

1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) the guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive dialogues, in Havana, on November 19, 2012. Two agreements have been reached so far: one on the first point on the agenda, integrated rural reform, on May 26, 2013; and the second on the next point, political participation, on November 6, 2013.

2. Key Developments from January 30th to February 4th

Military taps peace process communications

After 15 months of secret investigations, Semana Magazine released information about a military communications bunker in the west of Bogotá, from which military intelligence was intercepting peace process communications from high-level GOC representatives. The bunker was disguised as a restaurant, and was under the control of a captain in BITEC-1 intelligence unit. It held the project name “Andromeda”, and was originally part of intelligence efforts of the same name that used to monitor and investigate illegal activity.¹

The AGO is currently investigating the case and President Santos met with high military commanders on Tuesday asking for confirmation that military intelligence is in fact responsible for the interceptions. Santos released a statement expressing his disapproval of the interceptions and assuring that whoever is responsible will be punished.²

Ministry of Justice announces peace team

The Ministry of Justice announced that it will launch a team of experts to work on three peace-related topics: the design of judicial mechanisms for the implementation of peace agreements; justice reforms to support peace; and adjustments to criminal law. The commission is comprised of various ex-ministers, ex-magistrates, and lawyers.³

FARC accuses GOC of rejecting humanitarian agreement

After Vice President Garzón suggested that the FARC and the GOC should sign a humanitarian agreement to prevent future damage to civilians in the conflict, the FARC said they support such an accord. However, they accused the GOC of rejecting the idea.⁴ The Church requested that the FARC accept humanitarian conditions to stop kidnapping and prevent civilian deaths.⁵

¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/alguien-espio-los-negociadores-de-la-habana/376076-3>

² <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/para-santos-chuzadas-ilegales-son-inaceptables/376105-3>

³ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/proceso-de-paz-en-colombia-comisin-asesora-del-ministerio-de-justicia_13426416-4

⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-dicen-el-gobierno-se-opone-pactar-minimos-humanita-articulo-472543>

⁵ <http://correoconfidencial.com/archivos/78237>

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Most of country already in post-conflict phase

Minister of Defense Juan Carlos Pinzón gave a security update to President Santos on Monday. This included the following statistics: 93% of municipalities have no guerrilla activity; 92% have not registered kidnapping for extortion in the last three years; and 74% have no presence of illegal armed groups or criminal bands (BACRIM). This means that the majority of municipalities in the country are already in the post-conflict phase.⁶

3. Dialogues & Agenda

FARC propose crop substitution oversight committee

Among their latest proposals on the current debate topic of illegal drugs, the FARC proposed a crop substitution oversight committee comprised of representatives of the UNODC, UNASUR, and academia. This group would supervise and monitor implementation of a crop substitution program arising from an agreement on the illegal drugs agenda point. The FARC's suggested timeline for this program is five years.⁷

Request for de-mining to made an agenda point

Magistrate Jaime Orlando Santofimio requested that President Santos make anti-personnel mines and efforts at demining a point on the negotiations agenda. Santofimio emphasized that demining will be essential for lasting peace.⁸

The topic currently being discussed is illegal drugs, and the dialogue teams returned for the twentieth round of talks on Monday.⁹

GOC dialogue team leader warns that stigmatization must be avoided

GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle stated that in order for peace to be sustainable, new political parties and groups arising from a peace agreement with the FARC must not be stigmatized. He stated that pre-conceptions and stigmatization by both sides could prolong social and political divisions.¹⁰

4. International

Mújica met with FARC, drawing criticism from Uribe

Uruguayan President Mújica confirmed that he met with representatives from the GOC-FARC talks. Although he did not state which side was represented in his meeting, it is rumored that he met with representatives of the FARC. Ex-President Uribe criticized this meeting with the FARC, saying that it gave the guerrilla group too much international recognition.¹¹

⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ministro-de-defensa-dice-que-el-90-por-ciento-del-pais-vive-el-posconflicto_13449644-4

⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-proponen-veeduria-internacional-sustitucion-de-cul-articulo-472758>

⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/piden-a-gobierno-discutir-desminado-con-farc_13432375-4

⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/reinicio-de-dialogos-de-paz-en-cuba_13443937-4

¹⁰ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/estamos-en-un-mar-de-estigmatizaciones-que-hay-que-aplacar-de-la-calle/20140130/nota/2066881.aspx>

¹¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/uribe-critica-supuesto-encuentro-del-presidente-uruguay-articulo-472034>

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Ecuador possible GOC-ELN dialogue host

Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Patiño said Ecuador is a likely candidate to host GOC-ELN peace talks, and that discussions to define terms of this role are progressing.¹²

Clegg visits reintegration projects

UK Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg met with President Santos on Monday to discuss foreign investment and the peace process. He then met with Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR) Director Alejandro Eder to learn about DDR and visit a reintegration project.¹³

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

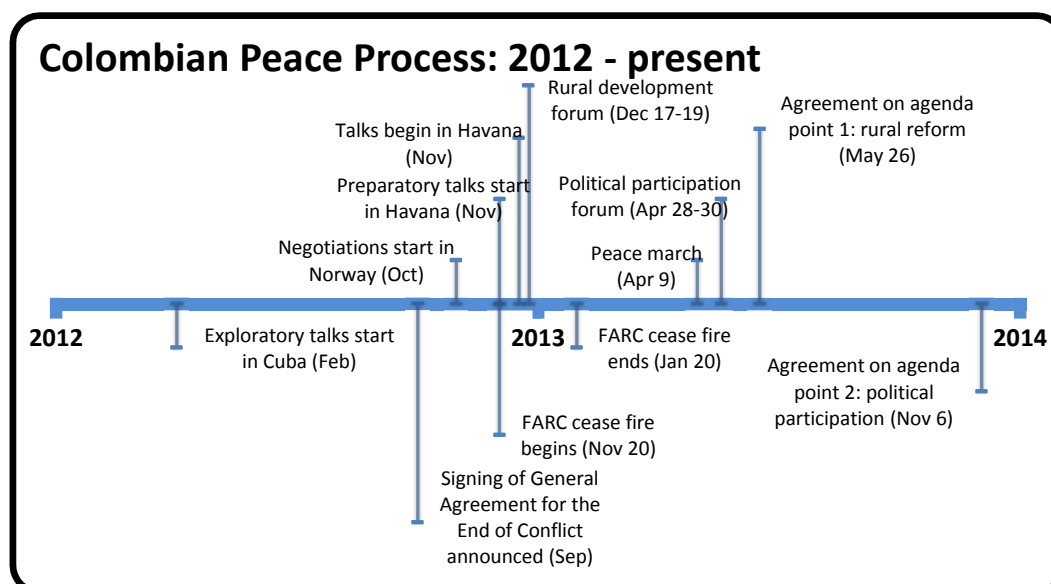
National Guard made up of ex-FARC?

Julio César Castillo of the Cambio Radical (Radical Change) center-right party suggested that ex-combatants who demobilize from the FARC as a result of a peace agreement should join a new National Guard. This security entity would be state-controlled and protect the borders and internal highways, allowing the military to concentrate their resources elsewhere. Castillo said the creation of this National Guard could assist with employment upon reintegration.¹⁴

FARC warn voters to avoid “false dilemma”

As the elections approach, discussions about peace frequently focus on candidates’ support – or lack thereof – for the talks. The FARC called on voters to avoid the “false dilemma” between Santos and Uribe, who are similar candidates, and to vote for an alternative government.¹⁵

6. Timeline



¹² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/ecuador-cada-vez-mas-cerca-de-ser-sede-de-negociaciones-articulo-471793>

