

METHODOLOGY AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR TALKS, THE NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE FOR
DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION, COMMUNICATION NO. 8

Villa Nueva Colombia, 28 January 2000

The spokespeople for the national government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército Popular*, FARC–EP) on the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation, present in Villa Nueva Colombia, the permanent venue for dialogue and negotiation, in Los Pozos in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, have reached the following agreement following careful analysis of the various issues agreed on the Shared Agenda for the Transition toward a New Colombia, always considering the interests of all Colombians and the goal to reach a political solution to the Colombian conflict that leads to the construction of a new country founded on social justice.

RECITALS

- Comprehensive and coordinated treatment of the various issues is necessary to find a political solution that can end the Colombian conflict.
- The agenda is based on three large groups of issues:
 - a. the social and economic structure
 - b. human rights, international humanitarian law and international relations
 - c. democracy and the political structure of the state.
- It is necessary to create a favourable atmosphere that guarantees conditions for investment, growth and the creation of employment in order to improve well-being and social justice for all Colombians in the short term.
- It is in the national interest, and, as such, the interests of the parties, to make progress to allow agreements, maintaining national unity.
- Making progress in the negotiations will deliver results in the peace process.

AGREEMENT

1. Methodology for talks

The discussion of the various points on the Shared Agenda for the Transition toward a New Colombia will be based on the following method:

- 1.1. *Purpose*: Each of the 12 issues on the agenda aim to reach an understanding between the parties, guided by the interest of the Colombian people.
- 1.2. *Initial consensus on the “concept” to be discussed*: To ensure focused and fruitful debate, a clear structure will be agreed at the start of talks, defining the scope, content and organisation of the item to be discussed.
- 1.3. *Review of the Colombian and international experience*: Once there is an agreement regarding the content of the chosen item, the related evidence will be studied, in addition to trends and recent developments in the country. The experience of the various international cases that may serve to enrich the debate will also be considered. To facilitate the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation, it will be entitled to invite experts and make any visits deemed appropriate.
- 1.4. *National Thematic Committee and presentation of the results of participation*: The result of the democratic participation process that will take place in parallel to the discussion of the items via public audiences and the other communication channels established for this purpose will serve as an input to the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation.
- 1.5. *Presentation of evidence*: Once the inputs for the various issues to be discussed have been obtained, to avoid endless or sterile discussions, the National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation must focus its discussion on the proposals and solutions for the problem that has been identified.
- 1.6. *Identification of consensuses and disagreements*: The next phase after the presentation of evidence and solutions will be to clearly identify the items on which there are agreements. Similarly, any disagreements will also be established.

1.7. *Evaluation of proposals and decision-making*: Records will be kept of agreements and mechanisms will be sought for their implementation. In the event of disagreements, a round of talks will be held to overcome them. If this is not possible, a record will be kept and the talks will move onto the next point. It should be noted that points where there is a persistent disagreement will not be abandoned but will be postponed for subsequent discussion as the negotiations advance.

1.8. *Partial agreements*: When an agreement is reached on a point for the agreed issue, this may be implemented without waiting for a full agreement on the full issue or the agenda as a whole.

1.9. *Peace results*: In line with the agreement in the Shared Agenda for the Transition toward a New Colombia, results of the peace process will be produced as the negotiations advance.

2. Initial item to be discussed

After analysing the content and definition of each of the points for the social and economic structure, the parties agree to study the set of policies, sectors, instruments and resources that allow the creation of employment, the distribution of income, economic growth and the social development of the country as part of the analysis of the economic and social model. In this respect, we agree that the issue of economic and social development will include the following items, for which talks will be initiated in line with the previously adopted methodology:

a. Economic and social structure:

- review of the model for economic development;
- income distribution policies;
- expansion of internal and external markets;
- stimulation of production through small, medium and large private enterprise;
- support to the solidarity and cooperative economy;
- stimulation for foreign investment that benefits the nation;

- social participation in planning;
 - investments in social well-being, education and scientific research.
- b. Integrated agrarian policy
- democratisation of credit, technical assistance, marketing;
 - redistribution of unproductive land;
 - recovery and distribution of the land acquired through trafficking and/or illegal activities;
 - stimulus for production;
 - substitution of illegal crops and alternative development.
- c. Exploitation and conservation of natural resources
- natural resources and their distribution;
 - international treaties;
 - environmental protection based on sustainable development.

In the discussion of the various points for the economic development model that determines the economic and social structure, the parties agree to seek a model based on the style favoured by the Colombian people, in the context of a globalised world, abstaining from radical models. The National Roundtable for Dialogue and Negotiation has set a deadline of six months for taking forward the agreed items.

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