

Geneva, Berlin, November 28, 2022

H.E. Gustavo Petro Urrego

President of the Republic of Colombia

H.E. Danilo Rueda Rodríguez

High Commissioner for Peace

Dear Excellencies,

As global church-based organizations, we want to congratulate the Government of Colombia, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, for the appointment of four women to the negotiation team for a peace agreement with the National Liberation Army (ELN).

With these appointments, half of the members of the national government delegation in the negotiations with the ELN will now be women. This decision is in line with the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security (SC res 1325, SC res 1820).

Women's engagement in peacebuilding, peace mediation and negotiation is fundamental, given that as refugees, internally displaced persons, combatants, heads of households, community leaders, activists and peacebuilders, women and men experience conflict differently. Most approaches to peace negotiations have in the past either ignored or marginalized the role of women. They consistently remain a minority of participants in peacebuilding initiatives; they receive less attention than men in peacebuilding policies; and gender analysis rarely informs peacebuilding strategies.

Women make a difference, in part because they generally take a more comprehensive approach towards human security and address key social and economic issues that would otherwise be ignored. We are happy to see that the striking absence of women from most formal peace negotiations is being challenged by your decision to establish a gender equal delegation.

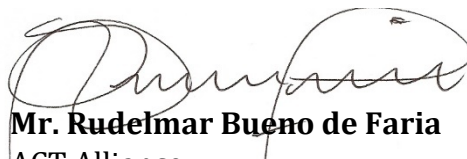
We congratulate Nigeria Rentería, Mabel Lara, María Jimena Duzan, and Adelaida Jiménez for their new roles, and express our satisfaction in seeing Rev. Adelaida Jiménez part of the delegation. Rev. Jiménez is a pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, a member of all three of our organizations.

We reaffirm our commitment to accompany the Colombian people in their search for lasting peace in Colombia and in the region. We pray that you will be granted wisdom and strength to reach that goal.

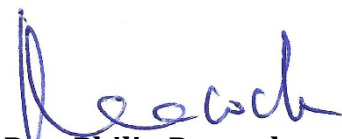
Your sincerely,



Fr. Ioan Saucă
WCC Acting General
Secretary



Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria
ACT Alliance
General Secretary



Rev. Philip Peacock
WCRC Executive Secretary
for Justice and Witness