¹³ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/nick-clegg-visita-proyecto-de-reintegracion-de-guerrilleros/20140202/nota/2068852.aspx>

¹⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proponen-que-farc-sea-guardia-nacional_13435195-4

¹⁵ <http://www.eleconomistaamerica.co/politica-eAm-co/noticias/5507892/02/14/Colombia-Las-FARC-piden-huir-del-falso-dilema-entre-Santos-y-Uribe-y-elegir-un-gobierno-alternativo.html>

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7. Further Reading

Conciliation Resources report on gender, violence, and post-2015 development goals

Think tank Conciliation Resources released a report with recommendations on how to incorporate a focus on gender and violence into a post-2015 development agenda. The report demonstrates how gender, violence, and development are linked, and stresses the importance of inclusive decision-making in the post-2015 agenda. The report also mentions indicators that can be integrated into the development framework to resolve issues in these areas.¹⁶

¹⁶ <http://www.c-r.org/resources/gender-violence-and-peace-post-2015-development-agenda>

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2. Key Developments from February 5th to February 11th

Military taps scandal continues

Last week's revelation about a bunker from which a military intelligence unit was intercepting peace process communications is causing controversy. President Santos suspended two Generals for failing to report the AGO investigation of the unit. Santos stated that investigations will clarify which parts of the unit's activity were legal.¹⁷ It is not known whether communication by GOC dialogue team members was intercepted, which would be illegal.¹⁸

The AGO stated that a FARC website was targeted,¹⁹ and journalists said their communication with FARC spokespeople was tapped.²⁰ Others report that technology supporting the dialogues is inviolable, so it would be impossible to intercept communication.²¹ Minister of Defense Juan Carlos Pinzón was questioned about the intelligence unit's activity in Congress, and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights has asked Santos for information on the case.²²

The FARC criticized Santos for saying part of the unit's operations could be legal, and accused ex-President Uribe of being behind the taps.²³ Uribe responded that he no longer has an institutional relationship with the military and has no connection whatsoever to the scandal.²⁴

3. Dialogues & Agenda

State cannot leave drug-producing regions

UNODC Representative in Colombia Bo Mathiasen addressed the FARC's proposals on the topic of illegal drugs. He stated that drug production areas cannot be demilitarized as the FARC

¹⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-con-el-presidente-santos-sobre-interceptaciones_13473276-4

¹⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/no-hay-certeza-de-espionaje-a-negociadores-del-proceso-de-paz_13464936-4 and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/inteligencia-no-tiene-control-sobre-equipos-hacer-chuza-articulo-473753>

¹⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/chuzadas-escndalo-tumba-a-generales-de-inteligencia-del-ejrcito_13454660-4

²⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/periodistas-cubren-proceso-paz-fueron-espiados-articulo-473925>

²¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/la-tecnologa-usada-por-negociadores-del-proceso-de-paz_13454639-4

²² http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/inspeccion-judicial-del-cti-en-sede-de-inteligencia-militar_13481256-4 and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/cidh-pedira-informacion-al-gobierno-santos-sobre-espion-articulo-474289>

²³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/farc-dicen-alvaro-uribe-esta-detras-del-espionaje-negoc-articulo-472965> and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-criticar-actitud-de-santos-frente-caso-de-chuzadas-articulo-473668>

²⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/uribe-niega-vnculos-con-chuzadas_13456055-4

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suggest, and that the State must increase its presence through education and other institutions.²⁵ Illegal drugs are the topic in the current round of talks, which ends on Thursday.

