

NEWSLETTER POINT 2

Peace Agreement Colombia 2016

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

July 2019

Campaign @EspacioPazEnCol



INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY CALL

FOR A COLOMBIA IN PEACE
SPACE OF PEACE COOPERATION



Summary:

- **What Does the Peace Agreement Say**
- **Roadmap**
- **Gender and Territorial Approach**
- **Advances and Obstacles**
- **Links**
- **What is the Campaign Asking For?**

WHAT DOES THE FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT SAY ABOUT POINT 2?

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION:

A DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD PEACE

Building peace requires taking advantage of a democratic opportunity to strengthen pluralism and, as such, the representation of the different visions and interests of society, in order to promote and strengthen citizen participation in matters of public interest, and to outlaw violence as a method of political action.

More diverse voices in politics
More citizens participated in political affairs
Weapons and politics are never used jointly again

Source:
Alto Comisionado para la Paz del Gobierno de
Colombia

Point 2 is especially important when thinking about the 2019 elections.

The Kroc Institute says:

Point 2 is directly focused on the effective enjoyment of civil and political rights and its spirit is to advance in peace-building through citizen participation; one of the agreements a cross-cutting principle. Looking towards the 2019 elections, this is essential as they are also an opportunity for citizen political participation and the inclusion of women and ethnic groups, in relation to pluralistic representation. An implementation of security guarantees to exercise participation is of vital importance to ensure broad and participatory elections.

ROADMAP TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC OPENING FOR PEACE-BUILDING



The Agreements are divided into three major topics

1. The roadmap to exercise political opposition

- Create a Comprehensive Security System for the Exercise of Politics, which will depend on the Presidency of the Republic.
- Create an early alert system and mechanisms to establish a constant dialogue with political parties and movements.
- Develop security guarantees for at-risk leaders of organizations, social movements, and human rights defenders.
- Guarantee that those who have laid down their weapons to transition into political life will not face violence.
- Ensure that the declared political opposition parties have a series of special rights, by means of a specific statute.

2. Roadmap to expand citizen participation

- Create a National Council for Reconciliation and Social Harmony.
- Write a bill to guarantee and promote citizen participation.
- Guarantee the right to demonstrate and protest.
- Create and promote citizen oversight, transparency observatories, and an accountability system for the Agreements' implementation.
- Strengthen community-based, institutional, and regional communication to promote citizen participation in public affairs.

3. Roadmap to expand electoral representativeness

- Convene a commission to define the guidelines for the Statute of Guarantees for those who declare themselves as opposition, a promise from the 1991 Constitution that has not been adopted until now.
- Enable mechanisms to facilitate citizen denouncements in the electoral processes.
- Install a national tribunal for electoral guarantees and regional tribunals in the areas with an increased risk of fraud.
- Create a special electoral mission to ensure increased autonomy and independence in the electoral organization and to modernize and make more transparent the electoral system.
- Mass-issuance of citizenship ID cards in remote and dispersed areas.
- Creation of 16 Special Transitory Electoral Districts for Peace, made up by additional representatives to the House of Representatives, chosen by the population from the regions most hard hit by the conflict.

SECURITY: In point 2 of the Agreement, the Comprehensive Security System to Participate in Politics says that the concept of “security” will focus on the person and “is based on the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and the self-determination of peoples,” and that it should adopt a differential and gender approach.

GENDER APPROACH

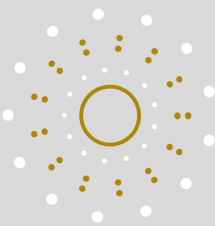


The articulated political incidence of women's organizations and movements in the country made possible the inclusion of the gender perspective in the process, the creation of a Gender Subcommission, and a Peace Agreement recognized by this approach. The final agreement contemplates: "Guarantee affirmative measures to promote equality, the active participation of women and their organizations in the construction of peace and the recognition of the victimization of women due to the conflict".

The gender approach in point 2 means:

- Increasing women's participation in the electoral process, taking into account the specific challenges faced by women who live in outlying areas or areas affected by the armed conflict.
- Valuing women's social agendas.
- Acknowledging their contributions as political subjects in their public life.

In addition, both the Comprehensive Security System to Participate in Politics and the Early Alert System must incorporate specific measures and approaches for women.



TERRITORIAL APPROACH

The text of the Final Peace Agreement states:

The National Council for Reconciliation and Social Harmony will be accompanied by a series of territorial councils who will have the mission of contributing to the construction of a peace culture and tolerance throughout the country, in the departments and nationally.

Ensure that citizens can influence decisions that involve their communities (creation, follow-up, and evaluation of their development plans and respective budgets).

Incorporate measures for the territorial approach in the Comprehensive Security System to Participate in Politics, such as collective prevention measures.

Incorporate territorial approach measures in the Early Alert System. Promote measures to strengthen and recognize the indigenous and cimarronas (Maroon) guards within the framework of these populations' historic demands.



ADVANCES AND OBSTACLES

With a mandate established by the Final Agreement's signatory parties, the Kroc Institute is responsible for monitoring the implementation process. Its last report states:

ADVANCES

ISSUE 1: DEVELOPMENT OF RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES FOR THE OPPOSITION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Approval of the Opposition Statute by the special legislative procedure for peace. Guarantees for security and protection to participate in politics: a) strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman's Early Alert System; b) deployment of preventive security; c) Timely Action Plan for prevention and the protection of human rights defenders, social and community leaders, and journalists (PAO).

