What you need to know about the UN Mission in Colombia
Background:
The parties, the Colombian Government and FARC-EP, asked the UN Security Council for a UN Political Mission to verify the ceasefire, cessation of hostilities and the laying down of arms.

Result:

Resolution 2261, January 2016. Security Council acknowledges the request and demonstrates full commitment to the peace process.

Unanimous decision: "To establish a Political Mission that will participate in the process [...] as the international component and coordinator of [...] the tripartite mechanism."
UN Mission in Colombia

**Political Mission:**
450 unarmed observers, no uniforms—not "blue helmets"—mainly from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

**Gender:**
47% of UN Mission staff are women. With 29%, the UN Mission in Colombia has the highest percentage of women observers of any mission.

**Headquarters:**
UN Mission in Colombia + MVM: national headquarters in Bogotá, 8 regional offices, 26 local MVM sites in 19 zones and 7 points (see map).

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**UN Mission mandate:**

*Bilateral Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities.* International Component of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM): coordinates, settles disputes, makes recommendations and advises.

*Laying down of arms.* In charge of verifying the destruction of unstable armament and receiving weapons from FARC-EP, as requested by the parties.

*Resolve differences.*

*Make recommendations and statements.*

*Dialogue* with communities, civil society and authorities.

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**UN Mission = UN in Colombia?**

A: *No.*

The UN in Colombia is composed of all Agencies, Funds and Programmes that already existed in the country for several decades (UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR, etc.).

The UN Mission in Colombia has a specific and temporary 12-month mandate, covering the *bilateral ceasefire and laying down of arms.* It can be renewed, at the parties’ request.

**UN Mission = MVM?**

A: *No.* (see graph)

The MVM is composed of members of the Colombian Government, FARC-EP and the UN Mission in Colombia (which coordinates the mechanism).

**Are all UN Mission staff members part of the MVM?**

A: *No.*

The Mission has a total of 450 international observers, men and women, and around 150 civilians to carry out its mandate, as approved by the Security Council.
Where we are

We have 3 levels of operation:

**National:** 1 Headquarters
Bogotá

**Regional:** 8 offices
Valledupar, Bucaramanga, Florencia, Medellín, Popayán, Villavicencio, Quibdó, San José del Guaviare

**Zones and Points:**

- 19 Zones
  A zone contains several camps
- 7 Points
  A Point is smaller than a Zone and consists of a single camp

How we work

The UN Mission in Colombia verifies the parties’ commitments to the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities —coordinating the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) with the Government and FARC-EP—and the laying down of arms. The **Mechanism is the intersection of the three parties**; not all of the Mission’s staff members are part of the MVM.
Understand how the Zones function and where the laying down of arms will take place, with a local site of the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM), FARC-EP camp, and laying down of arms site with the UN Mission’s role: