

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN)

APPLICATION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE UNITED NATIONS' PARTICIPATION IN THE VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILATERAL, TEMPORARY AND NATIONAL CEASEFIRE (CFBTN) AGREED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN)

The Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) reached a Bilateral, Temporary and National Ceasefire Agreement (CFBTN) on September 4, whereby they have together agreed on the protocols that will allow this to be implemented, valid from 1 October 2017 and until 9 January 2018.

In this framework, the Government and the ELN have agreed to establish a Verification and Implementation Mechanism (MV&V), which will be responsible for verifying compliance with the CFBTN Agreement, which will come into force on 1 October 2017 through 9 January 2018.

This MV&V will have the participation of delegates from the Government - Fuerza Publica, the ELN, the United Nations, and the Catholic Church. Its members will not carry weapons and will enjoy security guarantees in accordance with the provisions of the Security and Protection Protocol.

It will be the MV&V that will ensure compliance with the CFBTN Agreement, and will coordinate with delegates from the Government and the ELN to prevent incidents and respond promptly and effectively to any eventualities or contingencies that may arise. For the foregoing, permanent communication channels will be established. The Mechanism will collect the relevant information and produce reports on compliance with the provisions of this Agreement.

The MV&V will analyse impartially any threats or violations of the rules and commitments agreed between the National Government and the ELN for the CFBTN. Likewise, it will inform the public opinion and the Public Talks Table on a monthly basis of its results. The functions of the MV&V for the CFBTN Agreement will be fulfilled in three (3) instances: National, Regional and Local.

National Level

The international component will coordinate the National Instance and will be in charge of resolving any possible disagreements between the representatives of the National Government and the ELN.

The MV&V International Component will be in charge of presenting to the MV&V the result of its monitoring of the CFBTN; submit recommendations; and be a spokesperson regarding compliance with the CFBTN Agreement, in order to guarantee and provide impartiality and transparency within the functions of the MV&V.

Regional Level

The regional instances, formed by the UN with the assistance of the Catholic Church, will be in charge of issuing the recommendations that are considered necessary to be implemented by the local authorities.

Also, they will refer to the national instance any information on serious incidents that it must assume instead. If the incident is appropriate for the regional instance's scope, it will submit its report and respective recommendations.

Local Level

The local bodies, formed by the UN with the assistance of the Catholic Church through their diocesan committees, will be in charge of observing, collecting, recording and analysing information in sectors that have been given a communally-agreed greater emphasis, with respect to compliance by the National Government and the ELN of the provisions of the CFBTN Agreement.

Also, it will see out the necessary coordination with the National Government - Fuerza Publica and the ELN for the local authority, in the terms of the CFBTN Agreement, in order to avoid incidents.

With this goal, the ELN will maintain communication within its levels, through its own channels, to inform and coordinate with the UN delegates all the activities related to the CFBTN to avoid incidents.

The National Government- Fuerza Publica will also maintain permanent communication within its units located in their respective jurisdictions, and will be responsible for communicating and coordinating with the UN delegates all activities related to the CFBTN to avoid incidents.

Within this framework and with the abovementioned objectives, we have decided to request the UN Security Council to authorize the UN Verification Mission in Colombia to carry out the activities of verifying and monitoring the CFBTN agreement.