



**IPB Newsletter: Special Issue
on the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates
Bogota, 2 – 5 February 2017**

By way of a foreword

Why I believe that the Colombian peace accord deserves our support

Lisa Pelletti Clark, Co-President, International Peace Bureau

I am on my way to Bogotá, to represent the International Peace Bureau in the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates later this week. I have just written a fairly long article on the Colombian peace process for an Italian weekly: in Italy, in fact, there has been a long tradition of support for the Peace Communities, and especially for San José de Apartadó, which the Italian peace and nonviolent movements have visited, have sent volunteers to and provided funds for. Among some of these peace movements (not all, though) there have been very loud complaints about the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to President Santos, with the voicing of considerable scepticism about the peace process as a whole. For this reason I felt that I wanted to contribute my ideas on why I believe that the Colombian peace accord deserves our support.

What follows is a translation and summary of my article.

When the results of the referendum (the Plebiscite) in Colombia became clear on the night of 2 October, revealing that the people had voted against the peace accord, President Santos lost no time: he declared immediately that the following week he would be back in Havana to renegotiate the contents of the agreement to find a solution that could also include those who had campaigned for a NO vote, “in order to broaden even further the base of our national dialogue, to seek unity and reconciliation.”

An obstinate and truly nonviolent way of reacting. Humiliated, he accepted defeat and redoubled his efforts. After 6 years of negotiations this was probably one of the lessons he had learned. And in his Nobel acceptance speech, a couple of months later, he said so openly: to work for peace requires infinitely more effort, it means working to find the common ground, acceptable to all, instead of just imposing the will of the stronger party or of the majority.



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And he added that the end of a conflict must not imply the elimination of the enemy. The road leading to the peace accord for Santos was indeed a collective process: he showed this in Oslo, too, when at the beginning of his speech he asked all those present to pay tribute to those who had made the peace accord possible: representatives of the families of the victims, lawyers and negotiators from the parties, all of whom he had brought with him to Oslo: he asked them to stand to be thanked by the applause of the Nobel ceremony's participants.

This accord took six years of negotiations: the first two were conducted in absolute secrecy, since it was difficult to begin negotiating for a man who until that moment was considered one of the toughest, the man who as Defence Minister under President Uribe escalated the fighting against the guerrillas, in a bellicose atmosphere that led to the terrible season of the “false positives”. It may have been the horror of those killings perpetrated by government troops (since they were offered rewards based on the number of enemy combatants they killed, they occasionally slaughtered innocent peasants and passed them off as guerrilla fighters) that changed Santos, that pushed him into finding a different way forward. Six years of negotiations, under the auspices of two countries the parties agreed on as the

guarantors of the process, Cuba and Norway; with the assistance of two more countries chosen by the parties as witnesses, Chile for the government and Venezuela for the FARC; advised and guided by the expert researchers from the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, from Notre Dame University. All together the result is an impressive accord (actually, several peace accords within a common framework), more than 300 pages long, which is truly comprehensive. It was eventually approved, after further negotiations with some groups which had voted against at the Referendum, by Parliament on 30 November 2016. Its (rather ambitious) goal is to provide the background for the reconstruction of Colombian society addressing all aspects, all traditional grievances and inequalities. And, of course, building the bridge towards an overall reconciliation process.

some areas of special environmental importance; but it also envisages the implementation of special territorial development programmes, to be drafted based on participatory processes among local communities. All of this will be integrated with an overarching system ensuring Food Security for all, with programmes against hunger and malnutrition at all territorial levels.

The second chapter (also agreed in 2013, but further enriched in 2016) concerns the transformation of the FARC into a political party. The status of “political opposition” will be created, with safety guarantees for all those who engage in political activity, to ensure that their rights and dignity are protected thanks to the establishment of a special unit of the National Protection forces (and members of the FARC may also become members of this unit, once they have disarmed and demobilized under the supervision of the UN). This chapter of the accord envisages: a new and simplified procedure for registering political parties, measures promoting participation in the elections and the transparency of the process, as well as the commitment to a general electoral reform. As a transitory measure, 16 special Peace constituencies are to be established in the areas where the war had the most devastating consequences: here the citizens will have the opportunity, until 2026, to elect a higher number of parliamentarians, as a sort of electoral bonus in favour of new formations. And some seats will temporarily be reserved for representatives of the FARC who have disarmed and demobilized.

