

Brussels, 16/02/2024

Mr Gustavo Petro Urrego, *President of the Republic of Colombia*

Sent by email to: contacto@presidencia.gov.co

Ms Francia Márquez Mina, *Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia*

Sent by e-mail to contacto@presidencia.gov.co

Mr Jose Otty Patiño Hormaza, *High Commissioner for Peace*

Sent by e-mail to contacto@presidencia.gov.co

Ms Gloria Cuartas Montoya, *Director for the Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement*

Sent by e-mail to contacto@presidencia.gov.co

Cc: Mr Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, *Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the EU*

Sent by email to: Jorge.rojas@cancilleria.gov.co

To the President of the Government of Colombia, Gustavo Petro
To the Vice President of the Government of Colombia, Francia Márquez
To the High Commissioner for Peace, Otty Patiño
The Director of the Unit for the Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, Gloria Cuartas

The European Parliament is committed to peace-building in Colombia through the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Final Agreement for the End of the Conflict and the Establishment of a Stable and Lasting Peace, and in particular, the implementation of measures that incorporate a gender perspective and promote the full participation of women and LGBTIQ+ persons in the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security.

We welcome the inclusion of the gender perspective in the national development plan 2022- 2026 "Colombia World Power of Life". However, there is still a perceived lack of affirmative action in several commitments of the Final Agreement, in particular concerning gender mainstreaming, and that obstacles to the participation of women and LGBTIQ+ persons in the various political and social spaces derived from the Final Agreement persist, as was noted in the Kroc Institute report "Time is running out for gender mainstreaming implementation 2023"ⁱ presented in April 2023.

There has been little progress in gender mainstreaming in implementing all the commitments proposed in the Final Agreement. This delay concerns civil society organizations, which consider the effective integration of a gender approach in developing and implementing each point of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP to be of utmost importance.

After the recent election of departmental and municipal governments, the next legislature at the regional and local levels will have specific development plans for the next four years. These regional and local policies must incorporate measures and actions focused on improving the situation of women and LGTBIQ+ populations and increase their participation and representation by promoting the development of the gender approach in all points of the Peace Agreement.

We explicitly ask the Colombian government to demand and promote the inclusion of clear and binding indicators in departmental and municipal development plans, which allow civil society organizations to follow up and monitor their evolution. On the other hand, Colombia must also continue to comply with its

international commitments to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

It is fundamental for the Colombian people to continue effectively incorporating the gender perspective in all their policies, peace processes, dialogue and negotiation tables. And thus be able to build a future of peace without armed conflict and with full respect for human rights.

Sincerely yours,

Ibán GARCIA DEL BLANCO, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Javi LÓPEZ, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Maria-Manuel LEITAO-MARQUES, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Robert BIEDRÓN, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Cristina Maestre MARTÍN DE ALMAGRO, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Estrella DURÀ FERRANDIS, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Nicolás GONZÁLEZ CASARES, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Alicia HOMS GINEL, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Jonás FERNÁNDEZ ÁLVAREZ, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Eider GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Nacho SÁNCHEZ AMOR, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Joao ALBUQUERQUE, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Lina GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

César LUENA, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Domènec RUIZ DEVESA, *Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*

Frances FITZGERALD, *Member of the European Parliament (PPE)*

Jordi SOLÉ FERRANDO, *Member of the European Parliament (VERDES/ALE)*

Ana MIRANDA, *Member of the European Parliament (VERDES/ALE)*

Fabio Massimo CASTALDO, *Member of the European Parliament (RENEW)*

Karen MELCHIOR, *Member of the European Parliament (RENEW)*

Soraya RODRIGUEZ RAMOS, *Member of the European Parliament (RENEW)*

María Eugenia RODRÍGUEZ PALOP, *Member of the European Parliament (The Left/GUE)*

Idoia VILLANUEVA RUIZ, *Member of the European Parliament* (The Left/GUE)

Patricia CARO MAYA, *Member of the European Parliament* (The Left/GUE)

Malin BJÖRK, *Member of the European Parliament* (The Left/GUE)

ⁱ O'Brien, J. (2023). El tiempo se agota para la implementación del enfoque de género: avances, retos y oportunidades a seis años de la firma del Acuerdo Final. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.
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