FARC reject unilateral ceasefire during elections

Various civil society and political groups have asked the FARC to declare a unilateral ceasefire for the legislative elections on March 9th. The guerrilla group rejected the proposal, saying that the real threat to election security is the interception of peace process communications by the military. The FARC did declare themselves willing to discuss the possibility of a bilateral ceasefire with the GOC, which has repeatedly rejected such an idea.²⁶

4. International

Humala expresses support for peace process

Peruvian President Ollanta Humala arrived in Cartagena for the Pacific Alliance meeting last week. In a brief statement to the press, Humala stated his support for the peace process and his hope that it will end in stable peace.²⁷

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Demobilized FARC could work in Amazon recovery project

Environmental Minister Luz Helena Sarmiento stated that FARC members who demobilize as a result of a peace agreement could become part of an environmental recovery project in the Amazon. The “Visión Amazonia” project will aim to reforest the Amazon and facilitate its recovery from pollution, and will incorporate ex-FARC combatants during their reintegration.²⁸

ICBF asks FARC to return child soldiers

ICBF Director Marco Aurelio Zuluaga made a public statement requesting that the FARC release all child soldiers to the ICBF so that they can be returned to their families.

6. Other Voices

Launch of “Reconciliación Colombia” aims to facilitate reconciliation

More than 30 civil society organizations came together to launch *Reconciliación Colombia*, an initiative that aims to generate regional dialogue to facilitate knowledge transfer about best practices in reconciliation. A series of regional meetings will be held so that businesses, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations can exchange experiences and ideas about the process of reconciliation. *Reconciliación Colombia* is supported by USAID and IOM.²⁹

²⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/entrevista-con-el-representante-de-oficina-de-la-onu-contra-las-drogas_13473365-4

²⁶ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/politica/farc-descarta-tregua-unilateral-elecciones-de-congreso-articulo-473401>

²⁷ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/presidente-del-peru-se-une-la-alianza-del-pacifico/376711-3>

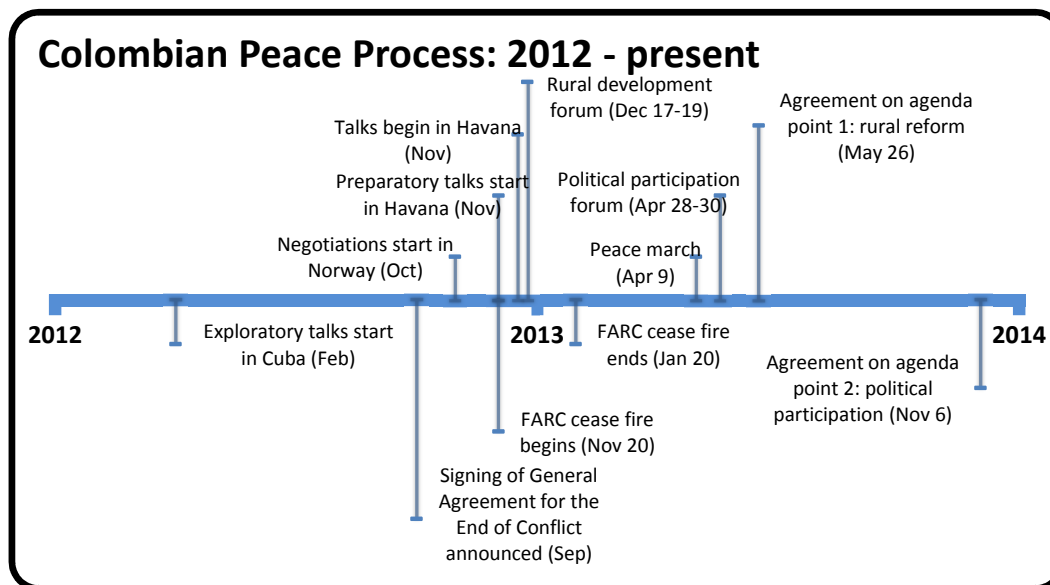
²⁸ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/reinsertados-del-proceso-de-paz-trabajarian-en-recuperacion-de-la-amazonia/20140210/nota/2075911.aspx>

²⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/reconciliacion-pas_13456915-4

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7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

