

Joint Communiqué #55
Havana, Cuba, July 12, 2015

EXPEDITE IN HAVANA AND DE-ESCALATE IN COLOMBIA

With the purpose of:

- Strengthening the trust of the Colombian men and women in the peace process, as well as the trust between the delegations;
- expediting the construction of agreements on all remaining aspects of the Agenda of the General Agreement; and
- creating the conditions to implement the Final and Bilateral Ceasefire and End to the Hostilities (Sub-item 1, Item 3 “End of the Conflict” of the Agenda of the General Agreement).

The delegations of the National Government and the FARC - EP have decided to:

- Make all necessary efforts to reach, without delays, the signature of the Final Agreement, for which purpose we changed the methodology to a technical, ongoing and simultaneous work on the core items of the Agenda, while concurrently building agreements at the Table. To that end, we defined a plan with pre-established goals.
- In particular, to agree without delays on the terms of the Final and Bilateral Ceasefire and End to the Hostilities and Laying down of Arms, including the monitoring and verification system.

For that purpose, the delegations will ask for the accompaniment to the technical sub-commission of a delegate from the Secretary General of the United Nations and a delegate from the Presidency of UNASUR (currently held by Uruguay), in order to contribute to initiate the discussion on the monitoring and verification system and to prepare its implementation as of now, without prejudice to the decision by the delegations regarding the future participation of other organizations or countries in the monitoring and verification system.

- In the meantime:

The FARC - EP, as a de-escalation measure, will maintain the unilateral suspension of all kinds of offensive actions.

In turn, the National Government, as of July 20, will set in motion a de-escalation process of the military actions, consistent with the suspension of offensive actions on the part of the FARC - EP.

In any case, the National Government and its institutions, in compliance with their constitutional obligations, will continue ensuring protection for all the Colombian people and the enforcement of the law throughout the National territory. The Government will continue persecuting crime and in no case will it tolerate any illegal organization's attempts at coercing communities through the use of weapons. In compliance with the foregoing, the National Government will promote respect and will guarantee the free exercise of the fundamental rights of all the Colombian men and women.

In four months, starting as of today, each one of the delegations will undertake a first evaluation of both the compliance with these de-escalation measures, as well as of the

results of the efforts to expedite progress at the Table, and will make the decisions each of them deems pertinent.

The foregoing, without prejudice to the possibility of initiating the Final and Bilateral Ceasefire and End to the Hostilities, if an agreement is reached.

- The National Government and the FARC - EP will intensify the implementation of trust-building measures, based on a timeline.