

DECLARATION OF GENEVA: ATTENDEES OF THE MEETING FOR THE NATIONAL CONSENSUS
FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

Geneva, Switzerland, 25 July 2000

DECLARATION

1. We support the peace process between the national government and the National Liberation Army (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional, ELN*) and the agreements that have been reached so far, understanding that the path of political negotiation is the most beneficial for society.
2. The formation of groups of friendly countries (Switzerland, Norway, France, Spain and Cuba) shows the growing interest of the international community in the situation in Colombia and its commitment to contribute to finding a negotiated political solution.
3. As a result of the armed confrontation that has taken place in the south of Bolívar in recent days, serious difficulties have arisen in the process between the national government and ELN. In light of these circumstances, the friendly countries and the facilitation commission will foster the creation of the conditions required to continue with the process.
4. In the spirit of the National Consensus for Peace in Colombia, which has been accepted by the meeting, we believe that the national convention set out in the Puerta del Cielo agreement is indispensable as a broad dialogue space for talks and finding solutions to the problems facing our country. We accept the structure proposed by the preparatory commission for the convention and invite the various sectors of society to actively participate in its implementation.
5. The progress and consolidation of the peace process requires the strengthening of trust between the parties, the overcoming of obstacles and difficulties, and the support and commitment of the various sectors of society.

6. The members of Colombian society involved in the meeting urge the parties to proceed swiftly in reaching an agreement to allow the full application of international humanitarian law in the context of the agenda defined between them.
7. This meeting for the Consensus for Peace in Colombia is an important step in strengthening the peace process between the national government and ELN. We will work to create conditions that favour the convergence of the various peace processes that are underway.
8. The deliberations and proposals of this meeting are the expression of its pluralist spirit and will be taken into account by the operative committee to enrich the process.
9. We express our gratitude to the Swiss government, the Institute of Development Studies and the friendly countries for their commitment to peace in Colombia and the solidarity and warm welcome with which they have provided us.

En constancia,

Por el Gobierno colombiano:

CAMILO GÓMEZ ALZATE

Alto Comisionado para la Paz

Por el Ejército de Liberación Nacional:

ANTONIO GARCÍA

Como testigos:

CARLOS AMAT FORÉS, Embajador de Cuba

FERNANDO ARIAS SALGADO, Embajador de España en Suiza

YAGO PICO DE COAÑA, Embajador de España en Colombia

MIGUEL DIAZ-PACHE, Asesor Político para América del Sur, de la Dirección de Política Exterior para Iberoamérica del Gobierno de España

CRISTINA DÍAZ, Consejera de la Misión Permanente de España ante las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

JEAN-MARC LAFORÉT, Director Adjunto para América del Sur; Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Francia

ARNE AASHEIM, Embajador de Noruega en Guatemala

VIKTOR CHRISTEN, Embajador de Suiza en Colombia

KARL MAITU, Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja