ <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-13938743>

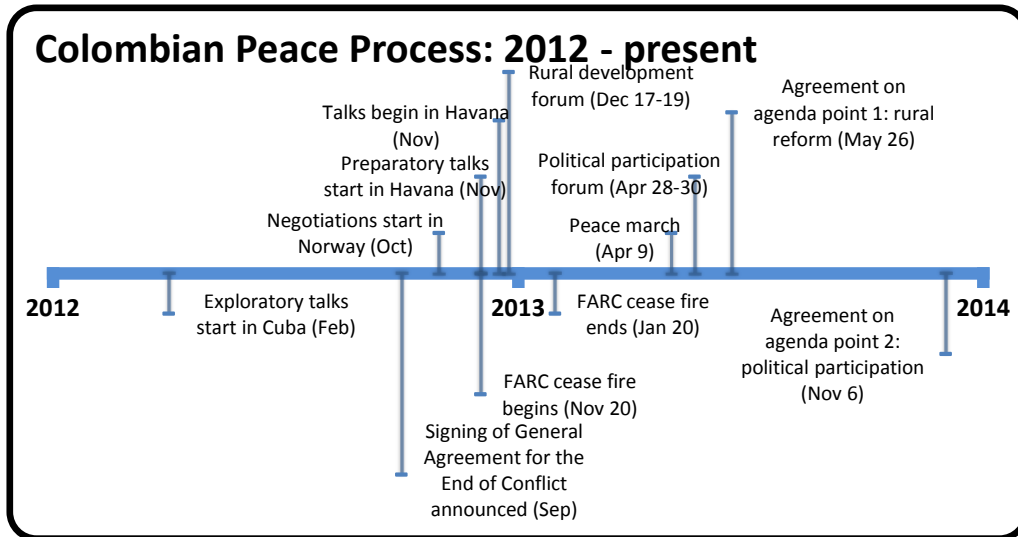
³¹ www.fuerzasmilitares.org/noticias/colombia/ministerio-de-defensa/4438-desminado-humanitario-opcion-para-los-desmovilizados

³² http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf

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8. Further Reading

Gallup poll indicates optimism regarding peace process

Gallup conducts a poll every two months to ascertain public opinion on a range of political and social issues. In the latest poll, 64% of those surveyed agreed with the GOC's decision to hold peace talks with the FARC, and 62% believed that the dialogues must be continued until an agreement is reached.³³

Presidential candidate election tool released

The Universidad de los Andes has developed a virtual tool whereby people answer a series of questions on topics ranging from abortion to the peace process, and are told which presidential candidate best fits their opinions.³⁴

Reuters publishes photo essay on female combatants

Reuters News Agency published an article and photo essay of first-person accounts of female members of the FARC throughout the fifty-year conflict. It focuses on well-known women in the group, and the roles they have played.³⁵

³³ <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-13961296>

³⁴ <http://congresovisible.org/>

³⁵ <http://www.trust.org/slideshow/?id=ed79b68a-bfda-44e6-b139-40125173ae9f>

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2. Key Developments from May 14th to May 20th

FARC and ELN announce unilateral ceasefire during elections

The FARC and ELN will hold a unilateral ceasefire from May 20th to the 28th in honor of the presidential elections on the 25th.³⁶ The Ombudsman requested that the two groups fulfill the ceasefire after explosives suspected of belonging to the FARC were found in a school in Cauca.³⁷

Presidential campaigns close amid hacker scandal

A video was released showing hacker Andrés Sepúlveda in conversation with presidential candidate Oscar Iván Zuluaga. In the video, Zuluaga asks Sepúlveda for military data and information on the location of the FARC and the peace process. By law, presidential campaigns had to end on Sunday, so Zuluaga's campaign closed amid calls for his resignation.³⁸

3. Dialogues & Agenda

GOC and FARC announce agreement on illegal drugs

On May 16th the GOC and the FARC announced an agreement on the problem of illegal drugs, the fourth of six points on the GOC-FARC dialogue agenda and the third to be addressed so far in the peace process. The topic includes three sub-points: illegal crop substitution; prevention and public health programs; and the production and commercialization of illegal drugs. The proposals include broad measures to involve local communities and governments in their design and

³⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-y-eln-anuncian-cese-unilateral-de-fuego-durante-pr-articulo-492687>

³⁷ www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/defensoria-pide-a-las-farc-y-al-eln-que-cumplan-con-cese-del-fuego-14013617

³⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/escandaloso-cierre-de-campana-articulo-493154>

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implementation. The agreement emphasizes joint GOC and FARC responsibility in the solution to the problem of illegal drugs.³⁹

Agreement on illegal drugs proposes a range of initiatives

The GOC and FARC agreement on illegal drugs proposes programs to tackle this issue from legal, public health, and agricultural perspectives. Proposals under sub-point 1 on illegal crop substitution include: the Integral National Illegal Crop Substitution Program, in which communities will agree to substitute crops and will be subject to manual eradication programs if they do not agree, with the possibility of aerial eradication left open; and a joint working group on demining, in which the government will carry out a demining program, and the FARC will support the provision of information about the location of mines, among other functions.

Under sub-point 2 on public health, the government will create the Integral National Illegal Drug Consumption Intervention Program and the National Illegal Drug Consumer Assistance System among other initiatives tackling drug consumption in Colombia.

Under sub-point 3 on illegal drug production, the GOC will carry out a strategy to break down criminal organizations' links to the public sector. New strategies will be introduced to combat corruption, money laundering, and use of precursor chemicals to produce illegal drugs.⁴⁰

Presidential candidates speak about the agreement on illegal drugs

Presidential candidates spoke out about the agreement on illegal drugs. President Santos praised the agreement, highlighting international congratulations it has received, emphasizing progress in the talks and his belief that a final agreement will be reached by the end of 2014.⁴¹ Santos' main opponent, Oscar Iván Zuluaga, stated that the GOC should not have discussed illegal drugs with the "world's main drug cartel". Green Alliance candidate Enrique Peñalosa and leftist coalition candidate Clara López criticized the political use of the talks by Santos.⁴²

Academics opine on agreement on illegal drugs

³⁹ www.elespectador.com/noticias/proceso-de-paz/comunicado-conjunto-de-delegaciones-del-gobierno-nacion-articulo-492875

⁴⁰ www.elespectador.com/noticias/proceso-de-paz/comunicado-conjunto-de-delegaciones-del-gobierno-nacion-articulo-492875 and <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/acuerdo-con-farc-impacta-al-menos-mitad-del-negocio-del-narcotrafico/14002255> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/los-pasos-seguir-tras-acuerdo-sobre-drogas-farc-articulo-492922>

⁴¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-confia-culminar-ano-el-proceso-de-paz-articulo-493036>

⁴² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/candidatos-critican-acuerdo-de-gobierno-y-farc-frente-t-articulo-493017>

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Experts weighed in on the agreement on illegal drugs. Germán Said, of the Universidad del Rosario, and Iván Garzón, of the Universidad de la Sabana, agreed that the announcement of the agreement was timed to Santos' presidential election campaign and contributes to increased polarization surrounding the talks. León Valencia, of Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, asserted that the agreement shows significant progress in the talks, especially as illegal drugs have never been discussed in talks with illegal armed groups in Colombia. All of the analysts agreed that the point on demining is crucial and that the demining process will take a long time.⁴³

4. Other Voices

Minister of Justice assures no impunity for FARC

Minister of Justice, Alfonso Gómez Méndez, criticized the 2003 negotiations with paramilitary groups, stating that the Justice and Peace process allowed impunity and did not incite them to tell the truth about their actions. He asserted that these lessons learned will be applied to the FARC, who will tell the truth and will not be given impunity through transitional justice.⁴⁴

5. International

International congratulations on illegal drugs agreement pour in

UN agencies and representatives congratulated the GOC on the agreement on illegal drugs. Ban Ki-Moon released a statement of praise, while UN Colombia Humanitarian Representative Fabrizio Hoschild stated that the peace process is now “irreversible” and must conclude in success.⁴⁵ Bo Mathiasen, UN Office on Drugs and Crime Representative, said the agreement will break the FARC's historic ties with drugs trafficking, and praised the point on demining.⁴⁶

The USG hailed the agreement as progress in the peace talks and emphasized the importance of coca eradication.⁴⁷ The Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel

⁴³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/acuerdo-permitiria-desligar-guerrilla-del-narcotrafico-articulo-492896>

⁴⁴ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/en-proceso-con-farc-no-habra-impunidad-que-si-hubo-con-auc/14005900>

⁴⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/el-proceso-de-paz-ahora-es-irreversible-onu/14000001> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/ban-ki-moon-celebra-el-acuerdo-sobre-drogas-entre-gobie-articulo-493012>

⁴⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/es-un-paso-clave-para-contener-el-narcotrafico/14002258>

⁴⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/eeuu-celebra-avance-dialogo-de-paz-colombia-articulo-493086>