Young man forgives his kidnappers

Daniel Alejandro Cano was kidnapped by the Guevarist Revolutionary Army (ERG) when he was eighteen years old. Just a few years later, he is back at home and in this narrative, expresses how it is that he was able to forgive his kidnappers.³⁰

41% of Colombians believe that a peace agreement is possible

Datexco conducted a survey of 900 households in Colombia. The company found that 41% of Colombians believe that a peace agreement between the GOC and the FARC is possible – up 2% since December 2013. The study also found that 38% of Colombians think that the country is on the path to success, representing a 2% decrease since December.³¹

WOLA panel discusses peace talks

The Washington Office on Latin America held a panel to discuss the current status of the peace talks. The discussion included Colombian Senate President Juan Fernando Cristo, Ariel Ávila (Fundación Paz y Reconciliación), and Virginia Bouvier (United States Institute for Peace). Topics of discussion related to progress in the talks and the relationship between the peace process and upcoming elections. The video of the panel is now available online.³²

³⁰ http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/L/la_reconciliacion_que_le_precede_a_la_paz/la_reconciliacion_que_le_precede_a_la_paz.asp

³¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/encuesta-pulso-pas-revela-que-crece-optimismo-por-firma-de-acuerdo-de-paz_13469675-4

³² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3jWbJOWPzs>

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2. Key Developments from February 12th to February 18th

Additional military scandal sheds light on corruption

While investigations continue to clarify the nature and activity of the military intelligence unit suspected of intercepting communication with peace process team members, an additional scandal involving high-level military commanders has come to light. Recorded phone conversations show that those in charge of approving purchases of technology, equipment, and other necessary materials were pocketing up to 50% of the funds paid to the armed forces in military contracts.³³ Six generals have already resigned or been dismissed, and there may be a complete overhaul of the armed forces command unit this week.³⁴

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Draft agreement on illegal drugs announced

After three months of discussion on the topic, the GOC and the FARC announced a draft agreement on illegal drugs. Although points of contention remain, three “sub-points” have been agreed upon: 1) the solution to the problem of illegal crops is closely tied to rural reform and development (upon which there already exists an agreement); 2) the planning and implementation of the solution should involve the communities affected by it; 3) state presence must be strengthened in the regions in which illegal crop cultivation is common, which are often heavily affected by the presence of the illegal armed groups. Environmental recovery and sustainable development were also overarching topics of consensus.³⁵ The twentieth round of talks closed on February 14th. The twenty-first round will begin on February 24th.

³³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/red-de-corrupcion-entre-los-militares/377311-3>

³⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/renuncia-general-estaria-implicado-casos-de-corrupcion-articulo-475415> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/posible-remezon-de-cupula-militar-caso-de-corrupcion-articulo-475681>

³⁵ <http://www.pazfarc-ep.org/index.php/noticias-comunicados-documentos-farc-ep/delegacion-de-paz-farc-ep/1737-rueda-de-prensa-cierre-del-ciclo-20.html>

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4. International

International political actors send letter of support

Nineteen politicians, academics, and members of the international political community sent a letter to the GOC and dialogue teams, expressing support for the peace process. Highlighting how necessary dialogue is in the resolution of conflict, and praising the progress made in the talks, the letter stated the hope that Colombia will once again be a united and peaceful country. Signatories included: Jacques Chirac, ex-President of France; Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize recipient; Federico Mayor Zaragoza, ex-Secretary General of UNESCO; and Oscar Andres Santamaria, government representative for El Salvador in negotiations with the FMLN.³⁶

UK and Norway reiterate support for peace talks

President Santos met with the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the UK and Norway last week. Both stated their continued support for the peace process between the GOC and the FARC, as well as expressing their eagerness to explore investment opportunities in Colombia.³⁷

Uruguay as host for ELN talks?

President Mujica of Uruguay offered his country as host for possible peace talks with the ELN.³⁸ Exploratory talks between the GOC and ELN are rumored to be held currently, but no details have been released and a peace process with the guerrilla group has yet to be confirmed.