A third chapter addresses the cultivation of illicit substances: here the agreement reached is based on the following principles: voluntary replacement of illicit crops, participatory planning, immediate programmes to aid peasants, an approach founded on health and human rights, the dismantling of drug trafficking gangs, the fight against money-laundering and against the trade of chemical substances used in drug processing. And an international conference will be organized under the auspices of the United Nations, to evaluate and agree on a set of principles that should guide the international “War on Drugs”, since it is now clear, as President Santos says, “that the way in which this war against drugs has



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The first accord is a vast project aimed at promoting integral rural development, an agrarian reform born out of the realization that the totally unequal landownership distribution is both the cause and the consequence of the war in Colombia. One of the FARC’s main demands, ever since they first came into existence in 1964, was an agrarian reform. This accord (the first one signed by government and FARC in 2013) is based on the establishment of an Agrarian Fund which would enable even the poorest of peasants to buy land, and on the modernization of the landownership cadastre, on the protection of

been fought is perhaps more harmful than all the other wars being fought in the world today. Time has come to change our strategy.”

A fundamental chapter is the one addressing the victims. It is one of the accords that took longest to negotiate. It is based on the following principles: recognition of victims and recognition of responsibility; satisfaction of victims’ rights and participation of victims’ associations in all processes; ascertaining and shedding light on the truth; compensation to victims; protection and safety guarantees; commitment and guarantee of non-repetition; reconciliation and a rights-based approach. To this end a Truth commission will be established as well as a commission to search for disappeared persons. And specific bodies, pertaining to a Special Jurisdiction for Peace, shall be responsible for establishing the facts and the responsibilities, for the administration of amnesties and pardons, and so on.

The fifth chapter regulates the end of the conflict, with the definitive ceasefire and the tripartite monitoring and verification mechanism (government, FARC and an unarmed UN mission made up mainly of members of CELAC – Community of Latin American and Caribbean States). Special “normalization” areas will be set up, where members of the FARC shall go to give up their weapons. These areas shall be surrounded by demilitarized zones. All persons having handed in their weapons shall have any arrest warrants against them suspended, and they shall be entitled to participate in political life and in social reintegration projects (socio-economic programmes run by local municipalities and national ones). For 24 months any person who has disarmed, but who is not receiving any other income, will be given benefits equivalent to 90% of minimum salary. All weapons collected shall be taken into custody by the UN mission, which will use them to build three peace monuments.

This description of the content of the more than 300 pages of the accord is necessarily too short and incomplete, since the road to peace is a living process, both in terms of including further players and for the final definition of many aspects. For those (like myself) who witnessed the peace accords in Bosnia, all those years ago,

this accord is like a wonderful dream, a starting point full of extraordinary potential. It reminds one rather of South Africa. There are many sceptics, especially in Europe, people who only remember President Santos’s past, or the fact that there have already been attempts in the past, with many broken promises. There is no doubt that even the best peace accords can fail. I believe that it is the task of peace activists, of nonviolent activists especially, to grasp all that is positive and to contribute what each one of us can to the success of the process.

It is true that violence has not ceased. Just a few days ago I endorsed the appeal launched by the FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation) Peace Presence, after the murder of Emilsen Manyoma, human rights defender from the CONPAZ network, representative of the Bajo Calima community, killed in Buenaventura with her husband Joe Javier Rodallega. The appeal, addressed to the international community and to the Colombian government, demands that full light be shed on this political assassination. It is not the first one and, alas, it is probably not going to be the last one, carried out by groups that have taken up the legacy of the paramilitaries disbanded by the government. The appeal asks the Colombian government to implement urgently all those protection measures, aimed at defending threatened persons, that are envisaged in the peace accord. Only someone who has no experience of a peace process, or someone who is in bad faith, can throw out a peace process negotiated for six years merely because violence has not ceased entirely. Equally, none of the parties to the peace process should take umbrage at the heartfelt appeal to find those responsible for these murders, or the others perpetrated in recent months. We conceive of this appeal as an expression of full support to the peace process, asking that its provisions be implemented in all their details, abiding by the letter and the spirit of the Havana negotiators.

The road will be long and complicated. And will need everyone’s commitment and good will.

29 January 2017

Building Roads to Peace Bogota, 2 - 5 February 2017



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Thank you, Colombia, for the best peace news the world has had in a long time!