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Insulza, stated that a decrease in drugs trafficking will benefit Colombians and the region.⁴⁸ The European Union concurred, stressing the regional significance of dismantling drugs trafficking networks.⁴⁹ Colombia's Ambassador to Cuba, Gustavo Bell, also praised the agreement and expressed his hope that it signifies proximity to a final end to the conflict.⁵⁰

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

El Tiempo analyzes types of justice

After the Attorney General's suggestion that members of the FARC could do community service as a form of restorative justice, El Tiempo analyzed the types of justice that could be applied to the guerrilla group. The article considers the ways that truth, justice, reparation and reconciliation have been reached around the world, including cases like South Africa.⁵¹

Peace would add 2% to Colombia's GDP

Colombian ambassador to Spain Fernando Carrillo gave a conference in which he stated that the GOC is close to achieving peace with the FARC, and added that the country's GDP could increase by 2% in peace. He also highlighted that foreign investment is already strong in Colombia, and would likely be further boosted by a final peace agreement.⁵²

7. Further Reading

President Santos interviewed by Semana Magazine

Semana Magazine published an interview with President Santos before the agreement on illegal drugs was announced. Santos discusses the May 25th presidential elections, the peace talks, the perceived lack of public information about the talks, and the post-conflict phase.⁵³

Illegal drugs agreement marks a "before and after" in peace talks

Semana published an article highlighting the significance of two specific aspects of the agreement on illegal drugs: that the FARC have agreed to contribute to demining efforts, and that the GOC

⁴⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/secretario-de-oea-felicita-al-presidente-santos-el-lide-articulo-493008>

⁴⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/acuerdo-entre-colombia-y-farc-sobre-drogas-un-paso-paz-articulo-493201>

⁵⁰ www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-entrevista-al-embajador-de-colombia-en-cuba-gustavo-bell-/14002260

⁵¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/justicia-restaurativa-clave-para-una-paz-sostenible/14005536>

⁵² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/colombia-podria-anadir-dos-puntos-al-pib-cuando-se-firm-articulo-493494>

⁵³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/elecciones-2014/articulo/santos-esta-eleccion-es-entre-la-paz-la-guerra/387985-3>

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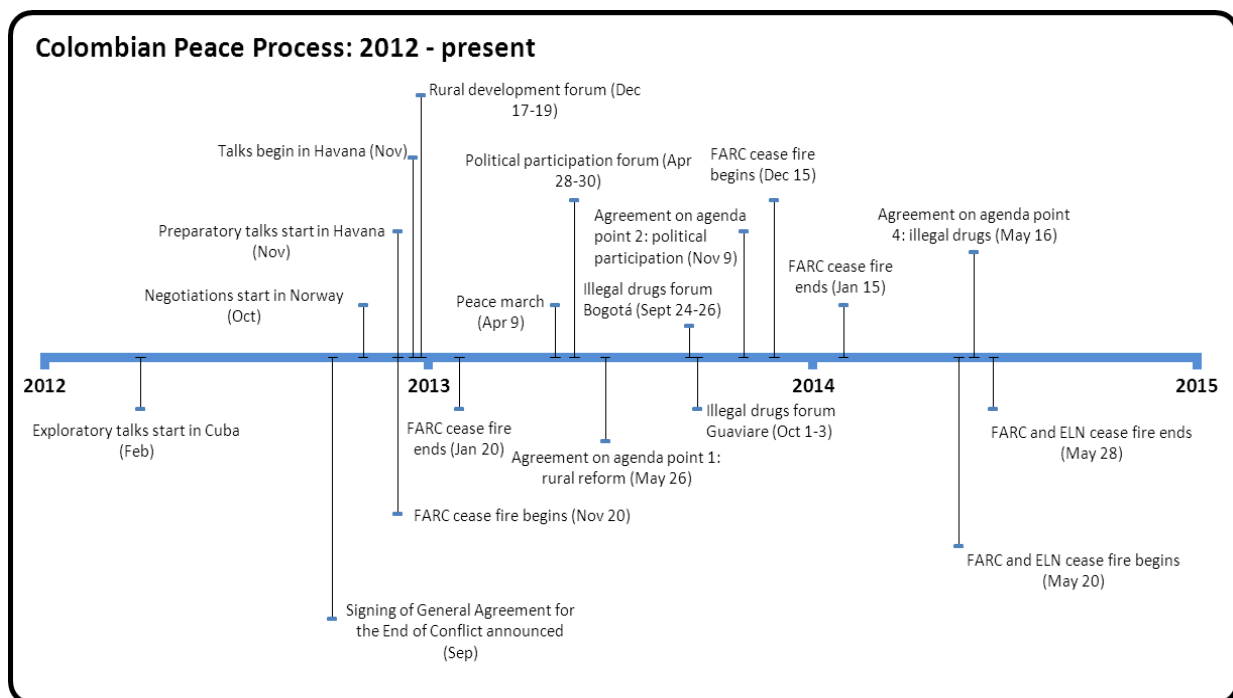
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has agreed that manual eradication and voluntary crop substitution should be prioritized. These two ideas were previously inconceivable in Colombia, says the article, so this agreement marks a huge step forward in the peace talks.⁵⁴

