

On the 13th of November 2017, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened a meeting on the peacebuilding experience in Colombia. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul, Chair of the PBC.

1. The Chair opened the meeting by emphasizing the relevance of the PBC as a platform to share experiences and challenges of the Colombian peacebuilding experience, and thanked the Colombian delegation for their willingness to share their lessons at the meeting.
2. H.E. Mr. Rafael Pardo Rueda, Minister of Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security of Colombia, provided a comprehensive briefing on the current stages of the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia. He highlighted the developments over the past year and challenges ahead. He noted that the implementation plan focused on 5 areas: comprehensive rural reform, political participation, end of conflict, illicit drugs and compensation for victims, with a total cost of \$129.5 billion. Programs include land registration, demining, and rural development with a focus on conflict affected regions and illicit crop substitution. The Minister also described the ongoing efforts to harness private sector support for the peace process through special tax regimes and construction for taxes.
3. Ms. Mariana Escobar, Director for the Colombian Agency for Territorial Renewal of Colombia, highlighted the government's focus to promote rural development both from bottom up and top down approaches. She emphasized that national reconciliation was a key factor, and for that to take place there needed to be a comprehensive rural reform which would remove the divide between the urban and the rural areas. She highlighted a number of priorities focusing on municipalities most impacted by conflict, including access to land and education which were centered around inclusivity and participation. These programs would contribute to building trust towards the government, as many rural Colombians feel they do not have adequate access to state services.
4. Two Colombian civil society leaders, Mr. Ever Cordoba and Ms. Alba Ruth Cabrera, shared their personal stories living through the conflict. Mr. Ever Cordoba stated that "we are at a critical junction of our history and we cannot afford to return to war". They shared the hardships their communities had faced, and emphasized the need for better access to education, roads and electricity. Ms. Alba Ruth noted that the fear of "

expressed their deep gratitude for being able to share their story at the PBC, and their dedicated support to build peace in Colombia.

5. Mr. Martin Santiago, UN Resident Coordinator (RC) for Colombia, emphasized that challenges remained to make peace irreversible, but the commitment showed by the government and the FARC will enable them to overcome these challenges. He emphasized that the UN is fully committed to supporting the implementation of the peace agreement, with emphasis on overcoming the root causes of conflict and the protection of human rights. He informed the PBC that in August 2017 the Government of Colombia and the UN Country Team in Colombia jointly developed a Priority Peacebuilding Plan outlining the key outcome areas to be implemented over the next 18-months. These included: (i) political and socio-economic reintegration of FARC-EP; (ii) stabilization and scaling-up of peace dividends around local zones and points; (iii) and transitional justice and restoration of victims' rights.

He also highlighted that the presentations provided insights on the types of problems the Colombian Government faced in the implementation