

Summary of points addressed

Advocacy tour of Europe, Nov/Dec 2025

1. Human rights defenders: violence, impunity and protection model

- The government's openness to citizen and organizational participation in developing public policies was highlighted as a positive aspect. In this regard, the process of drafting the Comprehensive Public Policy on Guarantees for Human Rights Defense Work was mentioned in particular.
- However, Colombia remains one of the most dangerous countries for human rights defenders. According to figures from Indepaz, 179 defenders have been killed since 1 January 2025. Every two days, a human rights defender is murdered.
- These cases go unpunished. According to the Colombian Public Prosecutor's Office, only around 17% of murder cases have resulted in a conviction. This is not to mention the absolute impunity for other attacks suffered by human rights defenders, such as threats.
- This situation is reflected in Constitutional Court ruling SU-546 of 2023, which declared a 'state of unconstitutionality' with regard to guarantees for human rights defenders.
- The reactivation of the National Guarantees Process (with a national roundtable and regional roundtables), with the participation of member states and the EU delegation as observers, is seen as a positive development. However, its lack of effectiveness was highlighted due to the absence of participation by members of the government.
- A warning was issued regarding the reduction, for financial reasons, of the territorial presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia.

2. Peacebuilding

Need to push forward with the implementation of the peace agreement

- The national government prioritized the policy of total peace and only recently began to prioritize the implementation of the 2016 agreement. Consequently, after eight years, only about 34% of the provisions have been fully implemented.
- Since the signing of the agreement, 475 former FARC-EP combatants in the process of reintegration have been killed.
- The government has promoted a redesign of the Peace Agreement Implementation Framework Plan, but this redesign has not yet translated into substantive progress in the territories.
- The policy of dismantling illegal armed structures is still in its early stages: although pilot plans have been launched in areas such as Magdalena Medio, El Caguán and northern Cauca, these efforts have not yet resulted in a sustained reduction in violence or greater guarantees for communities.
- There is concern about the reduction of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission, excluding from its mandate the verification of JEP sentences, as well as the ethnic chapter, which is one of the most delayed in implementation.

Total Peace Policy and management of the armed conflict

- The policy of “Paz Total” faces enormous challenges, with most processes either suspended or making intermittent progress.
- The absence of a clear law on surrender and retributive justice, which would provide a robust legal framework for proceedings involving criminal structures and organised armed groups, could jeopardise any progress.
- The lack of commitment to respecting international humanitarian law, as well as the lack of clarity regarding civil society participation in the processes, are cause for concern.
- The armed conflict continues to claim millions of victims: between 7 August 2022 and 9 June 2025 in Colombia, there were 421 incidents of multiple and mass displacement, with a total of 226,157 victims. Between 1 January and 30 September 2025, individual displacements exceeded 103,100 people and 121,800 people were trapped in their territories due to confinement imposed by illegal armed groups. Forced recruitment remains a worrying crime, with 578 cases reported by the Ombudsman's Office in 2024.
- Organised crime feeds and is fed by the armed conflict, and it is necessary to implement drug policies focused on human beings, human rights and sustainable development.

3. European investments, companies and human rights

- Colombia is the most dangerous country in the world for environmental and land defenders, particularly those who oppose extractive projects or defend common natural resources.
- Presence of multinational companies in territories affected by armed actors, human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law.
- In this context, the EU cannot simply view Colombia as a supplier of minerals that are critical to its own energy transition.
- There is a need for control mechanisms and binding rules to ensure that investment projects (especially within the framework of the Global Gateway strategy), EU companies and companies exporting goods and services to the EU respect human rights and environmental standards.