



THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY BRIEFING ON COLOMBIA
TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2022 (3.00 PM)

STATEMENT BY

H.E. Mr. MICHAEL MOUSSA-ADAMO

FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE

GABONESE REPUBLIC

ON BEHALF OF THE A3

~~-GABON, GHANA AND KENYA-~~

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3 — namely, Gabon, Ghana and Kenya.

We thank SRSG Carlos Massieu and Mrs. Elizabeth Moreno Barco for their briefings. We also welcome the participation of H.E. Álvaro Leyva Durán, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia.

We warmly congratulate H.E. President Gustavo Petro and H.E. Vice President Francia Marquez for their electoral victory. We believe that your election heralds a new hope for Colombia and its resilient, peace-loving people.

Excellencies,

The election of President Petro and Vice President Marquez is a testament to Colombians desire for fundamental change. Particularly in regard to the inclusion of those who had been left behind and consigned to the margins of economic, cultural and political life. We applaud the President's inclusive effort as reflected in his appointment of Afro-Colombian and indigenous professionals to key public positions.

As states with a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural basis, we recognise that the practical and fair embrace of inclusion by the state is a key competence. It is required by all states, no matter their wealth or might, as a foundation for their sustained peace and security. The people of Colombia have demonstrated their recognition of this requirement in their country.

There are many Colombians yearning for fairness and inclusion. We focus most on Afro-Colombians and the indigenous community because they have suffered the most historically. We also focus on them because, as the

A3, we are guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its embrace of our continent's diaspora.

All people of African descent the world-over whose ancestors left our shore in duress or in search of opportunity are our kin. We care for the fates they have met, and we will do the utmost to encourage all states and institutions to treat them with dignity and fairness.

Excellencies,

Inclusion, equity and justice for all Colombians is the promise of the Final Peace Agreement. We believe that by raising such high expectations for themselves, Colombians have given the world a precious example to follow. We also recognise, with profound respect, the victims and survivors who have suffered greatly but are still willing to offer forgiveness for the sake of peace.

For the agreement to truly deliver peace, it is critical that the principles and provisions of the Ethnic Chapter — as a cross-cutting measure — be implemented. Lack of progress in this part of the agreement, and in the economic and political empowerment of those most vulnerable is an early warning signal of future conflicts. The A3 will continue to support tangible action on the Ethnic Chapter as the clearest proof of commitment and success of the peace process

Unfortunately, until now, the level of compliance with the Ethnic Chapter, has been low. Its principles and goals, cutting across different parts of the FPA, have not been addressed with the level of attention and seriousness that they deserve.

It is particularly important that the lands in which indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities live and their economic life involve the implementation of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice,

Reparation and Non-Repetition. Safe participation in all relevant processes should be assured. The brutal killings of human rights defenders, particularly from ethnic and indigenous communities, should be aggressively investigated and those responsible held accountable.

We underscore the need for urgent implementation of the Security Guarantees by the National Commission to the vulnerable, taking into consideration specific gender needs. In this regard, we commend the government's efforts to highlight the need for integrated State response to address persisting violence in conflict-affected areas.

We pay particular attention to the measures aimed at providing specific responses to the challenges that women, and in particular Afro-Colombian and indigenous women, continue to face, whether for their security, their participation in political life or for their economic empowerment. And the first measures taken by the new President created in us the hope that women will take a greater part in building peace in Colombia.

We condemn any attacks directed at government security forces. In particular, we are concerned by the attack in Huila department where seven Policemen were killed.

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Beyond the FPA, the A3 supports all efforts that seek to consolidate the peace process, including through the incorporation of groups that are not parties. We support the willingness for dialogue between the government, the ELN and other armed groups to engage. This is a positive step in the realisation of total peace.

The normalisation of relations with its neighbours remains key for the continued security and prosperity of Colombia and for regional stability.

We therefore welcome the steps taken to normalise relations with Venezuela.

The UN Verification Mission in Colombia has been instrumental in monitoring and verifying the progress of implementation of the Final Agreement. It remains particularly critical at this moment. The A3 therefore supports the renewal of the UN Verification Mission's mandate for another year.

We urge the international community to continue supporting the Government's efforts technically and financially.

Some of this support, particularly from the UN, can involve mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals with a specific focus on their impact on those most vulnerable. The SDGs have specific goals and benchmarks. Making them part of measurable action by government will be key to demonstrating inclusivity, fairness, justice and sustainable development for the most vulnerable Colombians.

For this to work most effectively, all efforts should be made to concretely link the coordination, deliverables and learning between the Verification Mission and the UN Country Team.

Excellencies, in conclusion, I would like to make a special mention of the leading efforts of Kenya in bringing a strong focus to the linkage between Africa and its diaspora in the work of the Council. This is particularly the case within the efforts of the A3, which has led to more delegations taking up aspects of the cause. As Kenya winds down its term, it can take pride in having contributed tangibly to the strengthening of Pan-African solidarity. It is an effort that the A3 will continue into the future.

Excellencies, the A3 reaffirms its solidarity with the government and the people of Colombia in their tireless pursuit of total peace and prosperity.

I thank you.