

Protocol on security and protection for the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism under the Agreement on a temporary bilateral national ceasefire between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN)

Pursuant to the Agreement on a temporary bilateral national ceasefire between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), signed on 9 June 2023, the present Protocol establishes measures for the security and protection of the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism with a view to preventing and reducing risks and threats that might affect them during the implementation of the Agreement on a temporary bilateral national ceasefire and its Protocols.

1. The National Police, through the protection group of the Police Unit for Peacebuilding, shall be responsible for the protection of the bases and members of the national, regional and local bodies of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. The National Protection Unit shall be responsible for the protection of individual ELN members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and other members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism who request it.
2. The National Police, through the Police Unit for Peacebuilding and the National Protection Unit, shall make recommendations on security, protection and self-protection to the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism who, upon following those recommendations, shall also bear responsibility for their security and protection.
3. When travelling, ELN members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism who are carrying out activities related to the Agreement on a temporary bilateral national ceasefire and its Protocols shall be accompanied by the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and/or the Episcopal Conference of Colombia. This is in addition to the protection provided by the Police Unit for Peacebuilding and the National Protection Unit, as appropriate. When requested by ELN, its members shall also be accompanied by representatives of the guarantor countries, subject to their availability.
4. Security for the lodging facilities of the ELN members of the national body of the Mechanism, including the necessary technical support, shall be provided by the Police Unit for Peacebuilding, in coordination with the National Protection Unit. The Catholic Church shall provide communication tools, logistical support and assistance at said lodging facilities.
5. The security systems for the protection of the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism when travelling shall be established according to the characteristics of the relevant locations and the specific risks identified.
6. The national body of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism shall agree on a procedure or protocol governing the travel of the ELN members of the Mechanism when they are performing activities related to the Agreement on a temporary bilateral national ceasefire and its Protocols outside the city where the national body has its base.
7. The Government of Colombia shall coordinate and implement, among the State institutions, the necessary measures to respond to medical contingencies and emergencies affecting the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism or their protection escorts, in the national territory.

The Government of Colombia shall establish a specific procedure to ensure that the members of ELN on the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism receive emergency health care, which will be available once the Mechanism becomes operational. In the event that any members require specialized, continuous or prolonged treatment that renders them incapacitated, a request shall be made for them to be treated in one of the guarantor countries, if they so desire.

8. Any travel that members of the national, regional and local bodies of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism undertake in the performance of their duties shall be reported to and coordinated with the members of the Armed Forces of the Government of Colombia and of ELN, using the means and channels of communication of the respective protection systems.

9. The group of accompanying, support and cooperation countries (GPAAC) shall be requested to provide the necessary resources for the operation of the ELN component of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, in accordance with the terms of reference, the operating manual and the budget submitted by ELN.

The Government of Colombia shall provide the budget necessary for the participation of the State officials tasked with providing security and protection services for the members of ELN on the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. The Government of Colombia shall inform the national body of the Mechanism of the appointment of those officials.

10. The Police Unit for Peacebuilding shall coordinate with the Armed Forces to take preventive measures and establish security measures in the places where the members of the Mechanism must be present.

The components of the Monitoring and Verification Monitoring and Verification Mechanism shall agree on procedures or protocols to protect the members of the Mechanism in the places where their presence is required in accordance with the mandate of the Mechanism.

11. Any travels of the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism shall be planned in advance with the Armed Forces in order to identify the safest route and consider the information provided by the members and communications liaisons of ELN regarding, among other issues, routes that may be contaminated with conventional and non-conventional explosive devices or other hazards that may pose a risk to the safety of the members of the Mechanism.

12. The Police Unit for Peacebuilding and the National Protection Unit shall put in place a contingency plan to address risks to the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, in order to ensure that they are able to respond rapidly and effectively by coordinating and consolidating their capacities.

13. The Armed Forces and the Police shall adopt the comprehensive security measures that are needed to protect and facilitate the movement and work of the members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism throughout the national territory.

14. The Armed Forces of the Government of Colombia and ELN shall provide information to the members of the Mechanism on possible risks, threats and vulnerabilities that may affect their safety, with a view to mitigating or neutralizing dangerous situations.

15. The members of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism on the various bodies shall follow the security and protection measures and recommendations proposed by the Police Unit for Peacebuilding and the National Protection Unit.

In highly complex situations of which the Mechanism is aware, the necessary security measures shall be adopted to ensure that the members of the Mechanism are present in the places where they are required to be.

16. The Police Unit for Peacebuilding and the National Protection Unit shall take a differential and gender-sensitive approach to the provision of security and protection for members of the Mechanism. In addition, the members of the Mechanism shall take ethnic considerations into account in their interactions with the authorities of Indigenous Peoples and Black, Afro-Colombian and Palenquero communities when they visit the territories of those communities.

Havana, Cuba, 13 July 2023.

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Republic of Colombia

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As witnesses and depositaries:

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