

Country/entity	Colombia
Region	Americas
Agreement name	El proceso de Participación de la Sociedad en la Construcción de la Paz (Primer Acuerdo de Cuba)
Date	9 Jun 2023
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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Colombia VII - Petro Peace Dialogues with ELN

Parties

Delegation of the Government of the Republic of Colombia:

José Otty Patiño Hormaza, Head of delegation
Iván Danilo Rueda Rodríguez, High Commissioner for Peace
Iván Cepeda Castro
Dayana Paola Urzola Domicó
Rodrigo Botero García
Nigeria Rentería Lozano
Álvaro Matallana Eslava
José Félix Lafaurie Rivera
Orlando Romero Reyes
Rosmery Quintero Castro
Horacio Guerrero García
Adelaida Jiménez Cortés
Carlos Alfonso Rosero
Olga Lilia Silva López
María José Pizarro Rodríguez.

Delegation of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional – ELN:

Pablo Beltrán, Head of delegation
Aureliano Carbonell
Bernardo Téllez
Manuel Gustavo Martínez
María Consuelo Tapias
Isabel Torres
Tomás García Laviana
Simón Pabón
Mauricio Iguarán.

Third parties

As observer of the armed forces:

Maj. Gen. Hugo Alejandro López Barreto.

As witnesses and depositaries (Guarantor countries):

Glivânia Maria de Oliveira, Federative Republic of Brazil
Eugenio Martínez Enríquez, Republic of Cuba
Jon Otto Brødholt, Kingdom of Norway
Raúl Vergara Meneses, Republic of Chile
Claudia Helietta González Hernández, United Mexican States
Gen. Carlos Martínez Mendoza, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
Permanent accompanying partners:

Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General
Msgr. Héctor Fabio Henao Gaviria, Delegate for Church-State Relations, Episcopal
Conference of Colombia.

Description This document is an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) that outlines the framework for societal participation in Colombia's peacebuilding process. Signed on 9 June 2023 in Havana, Cuba, it emphasizes active, inclusive, and deliberative participation across societal sectors to foster a comprehensive peace agenda. The agreement establishes a National Committee on Participation to design and implement the participation model, with a focus on creating a broad national consensus for addressing the country's conflicts.

Agreement document [CO_230609_Process of participation of society in peacebuilding \(First Cuba Agreement\).pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [CO_230609_El proceso de Participación de la Sociedad en la Construcción de la Paz \(Primer Acuerdo de Cuba\).pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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Groups

Children/youth Groups→Children/youth→Substantive
2. Nature of the participation
...
The active and binding participation of society shall include other differentiated approaches and perspectives to ensure that the voices and proposals of children, adolescents, young people, older persons, peasants and persons with disabilities are heard.

Disabled persons Groups→Disabled persons→Substantive
2. Nature of the participation
...
The active and binding participation of society shall include other differentiated approaches and perspectives to ensure that the voices and proposals of children, adolescents, young people, older persons, peasants and persons with disabilities are heard.

Elderly/age Groups→Elderly/age→Substantive
2. Nature of the participation
...
The active and binding participation of society shall include other differentiated approaches and perspectives to ensure that the voices and proposals of children, adolescents, young people, older persons, peasants and persons with disabilities are heard.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical

3. Differentiated approaches

...

3.2. Ethnic approach

It is imperative to reaffirm that ensuring the right to peace requires recognizing ethnic and cultural diversity, that is, protecting ethnic peoples and their territories and life systems, and including the voices and proposals of indigenous, black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, Palenquero and Romani peoples.

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive

6. National Committee on Participation

...

6.1. Composition

...

It shall consist of 80 members of the 30 social movements, ethnic peoples, organizations, trade associations and institutions listed in annex 1 to the present agreement.

The movements, ethnic peoples, social organizations, trade associations and institutions shall observe the criteria outlined by the peace talks panel in annex 2, which forms an integral part of the present agreement.

6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding

...

8. Operation of the National Committee on Participation

The peace talks panel and the Committee shall interact with the various groups, ethnic peoples and social organizations to gather their ideas for the design of participation in relation to the following:

- Their experiences of participation and the construction of effective and meaningful participation.
- The following thematic areas, addressed from a democratic perspective: the political system, the economic model and the environmental situation, as provided in the Mexico Agreement.
- The methodologies to implement the phases of the participation process.
- Their proposals to create a broad national agreement and a social and political alliance as a result of this participation process.

Religious groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous people

Groups→Indigenous people→Rhetorical

3. Differentiated approaches

...

3.2. Ethnic approach

It is imperative to reaffirm that ensuring the right to peace requires recognizing ethnic and cultural diversity, that is, protecting ethnic peoples and their territories and life systems, and including the voices and proposals of indigenous, black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, Palenquero and Romani peoples.

Other groups

No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class Groups→Social class→Substantive

2. Nature of the participation

...

The active and binding participation of society shall include other differentiated approaches and perspectives to ensure that the voices and proposals of children, adolescents, young people, older persons, peasants and persons with disabilities are heard.

Gender

Women, girls and gender **3. Differentiated approaches**

3.1. Gender-sensitive approach

The preamble and section 1 of the Mexico Agreement on participation expressly state that resolving the armed conflict and eradicating violence requires eliciting the commitment and the active and effective participation of historically excluded groups, such as women and the LGBTIQ+ community, who have suffered more severely from the impact of the armed conflict and structural violence.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI Gender→LGBTI→LGBTI (positive)

3. Differentiated approaches

3.1. Gender-sensitive approach

The preamble and section 1 of the Mexico Agreement on participation expressly state that resolving the armed conflict and eradicating violence requires eliciting the commitment and the active and effective participation of historically excluded groups, such as women and the LGBTIQ+ community, who have suffered more severely from the impact of the armed conflict and structural violence.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) **4. Stages of participation**

...

