



Warning of setbacks in the peace process in Colombia

*Unofficial translation

The Permanent Secretariat of REDLAD, platform for more than 520 organizations that defend democracy and human rights, Official member of the Civil Society Forum of the OAS (Organization of American States) and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

Welcomes the fact that after four years of negotiations, Colombia have managed to reach an agreement between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), with the aim of ending an internal armed conflict that has affected the country for more than 50 years.

This agreement has a differentiating component on other previously held around the world, and is the involvement of the active participation of victims in the negotiating tables, which in turn has been recognized by the United Nations, which through its Security Council has reiterated its support for the peace process. In the spirit of the agreements include measures to: an Integral Rural Reform focused on wellness and good living of rural people; inclusive democratization of the political system through the recognition of guarantees for the political and social participation; a solution to the problem of illicit drugs and transitional justice system called "Integrated System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repitition (SIJVRNR)"

With the results of the plebiscite of last October 2, according to which a high abstention rate (62%) and a narrow margin of difference (0.43%) were rejected the agreements, is jeopardized what has been achieved in the negotiations, especially the surrender of weapons, demobilization and bilateral ceasefire.

We commend the attitude of respect for the national Government and the Farc to the voice citizen expressed democratically at the ballot box. The call for the formation of a national union and reconciliation dialogue and respect for the ceasefire from both sides is a test of the real will in pursuit of peace.

However, we express our concern about the actions of political forces in the country that are taking advantage of the situation to undermine governance with proposals that mean a setback rights and freedoms that the Colombian people have obtained with difficulties over the past decades. These forces have confessed to have used lies and deceit so that the option of 'No' could win in the referendum, overshadowing the voice of the millions of victims who said Yes. And now, they have been presented proposals to revise the agreement, visions that seek to attack the heart of the agreement itself, taking advantage to eliminate the same differentials, such as gender and territorial approaches, which are vital for building include a lasting and inclusive peace.

On the other hand, we celebrate the citizen action which massively demonstrated their support for the peace process, their desire that the agreements be implemented and participate in its discussion from people's power.

From the organizations that make Redlad we urge the actors and political leaders of the country to find a quick solution, bearing in mind the more than 7,000 people left in suspense in the process of reincorporation into civilian life, surrender of arms, family reunification, the 7.9 million victims and the prevailing public interest over private interests. Also, since the abstention rate that exceeded the majority of likely voters (which could indicate that most Colombians do not feel represented by any of the parties), we recognize the need for a more inclusive call more sectors social.

We also urge civil society to continue to mobilize and claim, with concrete proposals, today more than ever, their right to peace and to demand the necessary guarantees to exercise social control and that the lives of people in vulnerable areas to be protected.

Finally, we encourage the FARC negotiating team to keep up their political will to build a stable and lasting peace.