



Security Council briefing on Colombia, 15 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President

Let me also thank Special Representative Massieu and Ms. Quintero Garcia, Cofounder of Red Nacional de Mujeres Colombia for their briefings today. I also welcome the participation of Colombia's Foreign Minister Murillo in today's meeting.

Next month, the implantation of Colombia's Final Peace Agreement will enter its eighth year. Since 2016, there have been large strides forward in implementing the Agreement. However, as we have heard again today, important challenges remain.

Malta welcomes the Government's efforts to revitalise the implementation of the Peace Agreement, including by the appointment of a new Minister of Interior Cristo, tasked to enhance its coordination, who we also welcome to this meeting. We hope the Government's new 'rapid response plan' will soon deliver accelerated results.



Violence continues to be a major concern in Colombia, particularly for Former Combatants, social leaders, Human Rights Defenders, LGBTQI+ persons, and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. Continued reports of the recruitment and use of children by armed gangs remain alarming.

There is an urgent need to improve security guarantees, and we call on the authorities to take swift and concrete actions to protect vulnerable groups, including towards achieving an integrated presence of the State throughout the country.

The social, economic and political reintegration of Former Combatants remains a priority. We welcome the Government's efforts in issuing several regulations for the reintegration process to strengthen delivery through improved coordination. We also emphasise the need to address the security challenges for former territorial areas for training and reintegration.



Malta expresses our full support for the work of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. We urge any tensions between the SJP and Peace Signatories to be resolved based on the framework of the 2016 Agreement. We call for continued progress to be made across all cases, and for the SJP's first restorative sentences to be issued without delay. We also underscore the importance of adequate funding and necessary security arrangements to be made available to implement the rulings.

President,

Malta welcomes the Colombian Government's efforts to quell persistent violence through dialogue in their 'Total Peace' policy. Though setbacks have occurred, we believe significant achievements have been made. We urge the Government and armed groups to continue at the negotiating table and show the necessary flexibility and compromise to overcome their differences. We regret that the ceasefire between the Government and the ELN was not renewed in August, but welcome the commitment of both parties to re-engage in negotiations.



As we have heard again today by Ms. Quintero Garcia, women and girls continue to suffer high levels of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in Colombia, particularly from minority groups. We condemn this violence in the strongest terms and call on the Government to scale-up efforts to ensure their protection.

It is critically important to fully implement the gender-related provisions of the 2016 Peace Agreement, notably in comprehensive rural reform and the ethnic chapter. We underscore the importance of the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women from diverse backgrounds in Colombia's peace processes.

We welcome the development of Colombia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, and the finalized design of the 2023-2026 action plan of the Comprehensive Programme for the Safeguarding of Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders. We urge adequate funding and resources to be made for the accelerated implementation of these important plans.

President,



As this is Malta's final quarterly meeting on Colombia before our Council term concludes at the end of this year, I would like to express my gratitude to Special Representative Massieu and our UN colleagues who continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of the Colombian people. We will work with Council Member to ensure a timely renewal of the UN Verification Mission's mandate this month.

I would like to commend the steps taken by Colombian Government to implement the Peace Agreement, and wish them every success in their future efforts.

Finally, Malta expresses our solidarity with the Colombian people, and commends their strength, courage and determination on their path to sustainable and lasting peace. Colombia's journey remains an example to the world of the transformative power of peace, and Malta will continue to support Colombia's pursuit of peace beyond our Council term.

I thank you.