

Agreement No. 4: Joint Statements and Communications

PROTOCOL FOR JOINT STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Giving continuity to the agreement on pedagogy and communication for peace signed by the delegations of the ELN and the National Government on 5 June 2017, this Dialogue Roundtable sets out, in paragraph 3 as a function: ***“3. Create the protocols for joint statements and communications.”***

The following new protocols are therefore agreed for the coordinated management of communications. The purpose of joint communications is to inform the public of the objectives, progress and outcomes of the talks as the dialogue agenda unfolds and always strengthen the Roundtable and its achievements.

To formalise the Roundtable’s agreements, these will be made public through joint communiqués and statements, which shall be read out by a representative of the guarantor countries.

Basic Guidelines:

1. For communication activities, each delegation shall appoint a person responsible for coordinating the activity.
2. Communication activities shall be scheduled sufficiently in advance, preferably one day beforehand. The means of dissemination to be used will be agreed, such as joint communiqués and statements via social media, website publications, provision of images, press conferences, among others. The corresponding staging and logistics will also be arranged, including the time of release of the material. The content shall be published simultaneously through the institutional media of each delegation.

The dissemination of public materials and content (statements, communiqués, protocols, among others) produced by the Roundtable shall be broad and inclusive.

3. Press calls shall be made in accordance with the progress of the Roundtable.
4. Should any events arise requiring an immediate statement, a swift and timely declaration shall be issued, agreed upon by the heads of each delegation. The communications team shall prepare a draft document, which will be reviewed and approved by the heads of both delegations prior to publication.

If consensus on the content of the statement is not possible, each head may issue their own position without negatively affecting the progress of the process.

5. The statements and other communication activities of each delegation must be consistent with the criteria of the Agenda and the Roundtable.
6. Once agreed between the parties, the communication activity (the minute-by-minute schedule, the script for the master of ceremonies, and the logistics in general) shall be coordinated with the host country. This includes media access to the venue of the activity.
7. Through the communications team, the delegations shall coordinate the details of the media call, in coordination with the host country.

8. The timing and duration of photo and video recording of the plenary sessions shall be previously agreed and authorised in line with the relevant activity.
9. Once the joint communication activities have concluded, the delegations may, if they so wish, give interviews or additional statements at a site other than the hall where the Dialogue Roundtable is in session.
10. The communication activities of each delegation shall take into account that, in their implementation, they must contribute to a positive atmosphere and to an understanding of the process itself.
11. Unilateral communication activities undertaken at the venue of the talks shall take place in different spaces. The entry and presence of journalists shall be monitored by the host country within the designated area and alongside the relevant delegation.
12. A visual identity for the Dialogue Roundtable shall be designed.
13. Every humanitarian action and dynamic must be accompanied by a strategic plan of pedagogy and communication for peace, which shall be directed by the communications team of the Roundtable.
14. There shall be an evaluation every three weeks of the results of the communications team, or at the end of each cycle. This evaluation shall provide the necessary elements to improve the functioning of the team and the Roundtable and will also consider new contributions to enrich this protocol.

Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 24 November 2022.