Hopes and challenges resulting from the agreement on illegal drugs

Angelica Durán Martínez is a professor at the University of Massachusetts. She published an analysis of some of the hopes and challenges that have arisen as a result of the agreement on illegal drugs, including the inclusion of communities in the design and implementation of crop substitution programs, the vagueness of the point on public health, and the importance of tackling corruption and links between drugs trafficking organizations and the public sector.⁵⁵

8. Timeline



⁵⁴ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/negociaciones-en-la-habana-mas-alla-de-la-coca/388439-3>

⁵⁵ <http://razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/7636-el-acuerdo-sobre-drogas-il%C3%ADcitas-esperanzas-ydesaf%C3%ADos.html>

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1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, initiating the fourth official peace talks with this group. The agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) guarantees for political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) illegal drugs; and 5) victims' rights. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive dialogues in Havana, on November 19, 2012. Three agreements have been reached: one on the first agenda point, integrated rural reform, on May 26, 2013; the second on the next point, political participation, on November 6, 2013; and another on the fourth agenda point, illegal drugs, on May 16, 2014.

2. Key Developments from May 21st to May 27th

First round of elections calls peace process into question

The first round of presidential elections was held on May 25th. The top two candidates – who will face each other in the second round on June 15th – were Oscar Iván Zuluaga with 29.26% of the vote and current president Juan Manuel Santos with 25.69%.

Zuluaga represents Uribe supporters who oppose the peace process in its current form. He stated in his post-election speech that if he wins the second round, he will suspend the talks and demand the FARC declare a unilateral ceasefire and termination of illegal activity for the process to continue. He is willing to agree to alternative sentences of six years for grave violations.⁵⁶ Santos was confident that he would win due to the population's support for the peace process.⁵⁷ Analysts expect the peace talks to be a central topic in second round debates.⁵⁸

Leftist candidate Clara López and Green Party candidate Enrique Peñalosa, who support the peace process, gained 15.23% and 8.28% respectively. Conservative Martha Ramírez, who opposes the talks, gained 15.52%. Forty percent of the population who could vote did so.⁵⁹

The FARC refrained from commenting on the results, preferring to wait until after the elections to state their opinion. They also stated that they fulfilled the unilateral ceasefire to which they committed during the election period (May 20th – 28th), but that they will not extend it.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/si-soy-elegido-decretare-el-7-de-agosto-suspension-de-d-articulo-494508>

⁵⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/vamos-ganar-paz-santos-articulo-494494>

⁵⁸ <http://www.eltiempo.com/elecciones-2014/presidencia/segunda-vuelta-de-las-elecciones-presidenciales-en-colombia-la-paz-sera-tema-clave/14036903>

⁵⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias>

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Security warnings during FARC 50th anniversary

May 27th is considered to be the anniversary of the FARC's foundation in 1964, making this week the 50th anniversary. As the group usually celebrates with violence, the armed forces have issued a warning of the possibility of attacks despite the ceasefire declared by the FARC, which lasts until May 28th to honor presidential elections.⁶¹

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Santos proposes sub-dividing dialogue teams

In interview with Blu Radio, President Santos suggested that the GOC and FARC dialogue teams could be divided into two sub-groups, each of which would focus on one of the remaining issues in the talks: victims and an end to the conflict. This, he explained, would accelerate the dialogues and allow a final agreement to be reached faster. The proposal will be discussed at the dialogue table to confirm that both sides agree to this change in methodology.⁶²

4. Other Voices

“Communicate in Peace” initiative open for viewing

The Universidad Nacional's “Communicate for Peace” initiative asks citizens to submit visual and other artwork that represents their answers to questions such as “what does peace sound like?” and “what does peace look like?” The initiative, supported by the Ministry of Culture and the UN, has jurists that include ex-Senator Piedad Córdoba, human rights activist Gloria Cuartas, and journalist Herbin Hoyos. The prize for best piece will be announced on June 17th.⁶³

