



PUB 08

Together for Justice: Our Collective Action for Peace in Colombia

COVER NOTE

The body responsible for this statement is the ACT Colombia Forum. In this statement, we urge the continued support and engagement in peace-building processes in Colombia, which are currently confronted with numerous challenges and threats.

TOPIC

This statement focuses on supporting peace efforts in Colombia based on four fundamental points: the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement, the Total Peace negotiation roundtables, Territorial Peace, and the role of churches and faith-based organisations.

STATEMENT

Together for Justice: Our Collective Action for Peace in Colombia

The ACT Colombia Forum calls on the ACT Alliance and the international community to continue their support and engagement in the pursuit of peace in Colombia. This is a task that currently faces numerous challenges and requires the attention and joint effort of all sectors of Colombian society and allied organisations.

Supporting peace in Colombia is a commitment shared by various national and international actors. However, the signing of the peace agreement in 2016 between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP may have created the impression that this task was successfully completed. For this reason, this statement serves as a reminder that the establishment of peace in Colombia is not yet finished, and violations of the rights and dignity of communities in various regions of the country continue.

Among the main issues identified are the slow implementation of the 2016 peace agreements, the failure to uphold various agreements reached during this process, and the lack of funding to meet the commitments made by the parties. Additionally, we highlight the crises facing the new dialogue roundtables established by the Colombian government as part of the so-called Total Peace policy, as well as the absence of development and territorial peace-building initiatives in different municipalities across the country. All of this occurs amid an atmosphere of political polarisation and violence.

Commitments & Recommendations

Among our many concerns, we, as ACT Alliance, commit to, and invite UN member states and allied organisations, to adopt the following recommendations:

- **Implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement**

We believe it is essential to strengthen support and accompaniment for the implementation of the peace agreements between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP. Although these agreements were signed in 2016, their implementation has faced numerous obstacles, with many targets not being met and agreed timelines not being fulfilled.

- **Total Peace Negotiation Roundtables**

Second, we feel it is necessary to monitor and support the current peace dialogues with armed groups such as the ELN, the FARC Estado Mayor Central, Segunda Marquetalia, and various local roundtables developing with non-state armed organisations operating in rural and urban areas of the country. These processes have experienced moments of crisis and require ongoing support from neutral bodies to help resolve disagreements.

- **Territorial Peace**

We recognise that peace extends beyond negotiation spaces with armed organisations and is built in communities through development processes. Therefore, we consider it essential to accompany communities through humanitarian strategies and initiatives that seek to guarantee and uphold the rights of individuals in these territories, contributing to the creation of dignified living conditions for populations.

- **Role of Churches and Faith-Based Organisations**

Finally, we believe it is necessary to promote and encourage initiatives that bring various sectors of Colombian society together in the pursuit of peace. This includes churches and faith-based organisations that have taken critical stances on the established negotiation roundtables. To achieve this, it is vital to create processes of engagement and unusual dialogues that foster collective action amidst differences, demonstrating that peace is a universal goal, not one specific to a political sector.

A majority of the assembly has declared itself in agreement with the opinions expressed in this statement. While many ACT members agree with the public statement, there are members who have expressed differing perspectives on the content or tone. Their decision reflects the diverse viewpoints within our alliance, and we respect their choice to abstain or vote against. As always, we value the collective dialogue and encourage continued discussions on the matter at hand, recognizing the strength of our unity in diversity.