

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA

To The Lead Negotiators of

The Government of Colombia and The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)

We, duly elected Members of Parliament from over 50 countries around the world, gathered at the 35th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) in Bogotá, Colombia from 9-10 December, 2013, mindful of the many challenges that you face in identifying these steps on the road to peace, including the inclusion of women in the peace process and the appropriate treatment of victims, on the basis of truth, justice, full reparation and guarantees of non-repetition:

- 1. Recognise that peace in Colombia is a matter of international importance as it is the oldest conflict in the Western hemisphere, costing the lives of thousands of people and interfering seriously with the development of Colombia and the region
- 2. Commend you most strongly for your concerted and steadfast efforts to identify mutually agreed steps leading to an comprehensive peace agreement in Colombia
- 3. Appreciate the demonstrations of support to the 35th Annual Forum of PGA from both parties to the peace process, as a strong signal of their commitment
- 4. Aspire that, along with this important peace process with the FARC, another peace process starts with the other historic group "ELN" so that peace in Colombia is at last achievable comprehensive, stable and durable.
- 5. Support firmly and express solidarity with you as you continue your forthright efforts in this historic endeavor, including, if considered helpful and as a source of reference, provision of information on how similar conflicts have been addressed elsewhere in the world.
- 6. Remind, for this purpose, that Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) stands ready, as a parliamentary network promoting human rights, peace, justice, democracy and the dignity of the human person, to share its knowledge and comparative experience, as needed, in order to contribute to the success of the Colombian peace process.
- 7. Urge you to ensure that the important momentum generated to date in agreeing on a number of key issues is not lost and is harnessed to ensure similar successful outcomes in the remaining areas on which agreement must be reached. We therefore urge you to embrace the necessary patience and persistence by remaining at the negotiation table until an agreement is reached
- 8. Undertake to share with our colleagues in parliaments around the world the significant progress already made in the peace negotiations and to encourage them as well as the governments in our respective countries to publicly support and contribute to the

construction of a sustainable peace agreement and successful transition to peace in Colombia. Similarly, if you consider it appropriate and necessary, PGA could appoint a delegation to visit the negotiation table in La Havana and transmit experiences that can be useful for the construction of the agreements relating to the each of the agenda items.

9. *Convey* our heartfelt good wishes to all participants in your noble pursuit of peace, justice and a bright future for Colombia

Done, this 10th day of December, 2014 in Bogotá, Colombia

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