

DECLARATION OF HAVANA, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION  
ARMY

Havana, Cuba, 15 December 2001

The national government and the National Liberation Army (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional*, ELN), present in Havana, Cuba, on 12–15 December, taking forward the first round of bilateral work agreed in the Agreement for Colombia, ratify our full desire to persist in the search for a political solution to the conflict.

In this respect, as a positive sign regarding the commitments acquired in the Agreement for Colombia, and in taking forward the dialogue process recently restarted by the parties in the city of Havana, Cuba, ELN will make important statements on peace from Colombia on 17 December to strengthen and ensure, with tangible results for the peace process, the continuity of the process during the implementation of the transitional agenda, in addition to contributing to the celebration of Christmas and New Year in a peaceful atmosphere. With these announcements, ELN hopes to build trust in the restarted process, generating favourable conditions to allow Colombians to support us in the search for and construction of a new country.

For its part, the national government states that, in line with the content and scope of the statements planned by ELN, it will adopt the necessary measures and guarantees to facilitate the effective development of the transitional agenda and the peace process.

The national government and ELN also agree the following:

1. Hold a peace summit in Havana, Cuba on 30–31 January to assess the effects, successes and obstacles in the dialogue process between the national government and ELN. The parties will invite representatives of Colombian society and the international community whose involvement in the peace process has made a significant contribution to its progress.

2. Hold five thematic forums outside the country based on the schedule below. The forums will take place between the months of February and June 2002 and will facilitate the exchange of initiatives and proposals on the following issues:
  - i. International humanitarian law 25–27 February 2002;
  - ii. The state and participative democracy, 25–27 March 2002;
  - iii. The agrarian problem, drug trafficking and the substitution of illicit crops, 29 April to 1 May 2002;
  - iv. Energy, mining and hydrocarbon resources, 27–29 May 2002;
  - v. The economy and social problems, 24–26 June 2002.

The locations for these forums will be decided by mutual agreement between the parties, taking into account the availability of the countries that are requested to host them. A maximum of 50 people will participate in each forum, including representatives of the government and ELN, six experts in each of the issues proposed, one representative of the Facilitation Commission and one representative of the Group of Friendly Countries, in addition to various guests involved in the process and with knowledge of the issues being discussed. After each forum, the parties will hold a rounds of talks to analyse and discuss the conclusions, which may then be used as inputs for the national convention.

3. Hold a meeting with the Commission of Eminent Persons in Havana, Cuba, on 21 December to analyse the report of recommendations produced as part of the peace process between the national government and FARC-EP.
4. Hold rounds of sessions in Havana and Caracas to plan and take forward the commitments made in the Agreement for Colombia and make progress in implementing the agenda set out in this agreement in order to discuss the following issues:
  - i. ceasefire and cessation of hostilities
  - ii. measures to reduce the conflict
  - iii. problems in the energy sector
  - iv. analysis and discussion of conclusions from the thematic forums.

The next round will take place in Havana in the second week of January 2002.

5. We express our gratitude to the facilitation and support work carried out so far by the Group of Friendly Countries and invite them to hold a coordination meeting on the dates of the next round of sessions.
6. To strengthen and streamline the actions and activities of the Civil Facilitation Commission, the parties will establish a mandate to ensure the commission's work is in keeping with the circumstances of the transitional period.

We express our gratitude to the government of Cuba for its hospitality and for providing the conditions to facilitate our space for dialogue, without which it would not have been possible to reach these agreements. We call on the international community and Colombian society to continue supporting us in the process.

For the national government:

- CAMILO GÓMEZ
- RAMIRO VARGAS
- JULIO LONDOÑO PAREDES

For ELN:

- MILTON HERNÁNDEZ
- ÓSCAR SANTOS
- RAMIRO VARGAS