

Country/entity	Colombia
Region	Americas
Agreement name	Acuerdo sobre Reglamento para la Zona de Encuentro, Gobierno Nacional-ELN
Date	14 Dec 2000
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Colombian Conflict (1964 -)

The Colombian conflict is really a set of conflicts and the peace agreements reflect both different processes relating to different conflict groups and dyads, and processes taking place at different times in a complex peace process history. The Colombian civil war has its roots in the late 1940s and the violent infighting between liberal and the conservative factions. Emerging from the liberal tradition with a thorough grounding in nationalist communist ideology, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army (FARC) began its armed insurrection against the Colombian government in 1964. Other left-wing guerrillas emerged as well, most notably the socialist/populist M-19, which would later be integrated into the formal political system in the peace process of 1990s; the National Liberation Army (ELN), which has strong roots in liberation theology, and the Maoist Ejército Popular de Liberación (EPL) (also part of the 1990 process, less successfully). Several stages of peace processes were undertaken by the various sides, which were further complicated by the emergence of right-wing paramilitary 'self-defence' forces. The peace agreement between the Colombian government under President Uribe and the main alliance of the paramilitary groups, the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC), concluded in 2005 and is still heavily disputed as several remnants are still active, but now subsumed under the heading 'Bacrim' (Bandas criminales). In addition, FARC and ELN maintain a military presence, but both demonstrate a strong interest in completing successful peace negotiations with the government, with the most recent agreements being between FARC and the Government.

Close
Colombian Conflict (1964 -)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Colombia III - Arango
Parties	Gobierno Nacional-ELN

Third parties

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Description

This is an agreement on the regulations governing the encounter zone established by the government to advance the negotiations. It details the objective of the zone; its limits and duration with provisions on how to extend or end the existence of this zone; its general rules and workings; the dispositions for the participation of the population within the zone; human rights; arrangements for civil police (incl. recruitment, arms they carry, their movements, there is more in annex 2); judiciary; individual liberties; the cultivation of illicit products; the environment; and finally the air space.

Agreement document

[CO_001214_Reglamento para la Zona de Encuentro - tr.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups**Children/youth**

Groups→Children/youth→Substantive
Page 4, Human Rights

29. Special care and consideration will be given to staff carrying out educational, cultural, sanitary, humanitarian and religious functions, in addition to the material and facilities required by them. Similarly, special protection will be provided to pregnant women, the elderly and children.

Disabled persons

No specific mention.

Elderly/age

Groups→Elderly/age→Substantive
Page 4, Human Rights

29. Special care and consideration will be given to staff carrying out educational, cultural, sanitary, humanitarian and religious functions, in addition to the material and facilities required by them. Similarly, special protection will be provided to pregnant women, the elderly and children.

Migrant workers

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

No specific mention.

Religious groups

Groups→Religious groups→Substantive
Page 4, Human Rights

29. Special care and consideration will be given to staff carrying out educational, cultural, sanitary, humanitarian and religious functions, in addition to the material and facilities required by them. Similarly, special protection will be provided to pregnant women, the elderly and children.

Page 5, Article 42,
Freedom to worship, freedom of religious belief and the cultural expressions of residents will be respected, in addition to the freedom to carry out any legal activity without any form of imposition or conditions.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender Page 4, Article 29,
Special care and consideration will be given to staff carrying out educational, cultural, sanitary, humanitarian and religious functions, in addition to the material and facilities required by them. Similarly, special protection will be provided to pregnant women, the elderly and children.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society

Page 3, Article 19,

Community participation mechanisms will be promoted and developed as a key part of consolidating and strengthening dialogue to achieve peace, and the concerns of the community will be listened to and taken into account.

Page 3, Article 20,

Conditions will be created to allow the people participating in the national convention and the negotiations between the government and ELN taking place in the Meeting Zone to do so in a safe and speedy manner.

Page 3, Article 22,

Inhabitants of the Meeting Zone will be kept continually informed of the peace process and the provisions adopted.

Page 3, Article 23,

The competent local civil authorities, in coordination with the parties, will promote the education of residents in the Meeting Zone to promote the values of dialogue, equality and respect for life.

Page 3, Article 24,

Public participation will be stimulated in the local development plans.

Page 3, Article 25,

Enforcement and control by the competent authorities will be promoted in line with the current constitution and legislation, in addition to public participation in the verification of management by the local authorities, with an emphasis on the fight against administrative corruption.

Page 4, Article 27,

The presence and activity of national and international organisations and agencies for the defence and promotion of human rights will be permitted, subject to coordination between the parties. These organisations will be supported by the necessary security measures to allow them to carry out their work.