“Worldwide Call for Peace” this Thursday

On Thursday May 28th, people all over Colombia and the world will light a candle at 6pm to support peace in the country. The hashtag #LucesPorLaPaz (Lights for Peace) has helped to spread the initiative, which aims to engage people in supporting the peace process.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-dicen-cumplieron-plenamente-al-alto-el-fuego-articulo-494806> and <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/farc-fijaran-una-posicion-despues-de-elecciones/389635-3>

⁶¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/las-farc-cumplen-50-anos-de-historia-en-colombia/14038305>

⁶² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-propone-subdividir-equipos-negociadores-aceler-articulo-494748>

⁶³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/sergio-cabrera-y-gloria-cuartas-jurados-de-convocatoria-articulo-493944>

⁶⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/crece-redes-sociales-llamado-mundial-paz-colombia-articulo-493912>

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Families of the disappeared request truth commission

Families of people who disappeared in the conflict asked the GOC to create a truth commission to assist in the location of their relatives in the case of a final agreement with the FARC. They said that although Colombia has more disappeared than did dictatorships such as Argentina, it has not created a truth commission to assist in locating them, as other countries did. This request was made during International Disappeared and Detained People's Week, May 27th – 31st, when victims' families' organizations meet with government to discuss the issue.⁶⁵

5. International

USA will maintain extradition request in case of final peace agreement

The USG clarified that if a final agreement is reached in the peace talks, it will sustain its extradition requests on FARC high commanders (mostly for crimes related to drugs trafficking and organized crime). US Ambassador Kevin Whitaker affirmed that the USG expects the GOC to act upon national and international legal obligations in the case of a peace accord.⁶⁶

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Legal Framework for Peace continues to cause controversy

A hearing regarding the legal case presented against the Legal Framework for Peace by ex-Minister of Defense Rafael Guarín was held on May 27th. The hearing erupted in debate about whether to allow ex-guerrilla members to participate in politics.⁶⁷

In addition to Rafael Guarín's statement that ex-members of the FARC responsible for crimes against humanity must not be allowed to participate in politics, the National Victims' Roundtable proposed that victims' groups be consulted about ex-FARC political participation.⁶⁸ Attorney General, Eduardo Montealegre, stated that ex-guerrilla members should not be barred from politics for life, whereas Inspector General, Alejandro Ordóñez, said they should.⁶⁹ The National Ombudsman asserted that allowing ex-members of the FARC to participate in politics would not

⁶⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/familiares-de-desaparecidospiden-crear-comision-de-la-verdad/14017724>

⁶⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/ee-uu-y-canada/ee-uu-mantendria-pedido-de-jefes-de-farc/14010367>

⁶⁷ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/audiencia-de-la-corte-constitucional-sobre-marco-para-la-paz/14041855>

⁶⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/proponen-consultar-victimas-sobre-participacion-politico-articulo-494831> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/responsables-de-delitos-de-lesa-humanidad-no-pueden-par-articulo-494742>

⁶⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/condenados-crimenes-de-lesa-humanidad-podran-participar-articulo-494773> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/avalar-participacion-politico-de-farc-enviar-un-mensaje-articulo-494761>

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infringe on the victims' rights, and highlighted that other countries such as Guatemala have allowed ex-guerrilla members to enter politics.⁷⁰ Another hearing will be held on June 27th and the final decision about the case will be made on July 24th.⁷¹

Meanwhile, Santos stated in an interview that ex-guerrilla members found to be responsible for crimes against humanity will not be allowed to run for Congress.⁷²

Majority of Bogotá citizens not optimistic about talks

The Universidad de la Sabana polled Bogotá citizens to ascertain their opinions of the peace process and presidential elections. The study found that 67% of Bogotá citizens are not optimistic about the peace talks, and 60% do not think that the talks will be a factor in their decision about who to vote for in the second round of presidential elections on June 15th.⁷³

7. Further Reading

Is the peace process the only difference between the presidential candidates?

