

**Forum:** Political Committee (PC)

**Issue:** Concluding the FARC Peace Deal

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**Position:** President Chair

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## Introduction

The FARC Peace Deal is a deal aiming to bring an end to the conflict in Colombia between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) and the Colombian government. In the early 1960s, the Colombian government started to attack the communist groups. After these attacks, the military attacked Marquetalia, which triggered the creation of the FARC in 1964, by Manuel Marulanda Vélez. At first, FARC operated under the Colombian Communist Party (Partido Comunista Colombiano-PCC) for twenty-nine years. Afterwards, a deal that was signed between Colombia and FARC lasted for 52 years. Following a brief episode of conflict, the Colombian government and FARC started to negotiate in 2012 and it continued till 2016, when they made a disarmament agreement. However, the political issues still continue.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Communism:** Communism is a socioeconomic structure and political ideology that promotes the establishment of an egalitarian, classless, stateless society based on common ownership and control of the means of production and property in general. (3)

**Guerrilla Groups/Army:** A member of an irregular military force utilizing small-scale, limited actions alongside a general political-military strategy, against traditional military forces. Guerrilla tactics often involve constantly changing offensive operations and the use of sabotage and terrorism. (1)

**Irregular Military Force:** Army-related irregular forces are tied with individuals or groups that are not members of regular and known armed forces, police or internal security forces.

**Left-Wing Rebels:** Left-wing rebels or left-wing terrorism, sometimes referred to as Marxist–Leninist terrorism, are rebel groups who overthrow conservative or capitalist systems and replace them with Marxist–Leninist, socialist, or liberal societies. (5)

## General Overview

Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (translated to English as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, abbreviated as FARC) is the oldest and largest group among Colombia's left rebels, and one of the richest guerrilla armies in the world. FARC was formed during 1964s by small farmers and land workers who grouped together to fight against the economic inequalities in present in Colombia at the time. The main leader was Manuel Marulanda Vélez, and other Colombian Communist Party (in Spanish: Partido Comunista Colombiano, abbreviated as PCC) members provided support. FARC formed after a military attack on the community of Marquetalia. The community hosted about 50 communist families, ruled the Liberals and other foreigners, and was already protected by a small guerrilla group led by a man with a terrible reputation, named Manuel Marulanda. In time, FARC became the most powerful guerrilla army in Latin America.

FARC aims to represent the rural poor in Colombia by seizing power through armed revolution and establishing a new government. It is also a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist organization, meaning that its political ideology supports on the redistribution of wealth between the population of the country. FARC appears to be a criminal organization or a terrorist group, due to the fact that its adherence to ideological goals has significantly reduced.

During the 1970s, FARC digressed from their aim and began attacking Colombian citizens, kidnapping them for ransom. They targeted politicians and wealthy landowners to use the money to pay for militant camps and ersatz social services (15). After ten years, FARC changed their name, which was Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army.



Photo of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army

In the 1980s, peace talks and negotiations between FARC and the Colombian government, lead by former president Belisario Betancur began. After two years, the parties carried out the truce with the hope that FARC members would be reintegrated into society. During the 1985 agreement, FARC, Colombian government, social democrats and the

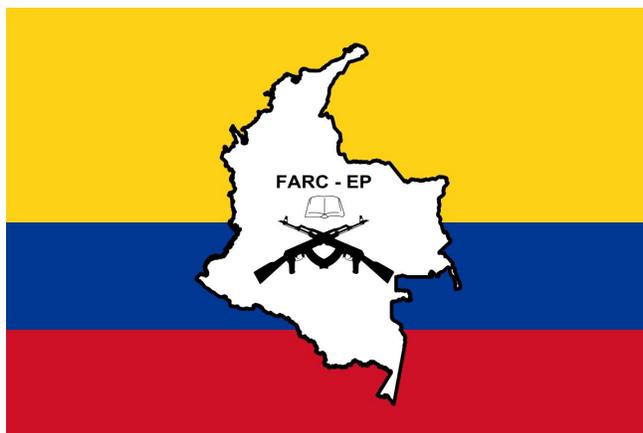
members of the Colombian Communist Party (PCC) came together to form a leftist party, called the Patriotic Union (UP). The aim of the Patriotic Union was to reallocate the lands, grant basic

rights to poor citizens, provide convenient communication tools across the country, and to nationalize the transportation systems and banks. However, the Patriotic Union failed in 2002. Even though the Union did not have active members or supporters, the government overturned its legal status by taking away the party's ability to act in the elections.

With the failure of Patriotic Union, the fruitless negotiations ended. Soon after, FARC kidnapped Ingrid Betancourt. Then, the newly elected president, Álvaro Uribe, launched a new campaign against FARC with support from the United States, during which he modernized the Colombian army. Following the campaign, FARC announced that they would cease their kidnapping.

In 2010 Juan Manuel Santos was elected the President of Colombia. Following his election, FARC and Santos began new peace talks in 2012. The main aim was to find a compromise that was beneficial for both sides. The main aim of the peace talks were creating a stable and lasting peace in the country. This involved negotiations about disarmament, land reformation and drugs. However, FARC, contrary to its previous promises and its negotiations, did not stop its criminal activities, especially kidnapping for ransom. The end of FARC's criminal activities would not come until 2015, when the FARC declared a unilateral ceasefire during the airstrikes on FARC camps. In 2016, the FARC declared a bilateral ceasefire (15). According to the United Nations, over delivered their weapons as a result of this ceasefire. While the armed conflict has ended, the political aspect of the negotiations have yet to be resolved.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views



Official flag of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

### **Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC):**

FARC is the main party related with this issue. It can be seen in all the parts of the report.