Page 4, Article 28,

The creation of human rights organisations or groups will be promoted within the communities of the Meeting Zone, in addition to the education of the population in matters related to citizen rights.

Page 4, Article 30,

The work of the national and international Red Cross will be facilitated, in addition to other national and international help and aid organisations, subject to agreement between the parties.

Page 4, Article 31,

Mayors with jurisdiction in the areas of the Meeting Zone will appoint a civil police force, whose members will be selected by mutual agreement among the parties from figures of recognised standing and honour who do not belong to armed organisations or bodies. The civil police will only carry side arms, will remain under the authority of the respective mayor and will operate for the duration of the Meeting Zone.

Page 6, Article 54,

Environmental protection programmes will be implemented with the participation of the communities, particularly to protect water basins, flora and fauna and prevent the deterioration of soil.

Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	<p>Page 2, Article 8, In the Meeting Zone, all civil, judicial and administrative authorities will continue to fully exercise their constitutional and legal functions and attributions.</p> <p>Page 2, Article 9, Mayors and other civil, judicial and administrative authorities in the municipalities of the Meeting Zone, together with their respective support bodies, will represent the authority of the state in this area.</p> <p>Page 3, Article 25, Enforcement and control by the competent authorities will be promoted in line with the current constitution and legislation, in addition to public participation in the verification of management by the local authorities, with an emphasis on the fight against administrative corruption.</p> <p>Page 4, Article 31, Mayors with jurisdiction in the areas of the Meeting Zone will appoint a civil police force, whose members will be selected by mutual agreement among the parties from figures of recognised standing and honour who do not belong to armed organisations or bodies. The civil police will only carry side arms, will remain under the authority of the respective mayor and will operate for the duration of the Meeting Zone.</p>
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	<p>Page 2, Article 5, The rights and freedoms of the community will not be infringed in any way.</p>
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation	Page 2, Article 6, Individual and collective human rights, and social, economic, cultural and environmental rights, as set out in the constitution, legal provisions and international humanitarian law incorporated into current legislation, will be respected under all circumstances. The Ombudsperson will help verify compliance with these standards.
Civil and political rights	Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Vote and take part Page 6, Article 47, The development and taking place of the legally established electoral processes will be guaranteed, respecting the freedoms of the candidates and voters. Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Thought, opinion, conscience and religion Page 5, Article 42, Freedom to worship, freedom of religious belief and the cultural expressions of residents will be respected, in addition to the freedom to carry out any legal activity without any form of imposition or conditions.
Socio-economic rights	Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Cultural life Page 5, Article 42, Freedom to worship, freedom of religious belief and the cultural expressions of residents will be respected, in addition to the freedom to carry out any legal activity without any form of imposition or conditions.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	Page 2, Article 7, Public coexistence and the development of democracy will be promoted as a fundamental part of achieving peace.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.

Mobility/access

Page 4, Article 27,

The presence and activity of national and international organisations and agencies for the defence and promotion of human rights will be permitted, subject to coordination between the parties. These organisations will be supported by the necessary security measures to allow them to carry out their work.

Page 4, Article 32,

The parties and the Verification Commission will be notified in advance of movements by the civil police in the rural zone. Insofar as possible and for reasons of security, the other authorities in the zone will follow the same procedure.

Page 4, Article 30,

The work of the national and international Red Cross will be facilitated, in addition to other national and international help and aid organisations, subject to agreement between the parties.

Page 5, Article 40,

The Office of the High Commissioner will establish the mechanisms required to control and facilitate the access of visitors to the Meeting Zone. The access of visitors to the Meeting Zone will be coordinated by the parties.

Page 5, Article 41,

Notwithstanding the normal control measures that may be adopted by mutual agreement with the municipal authorities and with the surveillance of the Verification Commission, the parties will guarantee speedy access and transit to and from the zone of all members of the civil population and all their assets, provisions and drugs, including those derived from the exercise of mining, livestock, commercial and agricultural activities, without limitations or impositions of any nature.

Page 6, Article 48,

The free attendance of political, cultural and community activities by the civil population will be guaranteed.

[Summary: provisions on the construction of the meeting zone, all deal with mobility and access issues.]

Protection measures

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups

Page 3, Human Rights

29. Special care and consideration will be given to staff carrying out educational, cultural, sanitary, humanitarian and religious functions, in addition to the material and facilities required by them. Similarly, special protection will be provided to pregnant women, the elderly and children.