El Espectador published an article evaluating whether plans for the peace process could be the only significant difference between Juan Manuel Santos, who would continue the talks, and Oscar Iván Zuluaga, who would suspend them and ask for a ceasefire. The article states that the two economic and political models of the candidates are very similar, and so the only deciding factor will be the peace process and perhaps their style of governance.⁷⁴

Analysis of 50 years of FARC activity

El Mundo published a brief analysis of the characteristics of 50 years of FARC activity in Colombia. The article mentions the different types of victimization by the FARC, and states that the current peace talks are the closest the country has come to peace in 50 years.⁷⁵ El Tiempo published a similar analysis, focusing on changes in conflict-related statistics over the years.⁷⁶

⁷⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/participacion-politica-de-desmovilizados-no-incide-vict-articulo-494771>

⁷¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/en-un-mes-habria-ponencia-de-demanda-al-marco-juridico-para-la-paz-/14028395>

⁷² <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/partidos-politicos/santos-habla-sobre-los-resultados-de-la-primera-vuelta/14041395>

⁷³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-67-de-los-bogotanos-no-es-optimista-con-el-proceso-de-paz/389559-3>

⁷⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/guerra-o-paz-articulo-494488>

⁷⁵ http://www.elmundo.com/portal/noticias/nacional/50_anos_marcados_por_el_dolor.php

⁷⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/las-farc-medio-siglo-sin-victoria-y-sin-paz/14040420>

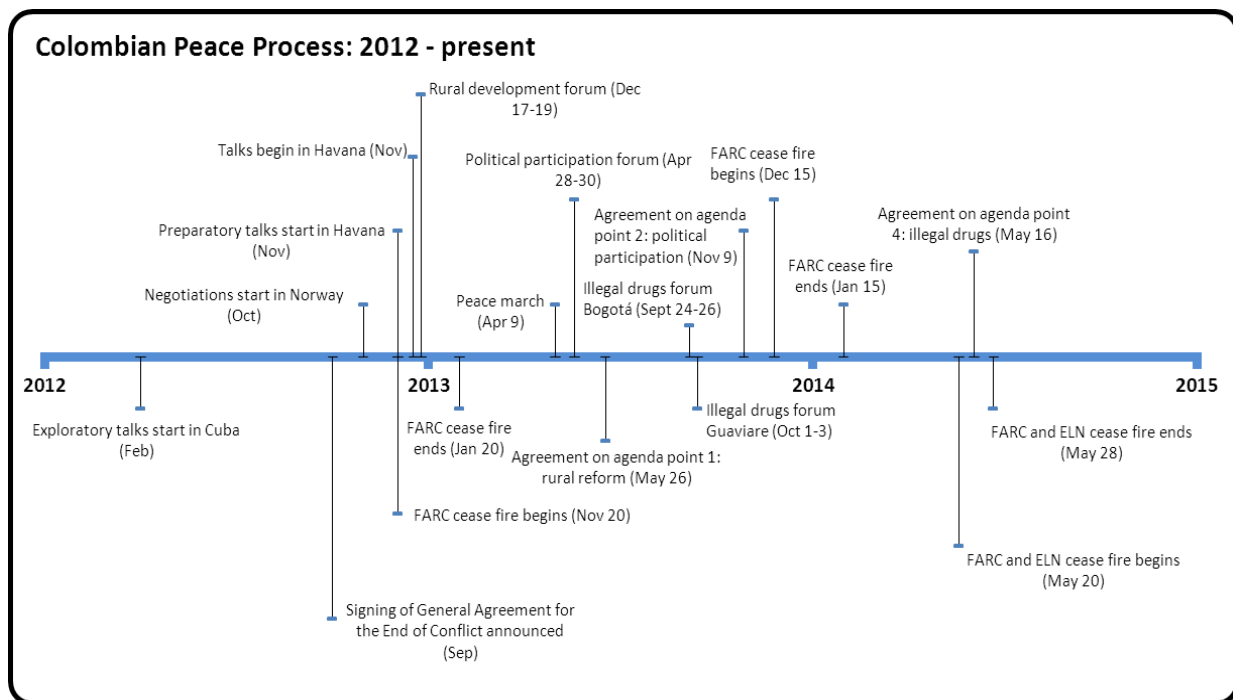
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Colombia's violent post-conflict

Analyst León Valencia was interviewed by the International Catalan Institute for Peace. Valencia discusses his own experiences of reaching a peace agreement with the GOC when he was a commander in the ELN, the conflict in general, his research, the current peace talks, and his hopes for peace and reconciliation in Colombia. He also warns that Colombia's post-conflict stage could be violent due to the continuation of activity by BACRIM and criminal organizations whose presence will not be resolved by a final peace agreement.⁷⁷

8. Timeline



⁷⁷ <http://www.las2orillas.co/colombia-en-el-posconflicto-violento/>