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Peace process in suspense over elections

Congressional elections are to be held on March 9th. The Congress members voted into office will be responsible for legislating on an eventual peace agreement with the FARC, making their election a key factor in the peace process. El Tiempo published an analysis of the Congressional candidates' different perspectives on the peace process and the ways in which their election could affect the progress and possible eventual implementation of agreements.³⁹

Antioquia is number 1 for child recruitment

Antioquia tops the list of departments of Colombia in which child recruitment occurs. The region was followed by Arauca, Chocó, Córdoba, Putumayo, Cauca, and Nariño.⁴⁰

6. Other Voices

Reconciliación Colombia highlights range of reconciliation initiatives

The first meeting of Reconciliación Colombia, an initiative that aims to generate dialogue and facilitate knowledge transfer about reconciliation, was held in Medellín. Representatives from sixty civil society organizations, businesses, local governments, and international entities in

³⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/personalidad-apoyan-proceso-de-paz-en-colombia_13488735-4

³⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/reino-unido-y-noruega-reiteran-apoyo-al-proceso-de-paz-articulo-475585>

³⁸ <http://www.radiosantafe.com/2014/02/14/jose-mujica-volvio-a-ofrecer-a-uruguay-como-sede-para-dialogos-con-el-eln/>

³⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-en-suspension-por-elecciones-de-congreso-marisol-gmez_13507937-4

⁴⁰ <http://www.hsbnoticias.com/vernoticia.asp?WPLACA=97425>

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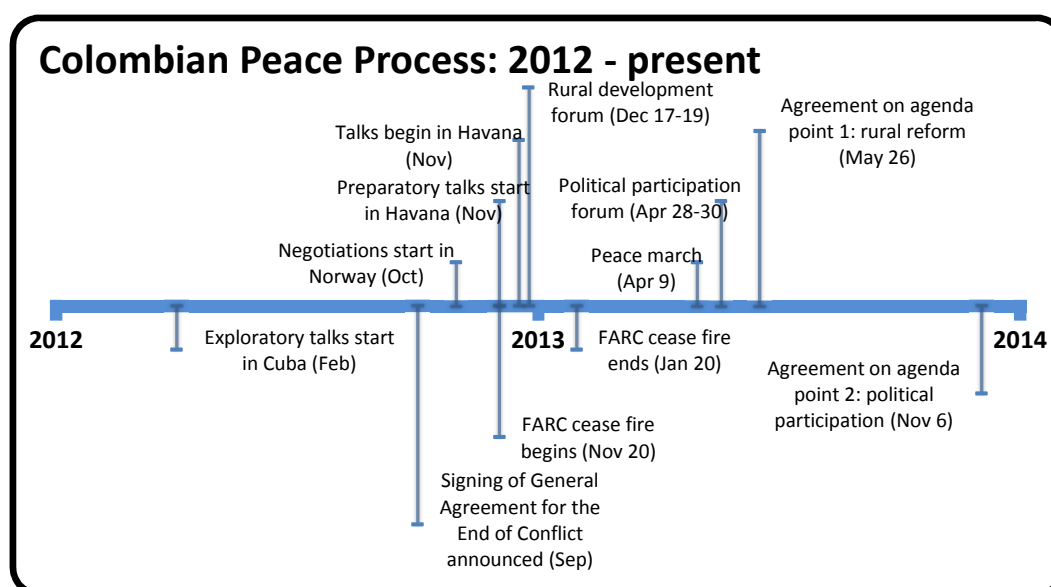
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Antioquia and Putumayo met to exchange information about efforts to facilitate reconciliation in their departments. This was the first of six events to bring together representatives from different regions and explore successful models of reconciliation.⁴¹ USAID and IOM are among the many national and international entities supporting the initiative.

