



**United Nations
Verification Mission
in Colombia**

DPPA Partners' Field Visit **Colombia, 5-6 June 2023**

Concept Note

Introduction

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is the lead entity of the United Nations for good offices, political analysis, mediation, electoral assistance and peacebuilding support. It is responsible for all Secretariat matters related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts at the global level.

Objective of the visit

DPPA is organizing a Partners Field Visit (hereinafter “the visit”) on **5 and 6 June 2023** to the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (Verification Mission), for donors who have contributed to the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) over the last three years.

The visit will provide an opportunity to showcase the work of the Department in the context of a field mission, such as the the Verification Mission, and highlight the need for continued extra-budgetary resources.

The visit will take place at a dynamic moment in Colombia’s efforts to end decades of armed conflict, as a new administration seeks to deepen the implementation of a historic 2016 Peace Accord through its peace policies, tackle deep-seated causes of conflict, and extend peace dialogues to remaining armed groups. In addition to meetings with key internal and external stakeholders in Bogota, the visit will include a field trip to a rural area where the Mission works to verify and support the implementation of key provisions of the Peace Agreement. This includes the reintegration of former combatants and the delivery of security and development to conflict-affected affected communities and vulnerable groups.

Background on DPPA

The Department recently launched its new [Strategic Plan](#) for 2023-2026. The Plan comes at a challenging moment, as multiple threats to global peace and security are converging. The Plan provides a framework to guide DPPA’s work for the next four years in conflict resolution, prevention, management, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Together with the *New Agenda*

for Peace being developed in follow-up to the Secretary-General's report on *Our Common Agenda*, the Strategic Plan will guide the Department in the years ahead.

The Plan does not re-invent the wheel: its goals and strategic objectives have been adjusted but signal continuity of focus and mandates. It reflects the progress made in recent years, and needed to continue to make in consolidating our structures, balancing crisis response and diplomacy with longer-term prevention and peacebuilding engagement, as well as the importance of prioritization and emphasis on impact where it matters: in the field.

The Strategic Plan further articulates DPPA's lead role in devising and coordinating political strategy across the United Nations system.

The implementation of the Plan is contingent on extra-budgetary resources. The Plan is accompanied by a new [Multi-Year Appeal \(MYA\) for 2023-2026](#) calling for US\$170 million over the next four years. The Department relies on voluntary contributions to cover much of its operational work. Whole areas of activity - including mediation and electoral support, as well as our work on partnerships, on women, peace and security, and on innovation and climate security - depend entirely on MYA funding.

The Department is responsible for more than 30 special political missions, including 24 field missions deployed around the world and engaged in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding. Field missions operate in some of the most complex environments in the world, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, the Horn of Africa, Libya, Somalia, and Sudan. With funding under the MYA, these missions support the efforts of the Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General to resolve a wide range of disputes, facilitate peace talks and manage electoral crises as well as complex transitions. They help sustain peace in full coordination with national, regional and United Nations actors on the ground.

Background on United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

The Verification Mission evolved out of a first special political mission that oversaw the ceasefire and laying down of weapons of the FARC-EP guerrilla under the terms of the 2016 "Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace" between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (FARC-EP). This process concluded in 2017. Following the FARC-EP's transformation into a political party, peace implementation in Colombia entered a new phase. The Verification Mission, established by Security Council resolution 2366 (2017), initiated its activities in full on 26 September 2017. At the request of the two signatory parties, it was tasked to verify the implementation of two key aspects of the Peace Agreement: the reintegration of former FARC combatants in political, legal and socioeconomic terms, and security guarantees for former combatants and conflict-affected communities.

In subsequent years, the mandate was expanded at the request of the parties to other critical areas of the Peace Agreement: resolutions 2574 (2021) and 2673 (2023) mandated the Mission, respectively, to verify compliance with and implementation of restorative sentences

to be issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, and to verify the implementation of the Agreement's "comprehensive rural reform" and "ethnic" chapters.

In 2017, the Verification Mission was also mandated to participate in and coordinate the work of a monitoring mechanism to verify compliance of the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) with a three-month bilateral ceasefire. Since the resumption of talks with the ELN in November 2022, the United Nations Secretary-General accompanies that process and provides good offices support through his Special Representative.

The Verification Mission is headed by SRSR Carlos Ruiz Massieu (Mexico). Headquartered in Bogota, the Mission has a substantial field deployment of around 620 personnel, of which 120 are international unarmed observers, and the remainder, national and international civilian staff and United Nations Volunteers. As at 28 February 2023, 48 per cent of all civilian personnel and 43 per cent of international observers were women. The Mission works in coordination and complementarity with the UN Country Team, which provides support to the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Methodology and practical arrangements

The visit is designed for expert-level participants dealing with peace and security matters in the respective Permanent Missions in New York, but it is also open to relevant representatives from capitals. A limit of one representative per country is requested to allow for sufficient space to accommodate a broad representation of DPPA's donor community.

The visit will take place over two full days and meetings will be highly interactive, with presentations structured to foster fruitful discussions. One full day will be spent in Bogota, while the other will include a visit to a field location that will require domestic transportation.