

**STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF JEAN
ARNAULT, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL AND HEAD OF THE UNITED
NATIONS MISSION IN COLOMBIA**

Madam President,

Distinguished members of the Council,

Excellency Ambassador Maria Emma Mejia,

I thank the Council for allowing me to provide an update on developments in the implementation of the Colombia Peace Agreement and the mandate of the Mission since the Secretary-General's report.

But at the outset, let me reiterate to Ambassador Maria Emma Mejia the UN's deepest sympathy after the tragedy of Mocoa, in the department of Putumayo; commend the quick and effective response of the National System of Disaster Management under the leadership of President Santos; and reaffirm the UN disposition to support national efforts to rescue and rebuild.

Madam President,

Several significant developments have taken place in the past two weeks. :

On 22 March the legislation on the Integral System of Justice, Truth, Reparation and Non-Repetition was passed. It is of course a critical part of the Peace Agreement and the core of the effort to reconcile the rights of the victims with the requirements of the transition from war to peace. A ceremony took place in Bogota today where the President signed the decrees establishing the Truth Commission; the Special Unit to search for persons disappeared as a result of the conflict; and the Selection Committee that will designate the magistrates of the Special Peace Jurisdiction, the members of the Truth Commission and the Head of the Special Unit.

The day before yesterday a law intended to contribute to the legal security and stability of the implementation process was also passed. It commits Government officials to effective compliance with the provisions of the Peace Agreement.

A number of other steps provided in the Peace Agreement were taken:

- **The transmittal of the Final Peace Agreement to this Council;**
- **The appointment of former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and former Uruguayan President Jose Mujica, who will constitute the international verification component of the Peace Implementation Commission. They are supported by a Secretariat made up of two very competent Colombian NGOs, and backed by the Kroc Institute of Notre-Dame University.**
- **There has been some progress, which we expect will continue, on the separation of minors from the FARC. As of 2 April, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 57 minors have been separated in compliance with the commitment made by the group in May 2016.**
- **Yesterday the Government announced that it received formally from the FARC a list of its armed members**

gathered in the Zones, who number 6804, as well as a first list of 1541 militia members.

- **Special mention should be made of developments relating to the agreement concluded between the Government of Colombia and the FARC on the control of illegal drugs. Let me recall that the drug economy has helped sustain the Colombia conflict over decades; and that, in turn, the peace process has the real potential to contribute to combating it. In this context, in January, the Colombian Government and the FARC agreed on a package of incentives to farmers willing to proceed with voluntary eradication. To date, through negotiations with communities, more than 55,000 families have volunteered to enter the crop-substitution programme. The Government is currently working on putting together the 2-year package of incentives, including monthly payments to farmers; food security; productive projects; and technical support and monitoring. Delivery of the packages is to begin in June.**
- **Another significant development is the assumption of the Vice-Presidency by retired police General Oscar Naranjo, who was also a member of the government's**

peace negotiating team. His stated focus will be on the implementation of the Peace Agreement; security; counter-narcotics; and the protection of community leaders and human rights defenders who have been victims of a pattern of killings and threats that have shown an increase in recent months. All of these issues are clearly interlinked and deserving of precisely this kind of sustained attention at the highest level of Government.

In direct relation to the UN Mission's mandate, the process of laydown of weapons has moved forward in the past 15 days. Since 24 March, the Mission has identified, marked and registered the weapons that FARC combatants brought to the camps. This exercise is nearly completed.

In addition, we expect to store very shortly in the Mission's containers the weapons of all those FARC members that will participate in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. Numbering about 1000, those members are involved in the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, training for security functions, crop substitution, humanitarian demining, and peace education.

The next step for the Mission is the collection of weapons and the destruction of unstable armament in a considerable number of arms and ammunition caches spread throughout vast areas of difficult access. Several such caches have already been visited and some explosives have been destroyed. However, now that FARC combatants are assembled in the 26 Zones, that operation can be carried out at full scale. The Mission met with the FARC today in Bogota to work on a detailed plan for systematic access to the caches, and in meetings this week the Colombian army has pledged its full cooperation with this endeavor.

Madam President,

While these developments confirm that the implementation of the peace agreement is a dynamic process, there have been concerns with regard to the slow pace of implementation in a number of sensitive areas mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. These concerns relate in particular to the construction and equipment of FARC camps, the implementation of the Amnesty law, the implementation of security guarantees and the plans for reintegration of the FARC combatants.

In this respect, at a meeting on 25th and 26th March in Cartagena to take stock of implementation 100 days after the signing of the Peace Agreement, the parties made important and detailed commitments to accelerate implementation precisely in these areas and in the adoption of the legislative agenda of the Peace Agreement. We welcome those commitments. Like the parties, we believe that while the consolidation of peace will be a long-term process, there is a relatively short window of opportunity to establish solid foundations for it through the laying down of weapons, the reintegration of FARC combatants and the delivery of peace dividends to the most affected people and areas.

Let me end by expressing our full support for the planned visit of the Security Council to Colombia next month. Since the beginning of its involvement in January of last year, the unanimous support of the Security Council has been perceived in Colombia as a guarantee of success. Your visit will provide further assurance to that effect. Indeed, this is precisely the juncture at which the international community, and this Council in particular, should voice its interest, its encouragement, and its support for the efforts of the parties and all those involved in the building of peace in Colombia.

Thank you.