Lisa Pelletti Clark

I have just come back from Bogotá, where I represented the International Peace Bureau at the Nobel Peace Laureates 16th Summit, hosted in the country of the latest Laureate, President Santos, the country that is experiencing a very ambitious peace process. The excitement and energy for peace that I felt in all those I met is indescribable. And, while I was aware of the remarkable example that Colombia can offer other peoples and other countries, hardly any of those I spoke to were blind to the difficulties that may lie ahead. It's merely that they have all, jointly and individually, committed to working towards the full implementation of the peace accords.

Before leaving for Colombia I had written an article (see previous pages), with a brief summary of the content of the Havana accords and explaining why I thought that it was worth devoting our energies to supporting this important peace process. But my experiences in Bogotá went way beyond my expectations. Nothing I had read or heard had prepared me for the exciting days I had in that city!

Press Conference

Starting from the Press Conference, the day before the Summit began. I don't know whether it happened by chance, but there were five women illustrating the Summit (Jody Williams, Leymah Gbowee, Ekaterina Zagladina from the Nobel Secretariat and Monica de Greiff, President of the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce, and myself). And a room packed with eager, intelligent and well-informed journalists! Had there not been other appointments afterwards, the meeting would have gone for hours ... and been full of interesting questions.



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The Nobel Summit was held in Corferias, the city's major Trade fair and Exhibition Grounds. The Plenary meetings took place in a hall seating several thousand people, but there were other auditoriums, conference and meeting rooms of different sizes, exhibition halls and the youth workshop venue made up of a dozen meeting halls, each with a capacity of about 100 people.



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Then there was the outside area: a lively scene, with food stalls, an outdoor stage for concerts, an infinite number of stands promoting new eco-friendly projects or artistic creations for peace, etc. It

was much more like a Social Forum than any previous Nobel Summit. A wonderful and exciting innovation. I loved it!

The Bogotá Chamber of Commerce was the main organizer. And they had chosen to extend participation in the Summit activities to anyone who chose to register. I was told that, over the 3 days of the event, 45,000 people came to Corferias! Registration was free of charge and open to all. Only some of the areas, notably the front rows of seats in the huge plenary hall, were reserved for Laureates and special Guests.

We, as foreigners, were quite recognizable and were constantly stopped, in a flurry of excitement, by young men and women along the paths of the venue, as we made our way from one meeting to another. Invariably the first question was: what do you think of our peace process? I made a point of turning the question back at them, to understand what each one of them thought about the future prospects for their country. The words that I heard most frequently were: hope, participation, reconciliation, non-repetition.

Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate 1997, began her remarks to the press saying: “We’re not here with solutions, just advice.” Every peace process is different, but what is crucially important is the active participation and involvement of local organizations and communities. “The most important part is not the peace agreement, it’s the implementation!”



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Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Laureate 2011, from Liberia, shared her message for the Colombian people: “I will walk with you!”. In our press conference it was clear that all of us were here, in Bogotá, to support the Colombian peace process and the men and women of this country. Leymah urged Colombian civil society to keep on their toes, saying that this is not the time to relax.

2 February - Inauguration of the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

Early in the morning of 2 February, as we got to Corferias, we saw huge queues of people waiting in line in front of the many entrances to the Exhibition grounds. There was a joyful atmosphere, as though everyone were waiting in line for a rock concert or a football match! And it struck me as astonishing that such a varied group of people should be enthusiastically standing in line to participate in the same event. At that moment I had no idea that thousands of these enthusiastic people would be ushered into the huge auditorium for the official inauguration. And that their excitement would be further rewarded, during the ceremony. For them it was not merely a ceremony, but the concrete international acknowledgement of the importance of their peace process! And the excitement reached its peak a little later. In fact, during his inaugural speech, President Santos informed the auditorium that the ELN (the National Liberation Army guerrilla group that had not yet undertaken peace negotiations) had just released a hostage: this had been the agreed signal for their readiness to begin talks with the government. And so Santos announced that the first meeting with ELN negotiators would take place the following Tuesday (7 Feb) in Quito.



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President Juan Manuel Santos, with 25 other Nobel Peace Laureates on the stage, told the packed auditorium: “Now Colombia faces a new tomorrow ... a more promising future, freed of the burden of the armed conflict. We know that the signing of the agreement was only the beginning: its implementation will be as challenging, or more so.” And Santos concluded, echoing the mood of the auditorium and of the whole country, quoting John Lennon, “You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one.”

