

COMMUNICATION NO. 6 OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION: PEACE
IS FOR ALL

19 December 1999

Nearing the end of 1999 and the beginning of a new century and new millennium, optimistic about the peace process and the transformation of Colombia into a state grounded in social justice, the spokespeople for the national government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército Popular*, FARC–EP) who form part of the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation declare the following:

1. We will continue working together in the search for a political solution to the social and armed conflict in order to build a new Colombia via political, economic and social transformations.
2. During this year, in spite of the inherent difficulties of such a complex process, we have made significant and historic progress in the search for national reconciliation. We would like to highlight the following achievements:
 - 2.1. The establishment of a demilitarised zone as a result of the goodwill of both parties has allowed fluent dialogue in an atmosphere of trust, respect and tolerance.
 - 2.2. As an initial phase, a Common Agenda for the Transition Toward a New Colombia was agreed by means of dialogue, together with mechanisms for public participation.
 - 2.3. This agreement has allowed us to make progress in the current phase of the process (negotiations), in which we continue to make progress.
 - 2.4. We have established a National Thematic Committee comprising representatives of FARC–EP and various sectors that represent the Colombian state to gather and evaluate proposals from the public, which aim to enrich the terms of the talks and will be decided on by the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation.

- 2.5. Various communication mechanisms have been established to keep all members of the Colombian public up-to-date with the peace process.
- 2.6. We have agreed the methodology for the negotiation and dialogue process, together with the procedures and mechanisms to facilitate the public participation.
3. Aware of the historic responsibility to ensure the results of the process, calm and careful consideration has been given to the initial topic to be addressed by the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation and which will begin the public audiences. We are making progress toward defining this topic, always keeping the interests of the Colombian people in mind and seeking to facilitate broad public participation.
4. We agree that the participation of the international community is fundamental to the peace process. We hope for decisive cooperation from the international community, respecting the principles of non-intervention and the free determination of our people.
5. We reiterate to the media the importance of keeping the Colombian people and the international community informed of the development of the peace process via objective, truthful and impartial information.
6. We reaffirm that the peace process belongs equally to all Colombians, regardless of political, economic, social or religious interests. The interests of the process are the interests of the Colombian people as a whole and do not represent any personal or group interests.

The National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation is hopeful and optimistic going into the new year, the new century and the new millennium. We believe in the future of Colombia and communicate to our compatriots our invitation and fervent desire for all to work together to build a fair and peaceful country.

The next meeting will take place on 13 January 2000 in Los Pozos in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, the permanent venue for talks and negotiations.

Signatures:

For the Government: Victor G. Ricardo (High Commission for Peace), Camilo Gomez Alzate, Fabio Valencia Cossio, Pedro Gomez Barrero, Juan Gabriel Uribe, José Gonzalo Forero Delgadillo.

For the FARC-EP: Raúl Reyes (FARC-EP Spokesperson), Joaquín Gomez, Fabián Ramirez.