



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations**

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

**on behalf of**

**Niger, Tunisia, South Africa and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1)**

**Open VTC Meeting on UN Verification Mission in Colombia**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,

It is an esteemed privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3+1 - Niger, Tunisia, South Africa and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We extend warm greetings to H.E. Claudia Blum, Foreign Minister of Colombia. And, we thank both our briefers this morning.

The A3 plus One welcomes the ELN's (Ejército de Liberación Nacional) (ELN) decision to heed the SG's call for a global ceasefire amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that this decision culminates with a permanent ceasefire and re-opens channels for constructive dialogue. We also laud the decision by the government to continue implementing the peace related programmes despite the COVID-19. Additionally, we call on the international community in supporting Colombia in fighting the Pandemic.

Mr President, The Colombian peace process remains a global exemplar of bringing together parties that have been divided by a deep-rooted social and political history, including extreme violence.

As Colombians strive for lasting peace, we stress the importance of the comprehensive implementation of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement. We remain encouraged by the spirit of compromise exhibited in reaching the final peace accord and by the progress highlighted in the Secretary General's recent report. In this regard, we wish to reiterate that the only viable sustainable solution to the conflict

in Colombia remains in the implementation of this Peace Agreement and an inclusive political settlement, which is nationally-led by, and in the interests of, the people of Colombia.

The peace process is at a critical stage, and Colombians, nor the people of Latin America and the Caribbean region, can afford for this process to relapse.

In view of the foregoing, the A3+1 makes the following points:

First, we urge all stakeholders to comply with their obligations and make full use of the Follow-up mechanism (CSIVI) to deepen dialogue and settle differences. Further, we welcome the measures effected in the comprehensive rural reforms, particularly the '*roadmap for stabilization*' and the development programmes with a territorial focus.

Holistic rural reform, including agricultural and land reforms, access to economic projects for former FARC combatants and the implementation of the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS), is paramount for the social and economic transformation of the rural communities within which violence and social inequality are prevalent.

Equally, we urge the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization and the National Reintegration Council to address delays in the allocation of lands, as well as the situation concerning former combatants residing outside of the territorial areas for training and reintegration (TATRs). These outstanding issues are crucial for the collective, social and economic reintegration of former FARC combatants. We also echo the call by the UN Secretary-General for strengthening efforts towards longer-

term reintegration with benefits made available to all former combatants, which will ultimately determine the long-term sustainability of peace in Colombia.

Second, we welcome the advances within the transitional justice mechanisms. We support the full implementation of all aspects of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition aimed particularly at ensuring that communities and victims of the conflict are priorities in the peace process. Furthermore, we commend the efforts thus far in addressing the accreditation of former FARC combatants and implore the authorities to build on the momentum to resolve the legal situation of those individuals pending definition. In this context, we welcome the continued progress with regard to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace within the principles of transitional justice and aimed at promoting justice, reconciliation and sustainable peace. Hearing the different views and versions of events of all communities in Colombia will ensure that the road to peace is based on an inclusive political process.

The A3+1 remains concerned that women, including former combatants, continue to face significant challenges in their enrolment in educational and training programmes due to structural limitations surrounding childcare and employment. We reiterate our view that women have been instrumental in the peace process and are central for its success and we call for their increased, safe and unhindered participation in the peace process.

Third, the A3+1 is disturbed by the continuing acts of violence, particularly against social leaders, human rights activists and the most vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, as well as women and children. We condemn the assassination of indigenous and Afro-Colombian leaders, as well as former FARC members.

We acknowledge the progress made by the Special Investigations Unit in the investigation of several cases of killings of former FARC-EP members and welcome the launch of the “*roadmap for the effective protection of social leaders from the departments*” to tackle violence against communities, social leaders and human rights defenders.

We also we renew our call for the strengthening of institutions, guaranteeing the safety of the most vulnerable groups, preventative actions and prosecution and for regular meeting of the National Commission of Security Guarantees.

Finally, we observe with distress the forced recruitment and displacement of children and adolescents, sexual violence, the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance, and interruption of education services due to the actions of illegal armed groups and crime syndicates. It is fundamental that our most vulnerable are always protected, and as such, we encourage the government to redouble its efforts in combatting these scourges.

In conclusion, the A3+1 reaffirms its support to the government and people of Colombia in their pursuit of lasting peace, as well as to the UN Verification Mission and country team to assist with the comprehensive implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. We reiterate, the onus of a successful peace process remains in the hands of the Colombian people. Furthermore, it is important that parties remain committed and strengthen efforts to implement the peace agreement in order for communities to continue to benefit from a more peaceful and secure environment, particularly in the context of the spread of the global pandemic.

I thank you.