A performance highlighted the role of the recognition of the victims and the acknowledgement of responsibilities, for this is the foundation of the entire peace process.



The indigenous communities and conflict victims, all dressed in white, ideally united all those present, binding them to one another with long shrouds of white cloth, in a moving ritual dance, to the rhythm of drums and traditional instruments.

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Oscar Arias, 1987 Laureate, began quoting Dickens’s Tale of Two Cities: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way. . . .” And we all felt the appropriateness of the quote: here in Colombia we were part of a story of hope, peace and a future of justice and reconciliation. Elsewhere in the world, grim stories of violence and war; and, further north in this same hemisphere, almost a living enactment of George Orwell’s 1984.

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Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Laureate, from Yemen. “Dear Friends, let me express my overwhelming joy to be here with you in Colombia, the country that is reinventing itself and reshaping its future away from war and war’s tragedies. Dear Colombians, achieving a sustainable peace process is the best thing you could ever offer to the world, because you will be a role model for other peoples suffering from the scourge of wars and armed conflicts. We are not alone in the battle to build peace and support freedoms and human rights. The growing awareness of many societies towards what we are doing must make us feel confident.”

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Thematic Forum: The Role of Women in Peace Building

I was invited to a Thematic Forum on the role of women and was again struck by the huge participation (large amphitheatre facility with at least 500 seats, overflowing, people standing in aisles). We heard from a young lawyer, Elena Ambrosi, a member of the Government’s negotiating team, who told us how a gender perspective and the importance of the participation of women underpin all the peace accord documents.

Jody Williams, Rigoberta Menchu, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman each proved with their history and experience that a peace process in which women play a major role is a peace process that has a much greater chance of succeeding. For my part, I pointed out (from my experience in war) that, if there still is any society to reconstruct or pacify at the end of a war, that is only due to the role that women play in wartime: ensuring the survival of the community, not just as individuals but as a



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the war, they stayed in the countryside, they preserved the social networks, they cared for others.

society predicated on solidarity and self-help. In wartime social values are turned upside down: children become expendable, while adult warriors take precedence. Women enact their resistance against war by keeping alive the original values of every community: protecting the weak and nurturing the most vulnerable. And it was very interesting that, in the meeting I had with a group of women from the rural areas (on the role of women in the post-conflict, see below), one of the women expressed almost exactly this same concept: the women led the resistance to

Later that day I had been invited to another **Thematic Forum, called “Peace has its feet on the ground”**, in which I learned a lot about the Agrarian reform and the Land Restitution programme that are fundamental parts of the peace accord. I was deeply moved by several of the speakers, especially **Alan Jara** (in the photo below), the director of the Victims’ unit. Jara was kidnapped and held hostage by the FARC for nearly 8 years. Once released in 2009, as part of the Humanitarian Exchange, he became active in the peace process. He spoke eloquently



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(and movingly) about how important it is that the overall reparations/compensation mechanism in the peace process not be implemented merely as an administrative procedure, but rather as a reconciliation process that includes commitments to non-repetition. Also present were the directors of both the Land Restitution Unit and the National Land Agency, **Ricardo Sabogal** and **Miguel Samper**, who described with intelligence and responsibility the role of their agencies in a country in which the land is not merely a means of production, but an integral part of the identity of local communities, and thus of the peace process for the people as a whole. Miguel Samper also stressed that it was the task of the reform to introduce and guarantee equal access to the land, for the first time in the country’s history. A remarkable woman, a beneficiary of the Land Restitution programme, then told us about how the reform introduces equal rights to land ownership for women! In the past, she denounced, wives and daughters worked on the land, performing all the hardest tasks, while husbands and fathers held all the rights. We heard about the exemplary case of a man who claimed ownership rights over a piece of land his family had worked for years, but for which they had no deed. Before assigning him the property, the land agency investigated his case and found that he had left the village (and his wife), and moved to the city where he had a new wife. The land agency, by law, assigned the ownership to the former wife, since she was the one who was still working the land, and always had.



