



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Kenya to the United Nations – New York
Security Council - 2021-2022

THE QUARTERLY BRIEFING ON COLOMBIA

THURSDAY, 14 JULY 2022 (10AM)

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

ON BEHALF OF GABON, GHANA AND KENYA (A3)

Thank you, Mister President,

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

We thank SRSR Carlos Massieu and Ms. Jineth Casso Piamba for their briefings, and welcome the participation of Mr Francisco José de Roux Rengifo, the President of the Truth Commission.

We convey our heartfelt congratulations to President Elect Gustavo Petro and the Vice President Elect Ms. Marcia Marquez. Their election by the people of Colombia offers an opportunity for the accelerated implementation of the Final Peace Agreement.

It also promises a new era of inclusion in the country's policies that would encourage the realization of the provisions of the Ethnic Chapter, and the constitutional requirement to treat all Colombians fairly and equally.

In line with the African Union's Constitutive Act, which recognises Africa's diaspora as the Sixth Region, we applaud the election of Marcia Marquez as the first

Afro-Colombian to attain such high office. Her election reflects her powerful talents as a leader, and the Colombian peoples' embrace of their country's diversity.

We take this opportunity to send our brotherly regards to the Afro-Colombian community, and to applaud its resilience and strong spirit of hope over generations who have faced great difficulties and obstacles.

Mr. President,

The Colombian peace process has valuable lessons to teach the world on how to end a protracted civil war, and embark on the road to lasting peace and reconciliation. The Colombian government's positive and proactive engagement with the Security Council should be closely studied and utilised by other countries in serious conflict.

Significant progress has been made in the five years since the signing of the Final Peace Agreement. However, as many Colombians will accept, there is still a lot to be done.

We are encouraged by the conciliatory messages from the President elect Gustavo Petro and are optimistic that his government will inject the necessary energy, dynamism and commitment in furthering the peace process. As the A3, as constituted now, and in the future, we will continue to support and view the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter as the clearest proof of commitment and success.

Mr. President,

The full reintegration of former combatants into the society remains key to the success of the peace process. The A3 commends the positive progress on the Development Programmes with Territorial Focus (PDET) and the Comprehensive Rural Reform, as well as the consolidation of former Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration (TATRs).

However, the slow progress in accessing land for those living outside the TATRs, including former combatants of indigenous and Afro-Colombian origin, is an undermining factor. We call on the authorities to resolve any issues surrounding the full implementation of these provisions.

In order to address issues facing former combatants of indigenous and Afro-Colombian descent, we reiterate the need for adequate and reliable resource allocation for the Special High-Level Forum of Ethnic Peoples. We further encourage all parties to make use of the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Final Agreement (CSIVI) to resolve any differences.

Mr. President,

Transitional justice remains the cornerstone of Colombia's peace process. The A3 lauds the progress within the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition.

In particular, we welcome the report of the Truth Commission as a landmark achievement. The A3 salutes the victims who took the courage to share their stories – painful as they might have been.

We hope that this will serve as a vehicle to bring healing and closure to the victims. We urge all peace loving Colombians to build upon the recommendations of the Commission's report to ensure national reconciliation.

In addition, we recognize the commendable progress recorded by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP's) in the pursuit of justice for the victims. We look forward to the conclusion of Cases 01 and 03's sentences so that the victims can finally start to heal.

Mister President,

The A3 is cognisant of the link between the illegal narcotics trade and armed conflict. We reiterate the importance of the successful resettlement of former combatants to keep them away from criminality to secure the gains that have been achieved.

We laud the Government's efforts to eliminate illicit crops including through the implementation of the National Comprehensive Programme for Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS). We encourage the involvement of the affected communities and the deployment of methods that have no negative public health and environmental implications.

The A3 is deeply concerned over the persistent violence targeting former combatants and conflict-affected communities including the Afro Colombian and Indigenous communities, social leaders, women peace-builders and human rights activists.

We condemn the horrific crimes, including sexual violence committed against women and children. We call for the stepping up of the implementation of the gender provisions of the FPA, including through the provision of security and requisite resources for their productive projects.

We are particularly concerned by reports of intensified armed confrontations between armed groups including the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN). These confrontations are impacting innocent civilians especially in the departments of Chocó and Arauca. We underscore the need for urgent implementation of the Security Guarantees by the National Commission to the vulnerable, taking into consideration gender needs.

The A3 supports all efforts that seek to consolidate the peace process, including through the incorporation of groups that are not parties to the FPA. We laud the efforts by stakeholders encouraging the government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) to engage in dialogue. And we welcome the willingness expressed by both the ELN and the President elect in this regard, and urge both parties to constructively dialogue for the greater good of the country.

Furthermore, it is absolutely essential for the government of Colombia to creatively explore avenues for the normalization of relations with all its neighbours as that is sine qua non to the continued security and prosperity of the Colombian people and regional stability.

Finally, we extend our sincere appreciation to President Iván Duque and his government for their commitment to the peace process in the last four years including the implementation of the peace agreement.

In conclusion, the A3 countries reaffirm their solidarity with the government and the people of Colombia in their tireless pursuit of peace and prosperity. We also offer our unwavering support to the UN Verification Mission.

I thank you.