We must open the door to peace: President of the Supreme Court

The new president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Luis Gabriel Miranda Buelvas, was interviewed by El Espectador. He stated that it is important that Colombia explore all possible opportunities for peace, and discussed proposed reforms to the justice system.⁴²

7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

Historical memory a key part of reconciliation

Lucía González, director of the Memory House Museum in Medellín and expert on the topic of historical memory, was interviewed for the 'Reconciliación Colombia' website. She believes that one of the greatest challenges to historical memory is creating a pluralistic representation of how the conflict has affected all parts of society, taking all sectors of society into account. In the interview, she discusses her definition of memory, approaches to creating historical memory while the conflict is still occurring, and the relationship between memory and reconciliation.⁴³

⁴¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/reconciliacion-colombia-una-iniciativa-para-vivir-juntos/377338-3>

⁴² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/hay-abrir-camino-paz-articulo-475384>

⁴³ <http://www.reconciliacioncolombia.com/historias/detalle/71>

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2. Key Developments from February 19th to February 25th

Spotlight on military highlights uncertainty on peace process

Much attention has been paid to the military after the discovery of an intelligence unit's supposed interception of peace talk communications and the finding that top commanders were funneling money off military contract funds. As the acts were investigated, expressions of military doubts about the peace process came to light, focusing on hopes that the armed forces will not be a topic in the dialogues in terms of their function, size, and judicial benefits.⁴⁴

President Santos denied rumors that the dialogues would address or result in the restructuring of the military, stating that those who spread this information try to damage the dialogues.⁴⁵

Vice Presidential nominee expresses support for peace process

President Santos declared that his nominee for running mate in May's presidential elections will be ex-Minister of the Interior German Vargas Lleras, as current Vice President Angelino Garzón does not wish to run. Despite not having been a vocal supporter of the peace process in the past, Vargas Lleras stated that if the talks achieve a positive outcome, he will do everything in his power to implement a peace agreement as efficiently as possible.⁴⁶

3. Dialogues & Agenda

Next round of talks begins

The 21st round of peace talks began on Monday February 24th. The topic remains illegal drugs, upon which the FARC made eight proposals, which focused on recognition of the problem of drug consumption as a public health issue, and the state's responsibility for its resolution.⁴⁷

GOC rejects FARC criticism of Colombian institutions

⁴⁴ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/judicial/malestar-del-proceso-de-paz-articulo-476742>

⁴⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/santos-dice-que-se-pretende-debilitar-proceso-de-paz_13546095-4

⁴⁶ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/politica/si-se-logra-materializar-el-acuerdo-de-paz-sere-un-sold-articulo-477004>

⁴⁷ <http://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/2-2014-farc-plantea-despenalizar-consumo-de-drogas.html>

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GOC head of the dialogues team, Humberto de la Calle, rejected the FARC's criticism last week of Colombian institutions such as the police and the military. De la Calle said that if the guerrillas wish to participate in public debates, they should reach a peace agreement first.⁴⁸ The FARC responded they will not refrain from stating their opinions, whether or not a peace accord is achieved.⁴⁹

President Santos clarified that the Colombian political and economic systems are up for debate in the dialogues. He re-asserted that those ultimately responsible for human rights violations in the conflict will be brought to justice.⁵⁰

4. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Intellectuals encourage the ELN to participate in a peace process

A group of 42 Colombian intellectuals including columnist Maria Elvira Samper, journalist Daniel Samper, and novelist William Ospina, wrote an open letter to the ELN expressing their wish to participate in a process to begin peace talks and formalize a peace agreement.⁵¹ Meanwhile, ELN commander alias 'Gabino' released a video stating that victims' reparations and the clarification of truth would be key in a peace process with the GOC.⁵²

Relocation of "post-conflict police" to begin next month

The director of police training stated that the relocation of police officers who will concentrate on post-conflict topics will begin in March. Five thousand officers will finish their post-conflict training within the next few weeks, specializing in community work, communication for development and conflict resolution. They will be sent to heavily conflict-affected areas.⁵³

