

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 13 July 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the pleasure to inform you that Ireland will organize an Arria-formula meeting on the theme “A milestone year for a peaceful future: transitional justice in Colombia”, to be held on 14 July 2022 in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, from 3 to 6 p.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Ireland has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Geraldine Byrne Nason**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept note for the Arria-formula meeting, co-sponsored by Colombia and Norway, on the theme “A milestone year for a peaceful future: transitional justice in Colombia”, to be held on Thursday, 14 July 2022

Introduction

In 2016, the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) signed a historic peace agreement signalling the end to decades of devastating conflict. The accord has yielded substantial benefits for the Colombian people in the five years since its agreement and, despite challenges, remains an exemplar of an accord placing victims and survivors at the heart of the conflict resolution process.

The fifth anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement, in November 2021, was testament to the continued commitment of the parties to the agreement, State institutions, Colombian civil society and the Colombian people. Nevertheless, as recognized by the Secretary-General, challenges and risks to implementation remain. The commitment to peace by social leaders, human rights defenders and former combatants, despite instances of threats to their lives and safety by illegal armed groups, has been remarkable. Women, girls and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities have been particularly affected by this violence. The continued and full implementation of the peace agreement is essential.

The Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition – including the Truth Commission, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the Unit for the Search for Persons Deemed as Missing – is a central tenet of the peace agreement, offering a unique opportunity to address the consequences of a conflict that struck Colombia for decades, provide healing to victims and survivors and help to prevent the repetition of violence.

2022 is a seminal year for peace in Colombia and for the transitional justice system. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace has begun to hold public hearings on acknowledgements of responsibility and will hand down its first restorative sentences in two cases this year. The Unit for the Search for Persons Deemed as Missing continues its principled work, providing dignity and closure to victims' families.

The Truth Commission released its final report on 28 June. The international community, including the Security Council, can work together and play an important role in ensuring that the participants in the process are supported as they work together to build a more inclusive, peaceful, secure and prosperous future for all Colombians.

Context

The international community has a distinct and important role to play in supporting the Colombian peace process at this important and sensitive moment for peace.

At the request of the Government of Colombia, the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Colombia, through its resolution [2261 \(2016\)](#), as the international component and coordinator of the tripartite mechanism, with a mandate to monitor and verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities and

the laying down of arms. Its successor, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, has been instrumental in monitoring and verifying the progress of implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace.

In resolution [2574 \(2021\)](#), by which the Mission's mandate was expanded, the contribution that the international community could make to building confidence in the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition was recognized. The additional task mandated to the Mission – the verification of compliance with and implementation of the sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace – is an important demonstration of support regarding a critical arm of the transitional justice framework in Colombia.

The importance of the support of the Security Council regarding this aspect of the transitional justice architecture in Colombia was clearly recognized in the open debate on the theme “Transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations”, hosted during the Belgian presidency in February 2020.

Guiding questions

1. What further support can the international community, including the Security Council, provide to the Colombian peace process as implementation continues through its second five-year phase?
2. How can the international community support the unique contribution to peace made by social leaders and human rights defenders, women, girls, LGBTI+ persons and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, ensure their safe engagement with, and enable them to participate in and benefit from, transitional justice mechanisms?
3. How can the experience of other transitional justice processes inform the international community's support in relation to the Colombian transitional justice system at this critical moment?
4. What lessons can the international community and the United Nations and its Member States learn from the Colombian transitional justice system? How can lessons from the Colombian experience be applied to conflict resolution and reconciliation efforts in other contexts?
5. What further steps can the United Nations, including the Security Council, take to promote the central role of transitional justice in sustainable peace across its work?

Briefers

- President of the Colombian Truth Commission, Father Francisco de Roux
- European Union Special Envoy for the Peace Process in Colombia, Eamon Gilmore
- Academic expert in international law, human rights and transitional justice, Juana Acosta
- Social leader, human rights defender and Director of “Fundación Mujer Con Valor”, Yanet Mosquera Rivera

Format

All Member States, Permanent Observers, United Nations entities and civil society organizations are invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

Following opening remarks by the meeting's Chair, the Permanent Representative of Ireland, Geraldine Byrne Nason, briefers will be invited to make their statements. This will be followed by an intervention by the representative of Colombia. The Chair will then invite interventions and questions from members of the Security Council and then open the floor to other Member States.

To facilitate interventions by as many Member States as possible, interventions should not exceed three minutes.

Interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations will be available throughout. The meeting will be broadcast live on United Nations Web TV.

To register to deliver a statement, please provide the name of the Member State, as well as the name and title of the speaker, to pmun.events@dfa.ie by noon, 13 July. Please use the subject line "Arria meeting on transitional justice in Colombia".

A compilation of statements will be prepared by the Chair. Civil society organizations are invited to make submissions in writing to pmun.events@dfa.ie for inclusion in the compilation by 6 p.m. on 14 July.
