**The Colombian Peace Process**

Conflict between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC–EP) has been raging for over fifty years. At its height, the FARC-EP controlled large portions of the country, with the state limited to control over the major cities. Since the turn of the century, however, the power of the FARC-EP has been in decline.

The peace process between the Colombian government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC–EP began with negotiations in September 2012, and mainly took place in Havana, Cuba. Negotiators announced a final agreement to end the conflict and build a lasting peace on August 24, 2016. Though it was initially rejected by a popular referendum, it was later revised and then ratified by the Houses of Congress, without further reference to the populace. Peace, thus began, on 30 November 2016.

A significant element of the peace treaty is a tripartite mechanism for the verification and monitoring of a final ceasefire, cessation of hostilities and surrender of weapons. The monitors include members of the government, the FARC-EP and a political mission of the United Nations composed by observers from member states of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The international component would preside and coordinate the mechanism. In other words, the negotiators of the peace treaty asked the United Nations Security Council to create such a political mission with unarmed observers for a renewable 12-month period.

In October 2017 the Constitutional Court ruled that the next three governments of Colombia must abide by the peace deal.

1. What commitment problems can you identify that could be an issue for either side?
2. How have these commitment problems been solved in the Colombian case?
3. Do these solutions go far enough?