5. Other Voices

Local mayors meet to discuss post-conflict

A summit was held to allow mayors of municipalities around the country to meet and discuss their perspectives and strategies for the post-conflict phase. President Santos praised this event, highlighting the fact that a final peace agreement would be implemented with a strong regional perspective.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-no-son-jueces-de-instituciones-equipo-negociador-d-articulo-477039>

⁴⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-dicen-equipo-negociador-no-se-pondran-mordazas-articulo-477210>

⁵⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/proceso-de-paz/santos-dice-no-se-va-cambiar-modelo-de-estado-negociaci-articulo-476794>

⁵¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/invitan-al-eln-a-un-dialogo-por-la-paz_13547798-4

⁵² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/seo-eln-propone-reparar-vctimas_13525235-4

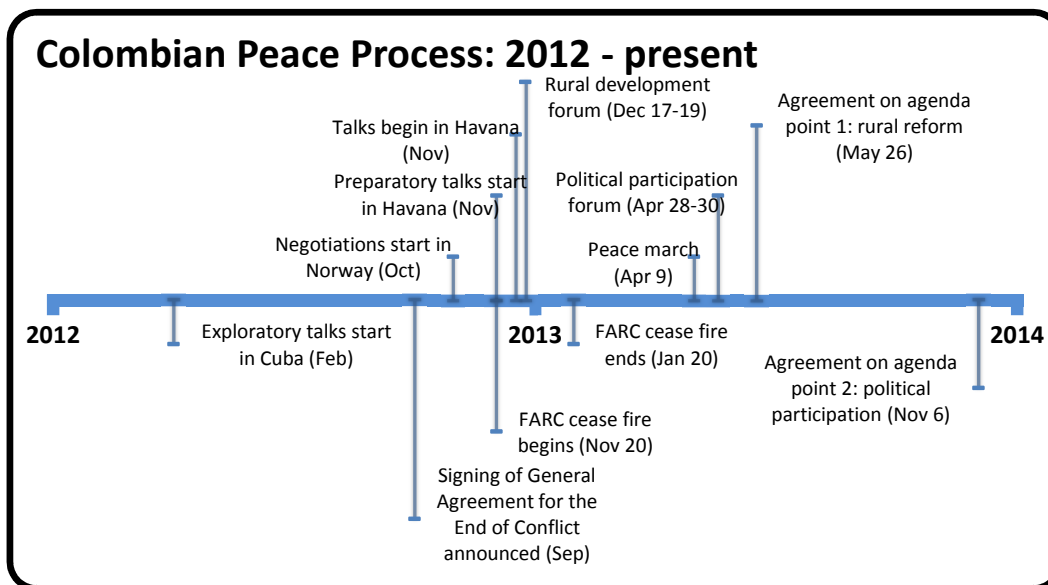
⁵³ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/8203en-marzo-comenzara-la-ubicacion-de-policias-que-trabajaran-en-posconflicto/20140224/nota/2096334.aspx>

⁵⁴ <http://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/2-2014-santos-elogia-preparaci%C3%B3n-de-alcaldes-posconflicto.html>

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

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6. Timeline



7. Further Reading

The Economist publishes article on military scandal

News of the scandals rocking Colombia's armed forces made The Economist's headlines, with an article on the significance of the discovery that the army was intercepting peace talk communications and that top commanders were stealing money from military contracts.⁵⁵

Attack on presidential candidate casts doubt on peace talks: FARC

The FARC stated that Sunday's attempted attack on leftist presidential candidate, Aída Avella, affects the credibility of the peace process, because enemies of the peace process are acting openly against political opposition.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21596962-ousting-countrys-military-chief-may-help-peace-negotiations-general-exit>

⁵⁶ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/atentado-contra-aida-avella-balea-credibilidad-del-proc-articulo-476947>