

BOGOTA DECLARATION

10 December 2013

**35th Annual Parliamentary Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action
Building a stable and durable peace: the role of Parliamentarians in support of
peace processes**

We, Members of Parliament from more than 30 countries worldwide, meeting in the Congress of the Republic of Colombia in Bogotá from 9-10 December, 2013:

1. *Celebrate* International Human Rights Day today and, in so doing, *Recognize* the basic human right to peaceful co-existence and the enforcement of a just order, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948, , as well as in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in Article 2 of the Constitution of Colombia;
2. *Strongly Commend* the Colombian Peace Process that started in 2012 and encourage the prompt initiation of a similar Peace process with the National Liberation Army (ELN),
3. *Call* for an immediate cessation of all acts of armed violence against the civilian population in Colombia and worldwide,
4. *Welcome* the substantial progress made in the peace negotiations in the past 14 months, including agreement on certain fundamental issues, and encourages all parties to remain unrelenting in their efforts to secure an overall Peace Agreement in 2014,
5. *Underscore* the importance of securing victims' rights, in particular the need for accountability, including the closely related priority of providing adequate redress for victims of conflict, on the basis of the following principles:
 - a. peace and justice are mutually reinforcing, as genuine reconciliation and forgiveness can be attained only after a fair verification of facts leading to the establishment of the truth and of individual responsibility,

- b. peace agreements shall respect the legal principle that there must not be impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, as stipulated by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, regardless of the rank or role of the alleged perpetrator, which recognizes the importance of the principle of complementarity which gives priority to national jurisdictions,
 - c. peace agreements may not bar the investigation and prosecution of the most serious international crimes, but alternative measures to imprisonment may be applied to individuals who have genuinely accepted the peace process and have admitted responsibility for decisions, acts and/or omissions that led to mass victimization, and
 - d. peace agreements shall contain specific guarantees of non repetition of the atrocities committed during the armed conflict, starting with the ratification, domestic implementation and full application of the Rome Statute of the ICC.
6. *Recall* United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions regarding “women, peace and security”, which acknowledge that armed conflicts have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, to *urge* the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in peace processes, including by:
 - a. Ensuring the participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in the initiatives and negotiations for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security, also seeking to increase their participation in decision-making, constitutional and electoral reforms, as well as in the reconstruction and reintegration,
 - b. Integrating a gender approach during the negotiation and the implementation of peace agreements, notably to ensure that women’s urgent needs are met, and
 - c. Guaranteeing the protection and respect for human rights of women and girls, in particular by taking special measures to protect them from gender-based violence and to put an end to impunity for these crimes.
7. *Stress* that rural development and agrarian reforms are necessary to address the root causes of the conflict so as to ensure access to land for all and a more equitable redistribution of wealth,
8. *Recognize* that poverty, social and gender inequality must also be satisfactorily addressed to achieve an overall and successful Peace Agreement,
9. *Emphasize* that the participation in peace processes of Members of Parliament, as representatives of the people, should be firmly encouraged,
10. *Underline* that enlarging the scope of political participation in democratic institutions and spaces, of political and social stakeholders, in particular vulnerable groups, in order to achieve a more inclusive and participative system, is vital to attain a stable and durable peace,
11. *Regret* the serious impact that drug-trafficking has had on the conflict in Colombia and support efforts to put an end to it worldwide,

12. *Further Recognize* that effective, verifiable disarmament is a key component in putting an end to conflicts and achieving a lasting, sustainable peace,
13. *Encourage* the Government of Colombia and all UN Member States to ratify and implement the Arms Trade Treaty at the earliest opportunity as an important means of deterring future conflict and hereby undertake to support such efforts in our respective parliaments, keeping PGA regularly informed of our efforts in this regard,
14. *Shall draw* this Annual Forum to the attention of our colleagues in Parliament and Government in our respective countries to ensure continued wide, sustained international support for the Colombian Peace Process, and
15. *Express* our deep appreciation to the Congress of Colombia for hosting the 35th PGA Annual Forum.

Done in Bogotá, this 10th Day of December, 2013