



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

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

to the United Nations

on behalf of

Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1)

Meeting on the Situation in Colombia (UN Verification Mission)

United Nations Security Council

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I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - the A3+1. I also thank SRSR Carlos Ruiz Massieu for his comprehensive presentation and acknowledge the presence of H.E. Claudia Blum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

Mr. President,

Five years into the Final Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, the Colombian peace process continues to serve as a global exemplar. The A3+1 commends the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP for their renewed commitments towards ensuring that the ultimate goal of lasting peace, stability and prosperity is achieved throughout the country.

We note the advances in the peace process as underscored in the Secretary General's latest report *S/2020/1301*, along with challenges, which have been further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical that the Final Agreement is implemented comprehensively. We urge all stakeholders to capitalize on the positive momentum and fulfill their obligations vis-à-vis the Final Agreement.

We also offer the following observations.

First, we remain extremely concerned about the dire security conditions confronting former combatants, women social leaders and human rights defenders, indigenous and Afro-Colombian leaders. In this respect, we strongly condemn the senseless killings of twenty-five former combatants who were assassinated while awaiting a response to their protection requests by the National Protection Unit (NPU).

Further, the A3+1 shares the Secretary General's views that the greatest threat to the implementation of the Final Agreement remains the incessant violence against those who laid down their arms in good faith and remain committed to peace, against the communities that have endured violence for decades, and against the social leaders and human rights defenders who work on their behalf.

Mr. President,

As we have mentioned previously, the root causes of conflict need to be frontally tackled and the perpetrators of violence held accountable. The A3+1 is encouraged by the meetings between President Ivan Duque and former FARC-EP members, as well as those with indigenous leaders following the "Pilgrimage for life and peace" and "Minga" marches last October. We welcome the Government's reassurance to enhancing security guarantees and strengthening the reintegration process and look forward to the implementation of effective security measures.

The A3+1 also reiterates its call for the regular convocation of meetings of the National Commission on Security Guarantees in order to complete work towards the public policy to dismantle criminal organizations and their support networks, and for the formulation of the Strategic Plan for Security and Protection.

Further, we applaud the activation of the Comprehensive Security System for the Exercise of Politics (SISEP) gender-working group, which will prioritize protection measures for women politicians. We also urge the authorities to improve the implementation of the Action Plan of the Comprehensive Program for the Safeguard of Women leaders and Human Rights Defenders.

While we acknowledge the parties' efforts towards ensuring the success of the Final Peace Agreement (FPA), we repeat the importance of ensuring that the peace process is all-inclusive. It should, in particular, include meaningful participation of and protection of indigenous and Afro-Colombians.

Second, on the socio-economic front, the A3+1 commends the Government's efforts in making land and resources available for productive activities to former combatants. These laudable efforts are fundamental to facilitate the full reintegration of the former combatants into the Colombian society and discourage their return to the illicit economy.

Additionally, the A3+1 encourages the Government to advance in resolving the protracted challenges facing the 9,500 former combatants residing outside the former Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration (TATRs), especially those associated with the comprehensive rural reforms. To this end, we appreciate the call by the Inspector General's Office for the scaling up of the institutional response in new reintegration areas in its second report on the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Third, the A3+1 applauds the progress within the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition, especially headways on the seven macro-cases within the SJP. We underscore that durable peace cannot be attained without proper reconciliation, and therefore, we are pleased that some former FARC-members are accepting responsibility for their crimes. We also look forward to the issuance of the SJP's first sentences mid-year.

Mr. President,

We are cognizant of the symbiotic relationship between illicit trade, especially for narcotics and armed conflict, including terrorism. We urge the Government to prioritize the rural infrastructural development, as well as the implementation of the National Comprehensive Programme for

Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS). The successful resettlement of former combatants can only be sustained if they are kept away from illegal narcotics business.

We will continue to support all efforts aimed at consolidating the peace process, including through the incorporation of groups that are not parties to the Final Agreement. We are therefore hopeful that this year the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) will fully capitalize on this opportunity of transformative peacebuilding and engage in constructive dialogue to achieve a stable and lasting peace in Colombia. In this context, we commend the guarantor countries - Norway and Cuba - for their mediating efforts.

Finally, the A3+1 reaffirms its support for the peace process in Colombia and remains in solidarity with the government and people of Colombia in their pursuit of lasting peace. We also commend the UN Verification Mission and country team for their tireless efforts in accompanying the process, particularly assisting with the full implementation of the Final Peace Agreement.

I thank you.