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other

Page 6,

ENVIRONMENT

54. Environmental protection programmes will be implemented with the participation of the communities, particularly to protect water basins, flora and fauna and prevent the deterioration of soil.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI Rights institutions→NHRI→Mentions of NHRI
Page 2, Article 6,
Individual and collective human rights, and social, economic, cultural and environmental rights, as set out in the constitution, legal provisions and international humanitarian law incorporated into current legislation, will be respected under all circumstances. The Ombudsperson will help verify compliance with these standards.

Regional or international human rights institutions Rights institutions→Regional or international human rights institutions→Monitoring calls
Page 4, Article 27,
The presence and activity of national and international organisations and agencies for the defence and promotion of human rights will be permitted, subject to coordination between the parties. These organisations will be supported by the necessary security measures to allow them to carry out their work.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts Page 2, Article 8,
In the Meeting Zone, all civil, judicial and administrative authorities will continue to fully exercise their constitutional and legal functions and attributions.

Page 2, Article 9,
Mayors and other civil, judicial and administrative authorities in the municipalities of the Meeting Zone, together with their respective support bodies, will represent the authority of the state in this area.

Page 5, Article 35,
The national Attorney General and the judges of the republic are the state authorities responsible for investigating and trying violations of penal law. As such, their presence in the Meeting Zone will be guaranteed. Similarly, the work of investigators in the technical investigation body and other agents and officials of this body will be respected. Investigators will be entitled to carry their arms for personal defence and be accompanied by staff.

Prisons and detention	Page 2, Article 10, Detentions will be made by order of the competent authority and fully respecting the formalities established by the law.
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	Page 2, Article 12, Kidnappings or detentions will not be carried out in the Meeting Zone, and nor will people who have been kidnapped or detained be held captive there.
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Traditional Laws	No specific mention.
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Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 3, Article 18, Inside the Meeting Zone, actions will be implemented to fight poverty and improve the social and economic conditions of the population, in addition to promoting harmony and understanding among all its inhabitants.
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National economic plan	No specific mention.
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Natural resources	No specific mention.
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International funds	No specific mention.
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Business	Pages 2-3, Article 17, The infrastructure for public services, oil and power facilities, and in general state assets for public use that are located in the Meeting Zone will not be subject to acts or actions that disturb or impede their normal operation. The security and operation of the field, wells and other facilities belonging to Empresa Colombiana de Petróleos in Cantagallo will be the sole responsibility of this company. The parties undertake to respect the company's internal regulations and not to interfere in any way with the functioning, operation and swift access of authorised staff to the aforementioned areas and installations.
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Taxation	No specific mention.
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Banks	No specific mention.
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Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion
Page 5, Article 42,
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will be respected, in addition to the freedom to carry out any legal activity without any
form of imposition or conditions.

Page 6, Article 48,
The free attendance of political, cultural and community activities by the civil population
will be guaranteed.

Environment Page 6, Article 54,
Environmental protection programmes will be implemented with the participation of the
communities, particularly to protect water basins, flora and fauna and prevent the
deterioration of soil.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security Guarantees

Page 1, Article 1,

The Meeting Zone is established under the aforementioned constitutional and legal framework for holding the national convention and peace talks and negotiations between the government and ELN.

Page 1, Article 2,

The description of the boundaries of the Meeting Zone and all provisions regarding them are included in an annex to this regulation (Annex 1: Associated boundaries and provisions).

Page 2, Article 4,

If a decision is taken to end the Meeting Zone before the end of this period, the other party will be given at least 15 days' notice. Under these circumstances, the process for ending the Meeting Zone will be verified by the Verification Commission.

Pages 2-3, Article 17,

The infrastructure for public services, oil and power facilities, and in general state assets for public use that are located in the Meeting Zone will not be subject to acts or actions that disturb or impede their normal operation. The security and operation of the field, wells and other facilities belonging to Empresa Colombiana de Petróleos in Cantagallo will be the sole responsibility of this company. The parties undertake to respect the company's internal regulations and not to interfere in any way with the functioning, operation and swift access of authorised staff to the aforementioned areas and installations.

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Page 4, Article 32,

The parties and the Verification Commission will be notified in advance of movements by the civil police in the rural zone. Insofar as possible and for reasons of security, the other authorities in the zone will follow the same procedure.

Page 4, Article 33,

All matters regarding the civil police will be agreed between the parties and included in a special annex to this regulation (Annex 2: Civil Police).

Page 5, Article 39,

The offices of the Department of Security (Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad, DAS) located in the municipal seats of the zone will continue to perform their functions.

Page 6, Article 49,

The trade, trafficking or manufacture of arms and ammunition will not be permitted in the Meeting Zone

Ceasefire

No specific mention.

Police

Page 1, Article 3,

The Meeting Zone will last for nine months, counted from the date on which the Verification Commission reports that military forces and the national police have moved outside the zone, in line with the provisions of this regulation. This period may be extended as necessary to allow the continuity of the national convention and/or the negotiations, if required.

Page 2, Article 16,

The military forces and the police will not enter the Meeting Zone.

Page 4, Article 33,

All matters regarding the civil police will be agreed between the parties and included in a special annex to this regulation (Annex 2: Civil Police).

Page 4, Article 34,

The sites currently occupied by the military forces and the national police in the Meeting Zone will be solely at the disposal of the national government.

Page 7, Article 56,

There are no restrictions on the airspace of the Meeting Zone, other than those established by the Civil Aviation Authority for national government or commercial/private planes flying over the zone. (Helicopters and military and police light aircraft pending definition.)

Armed forces

Page 1, Article 3,

The Meeting Zone will last for nine months, counted from the date on which the Verification Commission reports that military forces and the national police have moved outside the zone, in line with the provisions of this regulation. This period may be extended as necessary to allow the continuity of the national convention and/or the negotiations, if required.

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The military forces and the police will not enter the Meeting Zone.

Page 4, Article 34,

The sites currently occupied by the military forces and the national police in the Meeting Zone will be solely at the disposal of the national government.

Page 7, Article 56,

There are no restrictions on the airspace of the Meeting Zone, other than those established by the Civil Aviation Authority for national government or commercial/private planes flying over the zone. (Helicopters and military and police light aircraft pending definition.)

Page 7, Article 59,

Planes that fly toward the Meeting Zone without authorisation or change their destination after having been authorised will be subject to the measures set out for such cases by the Colombian Air Force.

DDR

No specific mention.

**Intelligence
services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

Page 2, Article 14,
ELN will not impose contributions or forced levies of any sort in the Meeting Zone, nor will it carry out illegal activities for economic benefit within the zone.

Page 2, Article 15,
From the establishment of the Meeting Zone, ELN will not undertake any form of armed action against military forces and the police or with an objective that involves the population. Nor will it use the zone as a fall-back area for members of the organisation that have carried out such activities outside the zone.

Page 5, Article 36,
ELN will not obstruct the work of the Attorney General or the judicial and prison authorities, and will respect the facilities and elements for their operation.

Page 5, Article 37,
ELN will surrender to the judicial authorities persons whom, from the taking effect of the Meeting Zone, come to be in its power for a possible legal infraction occurring inside this zone.

Page 5, Article 38,
The execution of capture orders for ELN members temporarily located in the Meeting Zone will be suspended under the terms of item 5, paragraph 1, article 8, Law 418 (1997) and Law 525 (1999).

Page 6, Article 43,
The presence of ELN in urban areas will be subject to full and correct behaviour by its members and respect for residents and local authorities, in line with the provisions of this regulation.

Page 6, Article 50,
ELN ratifies that it has not conducted forced recruitment and does not intend to do so in the future.

**Withdrawal of
foreign forces**

No specific mention.

Corruption

Page 3, Article 25,
Enforcement and control by the competent authorities will be promoted in line with the current constitution and legislation, in addition to public participation in the verification of management by the local authorities, with an emphasis on the fight against administrative corruption.

Page 6, Article 49,
The trade, trafficking or manufacture of arms and ammunition will not be permitted in the Meeting Zone.

Page 6, Article 51,
The parties will promote and/or participate in an effective and sustainable plan for the substitution of illicit crops in the zone, involving the competent state entities, the participation of communities and the international community.

Page 6, Article 52,
The plan will take into account the concerns of small-scale growers in the choice of procedures and the formulation of viable economic alternatives for substitution.

Page 6, Article 53,
Campaigns to prevent the consumption of drugs by the population located in the zone will be promoted and supervised.

Crime/organised crime

No specific mention.

Drugs

Page 3, Article 25,
Enforcement and control by the competent authorities will be promoted in line with the current constitution and legislation, in addition to public participation in the verification of management by the local authorities, with an emphasis on the fight against administrative corruption.

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Page 6, Article 53,
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Terrorism

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Source: Diálogo, negociación y ruptura con las FARC-EP y con el ELN, Biblioteca de la Paz – 1998-2000, Fundación Cultura Democrática, Ed. Álvaro Villarraga Sarmiento, Bogotá D.C., 2009 (book V) p. 301
