



**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)**

**Colombia Peace Process (UN Verification Mission)**

United Nations Security Council

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It is an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1).

At the outset, we thank SRSG Massieu, Ms. Daniela Soto, Youth Leader, Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca and Ms. Bibiana Peñaranda, Coordinator of “*Butterflies with New Wings*”, for their presentations. We also welcome H.E. Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

Mr. President,

Colombians will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the historic Final Peace Agreement in a few weeks. This emblematic Agreement - a testament to the Government and people of Colombia’s commitment to peace - remains an exemplar and inspiration for peace processes globally, as it epitomizes the centrality of dialogue to overcome conflicts, no matter how deeply entrenched.

Since the signing of the Final Agreement, we have witnessed progress and setbacks. We welcome the positive developments achieved over the years and encourage the parties to consolidate gains, and further urge them to pursue with rigor this vital Agreement. The A3+1 also offers the following observations.

First, the security situation remains of serious concern. We strongly condemn the incessant killings against the groups made most vulnerable, including former FARC-EP combatants, indigenous and afro-Colombians, women social leaders and human rights defenders. The latest Secretary General report *S/2021/824* emphasized the deteriorating security situation in southwest Colombia, which we believe, require greater attention in order to dismantle illegal armed groups.

We welcome the recommendations by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) and the progress underscored within the National Protection Unit (NPU). Enhancing security guarantees in marginalized and conflict-areas, including strengthened protection and prevention measures, remain critical. We therefore call for the regular convocation of the National Commission on Security Guarantees.

Similarly, we urge the parties to settle differences on the content and legal status of the Strategic Plan for Security and Protection of Former Combatants, as well as advance on the public policy to dismantle illegal armed groups and accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme for Women Social Leaders and Human Rights Defenders.

The A3+1 maintains that these policies, plans and programmes are pivotal to enabling a robust and integrated approach to addressing lingering security challenges.

Second, the security and socio-economic challenges facing former combatants are closely interlinked. In this respect, we underscore the importance of protection measures to ensure the proper reintegration of former combatants into the Colombian society and applaud ongoing efforts to facilitate their reintegration, including through Development Programs with a Territorial Focus (PDETs) and comprehensive rural reform programs.

As we have repeatedly stated, the full and sustainable reintegration of former combatants is crucial. This leads to our call for the resolution of differences surrounding the allocation of lands and housing, including the challenges facing former combatants residing outside the territorial areas for training and reintegration (TATRs).

It is also reported that only two of around 320 former combatants living in urban areas have access to housing solutions. Advancing on a comprehensive strategy to guide the provision of housing to former combatants is therefore key.

Further, we note with satisfaction the joint work between the Government and the *Comunes* in the design of the National Reintegration System, and hope that it meets the year-end target.

We recognize the reported possible delays in the implementation of the ethnic approach of the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization (ARN) and fully endorse the call of the Inspector General for the ARN to update its registry and implement specific measures for the economic and social reintegration of indigenous and Afro-Colombian former combatants.

The A3+1 echoes the Secretary General's call for both parties to ensure women, youth, indigenous and afro-Colombian former combatants, participate meaningfully in the decision-making process so that equal access to income generating opportunities and protections measures are guaranteed.

Third, the parties continue to make headways in the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition. We commend developments on Case 03 and acknowledge the strategy presented by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) on Case 07 on forced recruitment and the use of children in armed conflict.

Accepting transgressions is essential for forgiveness, and creates the platform for justice, reparation, reconciliation, non-repetition and the full integration of former combatants into the society. It is also a fundamental aspect of peace processes, especially for countries that are emerging from deep rooted conflicts. We therefore acknowledge the latest recognition of former combatants Rodrigo Londoño and Salvatore Mancuso before the Truth Commission.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

After more than half a century of armed conflict, Colombians decided that peace was paramount and achievable through dialogue. Peace for Colombians remains peace for everyone, especially for the region of Latin American and the Caribbean.

We maintain that the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) should engage in dialogue to foster a more peaceful and harmonious society.

We also renew our call for the parties to capitalize on the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification for the Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement (CSIVI) to settle differences.

Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterate our full support for the Colombian peace process and the UN Verification Mission and call on all parties to the Final Agreement, to ensure that it is implemented comprehensively.

Thank you!