

DECLARATION OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, INTERNATIONAL
PUBLIC AUDIENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ILLICIT CROPS

Los Pozos, Caquetá, 30 June 2000

The countries and organisations participating in the special international audience express their sincere gratitude to the government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército Popular*, FARC–EP) for holding a meeting on the environment and illicit crops.

On 29–30 June, they have had the opportunity to discover, through the presentation of the Roundtable for Negotiation, the significant progress in the peace process, analyse the difficulties that may arise in the future and find out about the social problems inherent to the issue of drugs in the country. They have also had the opportunity to hear the range of proposals from civil society and NGOs invited by the Roundtable for Negotiation to the international public audience, showing the need for their involvement in the process.

The participating countries and organisations express their resolute support for the dialogue and negotiation process initiated by the government of President Pastrana and are confident the parties will reach agreements to deliver fair and long-lasting peace that will contribute to improving the living conditions and reconciliation among the Colombian people. They strongly urge all those involved in the conflict to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms, international humanitarian law and the integrity of the civil population affected by in the conflict.

Given the recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, they call for an end to impunity, paramilitarism and all acts of violence, massacres, extortions and kidnappings. Minors must receive special care and attention. Similarly, they reiterate the call to the parties to reach an agreement regarding international humanitarian law and the respect for human rights, in line with the international consensus reached during the most recent period of ordinary sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

They encourage the Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation to establish sufficient consensuses for cooperation in defending the environment, the eradication of illicit crops through alternative development projects, and fighting drug trafficking and related crimes, taking into account the proposals made by the affected communities. In this sense, they reiterate the need for a general and balanced approach to the problem of drug trafficking based on the principles of shared responsibility and international cooperation between countries that produce and consume drugs.

The participating countries and organisations reiterate their commitment to provide support, as required by the parties, to reach a negotiated solution to the conflict. They express their willingness to consider their contribution in line with their capacities for the social development plans that are decided. They will pay close attention to the development of the aforementioned matters and any progress that is made, and declare their willingness to continue participating in meetings of this nature.

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, CANADA, COSTA RICA, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM, VATICAN CITY, VENEZUELA, THE SPECIAL ADVISER OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR COLOMBIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.