

FIRST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE JAIME BATEMAN
CAYÓN MOVEMENT ON THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

8 February 1996

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

The objective of the negotiations is to find a permanent solution to the armed conflict by creating the conditions for long-lasting peace and the application of a methodology that allows all Colombians to participate in the process. The creation of conditions that render the use of arms unnecessary will be based on the expansion and consolidation of democracy, the participation of marginalised communities in the strengthening of national unity and the development of mechanisms to allow Colombians to live with their differences in order to build a new society.

2. COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

There will be one set of talks, which will function as the sole decision-making instance and will operate along the following lines:

- a. The number of spokespeople at the talks will be previously agreed in line with the needs and nature of the issue to be discussed. There will be the possibility of a civil spokesperson from the guerrilla movement with specific roles to inform the country of the negotiation process, in line with the law. All decisions will be taken by consensus of the parties.
- b. Up to three advisers of each party may be present at the talks. Advisers will be entitled to take part in the talks but may not act as spokespeople.
- c. One member of the Peace Facilitation Commission will be present at the talks and will act as moderator.

- d. Two representatives of community organisations in the demilitarised zone may be present at the talks as witnesses: the governor of the indigenous council and another representative directly elected by the communities living in the demilitarised zone. Other witnesses may be invited by mutual agreement.
- e. The talks will be held in continuous sessions between 0900 and 1700 on Thursdays and Fridays. The parties may, by mutual agreement, change the times and days for talks and declare pauses to make any consultations they deem necessary.
- f. Daily minutes will be produced summarising the aspects that have been discussed and specifying the agreements reached by the parties. The talks will have a technical secretariat for this purpose, comprising one adviser from each of the parties.
- g. Each of the issues on the agenda will be discussed in the order agreed by the parties. Agreements may be partial and may be applicable immediately. The parties may agree to suspend talks on one issue to make progress on another.
- h. For each of the issues, if deemed appropriate, the parties may convene a forum for analysis and consensus with broad participation from civil society. The forum will conduct an initial analysis of the issue and will issue its conclusions, which will be submitted as proposals and working documents for the negotiations. Subject to the agreement of the parties, talks may continue while the forum for analysis and consensus takes place. Analysis and consensus forums will be subject to the following rules:
 - 1. They will be chaired by one spokesperson from each of the parties and a representative of the Peace Facilitation Commission, who will act as moderator. Each of the forums will have rules of operation.
 - 2. The chair of each forum will be entitled to invite up to 30 participants (advisers, specialists or stakeholders) to contribute analysis and proposals in the search for a solution.
 - 3. The analysis and consensus forums will have a maximum duration of two weeks.

4. The analysis and consensus forums may hold public audiences to support the peace process, inviting groups of citizens interested in the issue to voice their demands, proposals and alternatives. Each such audience will last for one day.
 5. The collective presidency of the forum will submit a signed statement of conclusions and recommendations to the talks, setting out the conclusions and recommendations in areas where consensus was reached and an annex of areas where it was not. This statement will serve as a basic input to the talks, although its acceptance is not mandatory.
- i. When the talks reach an agreement on an issue, a statement of agreement will be signed by all members of the talks and the agreement may be submitted to the community for approval.
 - j. The development and progress of the negotiations will be publicly reported via joint communications issued at the frequency agreed by the parties to guarantee the spaces to allow the privacy required to analyse alternatives and discuss options.
 - k. The talks may be held in any part of the demilitarised zone and public sessions may be held when deemed relevant.
 - l. Each of the parties undertakes to respect and guarantee the personal safety and integrity of the negotiators and leaders of the other party, together with the communities of the demilitarised zone, regardless of the result of the negotiations.
 - m. After each round of talks, the parties will hold a meeting for their evaluation.
 - n. Once negotiations have started, the parties will not unilaterally interrupt them under any circumstances, except as a result of an agreement between them.

3. AGENDA

The agenda for the first round of talks is as follows:

- a. international humanitarian law

- b. the media
- c. legal guarantees.

The agenda for the second round will include the following issues:

- a. multilateral dialogue
- b. scaled social development
- c. the use of arms.

4. SCHEDULE

- a. The demilitarised zone will be in force until 30 May 1996.
- b. The first round of talks will take place between 1 March and 30 May 1996.

5. SUPPORT

The Peace Facilitation Commission will continue to actively support the process and provide its good offices as required. The verification commission for the demilitarised zone will also continue its work.

For the national government

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- RUBÉN SÁNCHEZ DAVID
- ALFREDO MOLANO BRAVO

For the Jaime Bateman Cayón Movement:

- JHON JAIRO
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For the Peace Facilitation Commission:

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Vereda of Caraqueño, municipality of Miranda, department of Cauca