### **Colombia:**

FARC was in armed conflict with the Colombian government for 52 years. During 1982, the Colombian government started to have peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP). The government hoped and encouraged FARC to transform to a political party. After the

peace talks, Alfonso Cano, who was the leader of the FARC, died in Colombia in 2011. The Colombian government confirmed that he was killed by a military raid. In 2012 the Peace Process between the Colombian government and FARC started. FARC and the government aimed to meet in a common point. The peace process continued for 4 years. In June 2016 the government and Farc signed an absolute ceasefire and disarmament agreement, the pioneer of a comprehensive peace treaty. Also in September 2016, they again signed an historic peace

agreement that officially ended the 52-year armed conflict.

**United States of America:** The US government became a key player in the guerrilla war in Colombia. In the last 15 years, the US has provided over \$10 billion worth of military and anti-drug aid to hit most FARC and other rebels. With this help of the US, the group is now thought to have about 7,000 warriors. The US government officially classified the armed group of Colombia as a terrorist organization. The US and Colombian authorities have supported the idea that groups involved in illicit drug production and smuggling have engaged in a wide range of terrorist activities.

## Timeline of Events

<b>17 July 1930</b>	The Colombian Communist Party was founded.
<b>1964</b>	Creation of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army.
<b>7 August 1982</b>	President Belisario Betancur started peace negotiations with FARC.
<b>1993</b>	FARC and PCC separated.
<b>4 November 2011</b>	Alfonso Cano (leader of the FARC) was killed in Colombia.
<b>4 September 2012</b>	The Colombian Peace Process started.
<b>25 January 2016</b>	The Security Council adopted Resolution 2261, forming the United Nations Mission on Colombia.
<b>June 2016</b>	The Colombian government and FARC signed an absolute ceasefire and disarmament agreement, the pioneer of a comprehensive peace treaty.
<b>September 2016</b>	The government and FARC signed an historic peace agreement that officially ended the 52-year armed conflict.
<b>26 September 2017</b>	The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia started its activities.

## UN Involvement

During 2016, the Security Council formed the United Nations Mission in Colombia, adopting resolution 2261. On 25 January 2016, following the peace agreement between the Government and the FARC-EP, the UN gained responsibility of monitoring and verifying the release of arms, as well as ensuring a definite bilateral ceasefire and hostility as part of the tripartite mechanism.

After the UN Mission, the “Verification” Mission in Colombia was formed by resolution 2366, which was established by the United Nations Security Council. The resolution received a joint demand from the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP. Thus, the United Nations Security Council extended the mission to 2018.

The Verification Mission worked closely with national authorities and former guerilla members to encourage a progressive and proactive approach to issues related to reintegration and security. The mission continued to exist at national, regional and local levels to ensure close contact with ex-combatants and communities.

## Relevant UN Documents

- The first UN Mission in Colombia- Resolution of the Security Council (25 January 2016, S/RES/2261)  
<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2261>
- Verification Mission in Colombia- Resolution of the Security Council ( 10 July 2017, S/RES/2366)  
[https://undocs.org/S/RES/2366\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2366(2017))
- United Nations Mission in Colombia- Resolution of the Security Council (14 September 2017, S/RES/2377)  
<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2377>
- Expanding the mandate of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia- Resolution of the Security Council (6 October 2017, S/RES/2381)  
<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2381>
- Latest 90-day report on the UN Verification Mission in Colombia- Report of the Secretary-General (20 July 2018, S/2018/723)  
<https://undocs.org/S/2018/723>

## Treaties, Events and An Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The Colombian Government created an agreement with FARC to build a stable and enduring peace in the country. It took four years for the government and the FARC to agree how to end their issue, from 2012 until 2016. This agreement was called as the Colombian Peace Process. The content of this agreement can be seen in the general overview section of the chair report.

## **Possible Solutions**

The main reason behind the formation of leftist, left-wing and guerilla groups is that they oppose the policies or actions of the governments, as displayed by FARC. Blocking these groups or meeting a common point would be most beneficial for peace in Colombia. FARC and the Colombian Government signed an agreement on disarmament, following which FARC handed over their weapons in 2016. However, development in terms of disarmament did not prevent the disagreement between the political views on both sides. For this reason, a political middle ground between FARC and the Colombian government would be beneficial.

Since the last agreement was signed in 2016, an agreement can be drawn up again in 2019, focusing on politically preserving FARC's disarmament, given that the group is not only an armed organization, but also a political one. In order to avoid a flare up of conflict, yearly conferences can be held to ensure that peace is maintained. Furthermore, if FARC is better instilled to the Colombian people, both sides can recognize each other in a more peaceful way. Also, since the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia is still present, the formation of several groups to support the process may be more convenient in order to prevent conflict that might arise from either side. Ensuring the maintenance of peace through political means should be the end goal of the actions.

## **Notes from the Chair**

FARC can be examined in more than one aspect such as disarmament, human rights and land rights. But the main aspect needs to be addressed in a political ground, given that the birth of the issue is one stemming from political thought. The agenda item can be connected to weapons and human rights in a political context in delegates' resolutions.

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