Building an agenda on democracy and transformations

In accordance with section 3 of the Mexico Agreement, the goal of this phase shall be to “reach an agreement on policies and a comprehensive plan to bring about transformations by carrying out specific projects at the national and territorial levels, with the participation of society, making viable a peaceful, democratic, sovereign Colombia in which equity and social justice reign and the use of weapons to prevent or spur such transformations is rendered unnecessary”.

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

6. National Committee on Participation

...

6.1. Composition

...

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6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding

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8. Operation of the National Committee on Participation

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- The following thematic areas, addressed from a democratic perspective: the political system, the economic model and the environmental situation, as provided in the Mexico Agreement.
- The methodologies to implement the phases of the participation process.
- Their proposals to create a broad national agreement and a social and political alliance as a result of this participation process.

**Traditional/
religious leaders**

No specific mention.

**Public
administration**

No specific mention.

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

4. Stages of participation

...

Building an agenda on democracy and transformations

In accordance with section 3 of the Mexico Agreement, the goal of this phase shall be to “reach an agreement on policies and a comprehensive plan to bring about transformations by carrying out specific projects at the national and territorial levels, with the participation of society, making viable a peaceful, democratic, sovereign Colombia in which equity and social justice reign and the use of weapons to prevent or spur such transformations is rendered unnecessary”.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy

2. Nature of the participation

...

Participation is and must be democratic in essence.

...

4. Stages of participation

...

Building an agenda on democracy and transformations

In accordance with section 3 of the Mexico Agreement, the goal of this phase shall be to “reach an agreement on policies and a comprehensive plan to bring about transformations by carrying out specific projects at the national and territorial levels, with the participation of society, making viable a peaceful, democratic, sovereign Colombia in which equity and social justice reign and the use of weapons to prevent or spur such transformations is rendered unnecessary”.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other
6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding
...
9. Education and communication on the participation process
...
The panel shall liaise with the media to foster an environment conducive to the peace process and participation.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds 6. National Committee on Participation

...

6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding

...

Similarly, the funding for the participation design phase shall be arranged with the international community supporting the peace process.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment 6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding

...

8. Operation of the National Committee on Participation

...

the political system, the economic model and the environmental situation, as provided in the Mexico Agreement.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding ... 10. Security guarantees in participation The parties to the present agreement are committed to the safety and free access of all persons, communities and groups in the participation process. The State shall ensure special protection for the members of ELN appointed to the Committee during the design phase.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding ... 10. Security guarantees in participation ... The State shall ensure special protection for the members of ELN appointed to the Committee during the design phase.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
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 **6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding**
 ...
10. Security guarantees in participation
 ...
 Permanent accompanying partners:
 Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General

Other international signatory **3.2. Ethnic approach**
 ...
4. Stages of participation
 ...
 The guarantor countries and permanent accompanying institutions of this peace process shall be present during these stages, supporting and monitoring compliance with the present agreement.
 ...
6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding
 ...
10. Security guarantees in participation
 ...
 As witnesses and depositaries (Guarantor countries):
 Glivânia Maria de Oliveira, Federative Republic of Brazil
 Eugenio Martínez Enríquez, Republic of Cuba
 Jon Otto Brødholt, Kingdom of Norway
 Raúl Vergara Meneses, Republic of Chile
 Claudia Helietta González Hernández, United Mexican States
 Gen. Carlos Martínez Mendoza, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Referendum for agreement

No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

6. National Committee on Participation

...

6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding

...

The headquarters of the National Committee on Participation shall be arranged with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Episcopal Conference of Colombia.

...

7. Structure of the National Committee on Participation

...

The parties shall request the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Episcopal Conference of Colombia to provide their assistance for the creation of the technical and logistical teams.

**Enforcement
mechanism**

4. Stages of participation

...

4.1. Design phase

...

This process shall be facilitated by a body with a specific mandate, created and coordinated by the peace talks panel.

...

5. Characteristics of the design phase

...

5.3. Duration of the design phase

This phase shall last for four to six months starting from the date of the present agreement and with the official public establishment of the body mentioned below. This phase shall conclude with a national meeting to present the results to society.

6. National Committee on Participation

The present agreement establishes the National Committee on Participation as a special and temporary body attached to the peace talks panel.

As stated in the agreements formalizing the process, the peace talks panel is irreplaceable in its crucial role as a negotiator and decision maker based on the principle of bilateralism.

The panel shall be part of the National Committee on Participation, leading and ensuring compliance with the mandate established in the Mexico Agreement.

...

6.2. Mandate, headquarters and funding

The peace talks panel shall:

(i) under the present agreement, deliver a clearly defined mandate to the National Committee on Participation;

(ii) create the regulations for the operation of the National Committee on Participation;

and (iii) consolidate the results of the participation design phase, which should lead to the national participation plan.

...

7. Structure of the National Committee on Participation

The peace talks panel shall be the coordinating body of the National Committee on Participation.

The panel shall also be tasked with forming the teams required for its operation.

The National Committee on Participation shall include four members of the Government's peace delegation and four members of the ELN delegation.

A technical secretariat comprised of two members appointed by each party shall be formed.