ISSUE 2: GUARANTEES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Dialogue Commission with civil society proposals for guidelines on guarantees for citizen participation and guarantees for demonstrations and social protests.

ISSUE 3: ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIVENESS

There was an increase in the number of civil society representatives and the addition of a representative from the FARC political party in the National Council for Peace, Reconciliation, and Social Harmony (CNPRC).

The Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular / Program por la Paz (CINEP) also monitors the implementation process. Some advances indicated by CINEP:

“In a moment that for some was ‘historic,’ the opposition parties had, for the first time, the possibility to dispute the positions put forth by the President in his official speeches.”

Another advance is that the National Commission on Security Guarantees has met in four departments, in coordination with the Departmental Peace Councils, and the PAO has held 13 territorial sessions. In addition, these aspects have been introduced into the National Development Plan, in the Pact for Legality, under the guidelines of multidimensional security, a commitment to move forward with a National Public Policy from Prevention and Protection and the priority to strengthen the National Protection Unit to accelerate the state response to risk alerts.

About the gender approach:

GPAZ: Gender in Peace is a working group of feminist activists, LBT, academics, victims and human rights defenders formed around the implementation of the gender approach in peacebuilding. GPAZ highlights the formulation and implementation of the four-year action plan (2019 - 2022) from the Comprehensive Guarantees Program for Women Leaders and Women Human Rights Defenders.

CINEP:

Participation from the two platforms of women's organizations in the regional sessions of the National Sub-commission for Security Guarantees.

Creation of the Women's National System, which has the aim of: “including priority issues related to advancing and guaranteeing women's human rights in the agenda of the different branches of government.”



OBSTACLES AND PENDING ISSUES

The Kroc Institute warns that: “The levels of political and social violence, and polarization and stigmatization during the 2019 electoral period could affect participation levels as there are not guarantees to protect the lives of individuals who participate in the democratic mechanisms.”

CINEP states that: “the violence against social leaders and ex-combatants continues, occurring with concerning frequency.” In spite of carrying out several regional sessions of the National Commission on Security Guarantees and the Timely Action Plan for Prevention and Protection (PAO) “satisfactory impact results” have not been observed.

Both Kroc and CINEP praised the approval of a National Policy on Democratic Inclusion and Participation and a Policy for the Peaceful Resolution of Social Conflicts, but their respective reports indicate that the National Development Plan Budget (2019-2022) does not include concrete measures nor the respective funding sources.

Kroc included in its report the following obstacles and pending issues:

A lack of political will to approve the law for guarantees and the promotion of citizen participation, the Political and Electoral Reform, and (16) Special Transitory Electoral Districts for Peace.

Guarantees were not defined to exercise the rights to peaceful protest and social demonstrations.

The Special Electoral Mission’s recommendations to present an electoral regime reform were not adopted.

CINEP:

There is a need to accelerate an implementation of greater security guarantees. The frequency with which different victimizing incidents continue to be suffered by social leaders and ex-combatants shows that they are still insufficient.

There is a need to open better channels to dialogue with the organizations, social leaders, and human rights defenders.

Regarding the territorial approach: There is a need to resume the Comprehensive Security and Protection Program for Communities, which provides the opportunity to develop collective protection measures with a territorial approach. And CINEP notes a lack of will from the government regarding the need to create Special Transitory Electoral Districts for Peace.

USEFUL LINKS



High Commissioner for Peace of the Colombian Government.

Kroc Institute University Research Center. *State of Implementation of the Colombia Peace Agreement, Report Two*

GPAZ: The “Gender in Peace” working group is made up of a wide variety of women and is dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the gender approach in peace-building. See their report “La paz avanza con las mujeres: Observaciones sobre la incorporación del enfoque de género en el Acuerdo de Paz”.

Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular, CINEP / Programa por la paz. *Sexto informe trimestral de verificación de la implementación del A.F.* - Secretaría Técnica del Componente de Verificación Internacional – CINEP-CERAC- 18 de junio de 2019.

KEY WORDS:

- #Opposition statute
- #Electoral reform
- #Special Transitory Elector Districts for Peace
- #Reconciliation and Social Harmony Council
- #Guarantees for demonstrations and protests
- #Citizen control and oversight
- #Participatory planning
- #Guarantees for social leaders
- #Security for those who participate in politics
- #Access to communication outlets

WHAT IS THE CAMPAIGN #PORUNACOLOMBIAENPAZ (FOR A COLOMBIA IN PEACE) ASKING FOR?

- Share campaign information on your social networks.
- Encourage those around you to talk about the critical situation faced by those who defend the Colombian Peace Agreement.
- Follow the campaign to be well informed... because #ConUnaFirma NoBasta (A Signature Isn't Enough)
- Follow the campaign to be well informed... because #ConUnaFirma NoBasta (A Signature Isn't Enough)
- Share information - Share the campaign
- Share what EspacioPazenCol shares with you
- Learn what the Colombian Peace Agreement says and share the information: if you are teacher, if you are student, if you travel to Colombia, if you have a radio program, blog, podcast, a community TV program...
- Let's talk about Colombia, learn what's going on.
- Act in solidarity and ask your government to support peace in Colombia
- Propose solidarity actions in your neighborhood or organization #PorUnaColombiaEnPaz (For a Colombia in Peace)

Follow the campaign at:

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