

JOINT DECLARATION BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED  
FORCES OF COLOMBIA – PEOPLE'S ARMY: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR  
DIALOGUE

San Vicente de Caguán, 7 January 1999

Present in San Vicente de Caguán in the department of Caquetá, the President of the Republic, Andrés Pastrana Arango, various ministers of his office, together with members of the General Secretariat of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*, FARC), headed by Manuel Marulanda Vélez, declare:

1. Today, in the presence of the regional authorities and various civil and social entities from Caquetá, in addition to members of Colombia's accredited diplomatic corps, other spokespeople from international organisations and numerous special guests, they reiterate their firm desire to find paths to bring about the reconciliation of Colombians.
2. For this purpose, with the participation of the representatives appointed by the national government and FARC, a roundtable for dialogue will be established to prepare an agenda and draw up a schedule, agreements which will lead as soon as possible to formal peace negotiations.
3. By initiating this process, the parties acknowledge that the Colombian people have suffered the effects of a long and painful armed conflict and demand the opportunity to live in a society where social justice is re-established as the cornerstone of peace.

For the national government:

- VÍCTOR G. RICARDO PIÑEROS

For FARC–EP, the spokespeople:

- RAÚL REYES
- JOAQUÍN GÓMEZ

- FABIÁN RAMÍREZ