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The IPB Youth Workshops



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As IPB we contributed two Youth Workshops. The first was coordinated by **Amada Benavides** and her Fundacion Escuelas de Paz, with **Alicia Cabezudo**, former IPB Vice-President. The objective of this workshop was to enable participants to become acquainted with the Guiding Principles on Participation of Young People in the Consolidation of Peace and UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015). This Resolution recognizes “the important role that young people can play in preventing and resolving conflicts and as crucial actors for the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peace building and peace building initiatives.”

The session was fun and involved nearly 100 young people, in what was termed a Gymkhana, with the various groups addressing the points in the UNSC Resolution using different forms of expression (words, mime, movement, weaving a mandala, etc.)

The second IPB Youth Workshop was coordinated by **Luke Addison**, IPB’s youngest Council member, and was organized around an imaginative and thought-provoking role-playing model – called the **Culture Shock Name Game** - in which young people had to collaborate with each other deciding on their priorities for the rules and values they feel should govern an ideal society.



© Luke Addison

A fascinating model! And one which brought out the best in all those who participated.





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One further meeting that I was invited to attend was a **meeting on the role of women in post-conflict social reconstruction**. I listened with great interest to the stories of several campesino women from different areas. I was very moved by some of their tales of suffering, but also elated at their descriptions of how the new legislation introduced as a consequence of the land restitution programme has empowered them!

Especially the more elderly among these women, who told us that, although many had lost husbands and children during the long years of war, now they could finally see a future of dignity for their grandchildren.



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And one younger woman, a spokesperson in the reconciliation process in her local community, said something I found especially important: Our wounds are not healed yet. The land restitution programme is essential but it is not sufficient, since this entire process is not just about the ownership of the land. Ours is an overall reconciliation strategy, a collective life project for our future.

Since I was invited to many separate sessions, and was also frequently being interviewed by a number of media (very interesting, the considerable number of web-based media, with whom I did streamed interviews and answered questions for blogs), I was not actually able to follow most of the plenary sessions.

4 February. Plenary session on the Peace Process in Colombia

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One plenary that I did manage to follow!

Humberto de la Calle, chief Government negotiator, speaking about some of the lessons learned during the peace process: “We must never again accept to defend our ideas with weapons. We have to erase from the minds of Colombians the notion that political opinions can be expressed with violence.” De la Calle began his talk recounting his earliest memory. As a child of 4 or 5 years, his brother was going to take him from the village where they lived to catch a bus for the town. The older brother said: As we walk through the woods, stay very close for it is dangerous in the woods, there are armed men there. So now, as a middle-aged man, he said that, while the armed conflict had been there as long as he could remember, now his life opened up into the novelty of a peace process. And he added, moved almost to tears at the thought, “I have six grandchildren and I know they will die someday. But I want them to die of old age.”

Ivan Marquez, chief FARC negotiator, was not on the programme (I wondered whether this could have been for security reasons). But he was fascinating to listen to. He concentrated more on the difficulties ahead, saying among other things that the implementation of the peace accords will be more difficult than the arduous years of negotiations. He urged his fellow citizens to reject calls to undermine the peace



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process. And, after listing the hurdles that still need to be overcome in the implementation of the peace accords, he concluded: “We are keeping hope alive. The future of Colombia cannot be one of war. Peace will triumph. Our hope is that future generations may look back and say: Thanks to the Havana accord we have peace and can live our lives in dignity.”



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Sergio Jaramillo, Colombia’s High Commissioner for Peace, said that the peace process implies much more than the FARC turning over their weapons. “A lack of solidarity for the suffering of others can be our downfall. We all need to accept our responsibilities for what happened, if we want to heal our wounds.”

And one plenary in which I was a speaker!

Plenary session on Peace and Young People. In the photo Marc Dullaert, President of Kids’ Rights, Lisa Clark and Tawakkol Karman.



A side event, on 6 February, was organized by **Alicia Cabezudo** and several **IPB member organizations from Latin America**, with the cooperation of several Universities. Hosted by the Minuto de Dios University, this international workshop addressed the topic of how to envisage a pedagogy for peace and reconciliation in post-conflict Colombia. A number of academics exchanged their experiences and shared proposals on how best to coordinate their activities, in both a formal educational context and within society in general. The Latin American member organizations of IPB are actively engaged in this process, in partnership with the Colombian Permanent Forum of Education for Development and Peace.

FORO INTERNACIONAL:
“PEDAGOGÍA PARA LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE UNA CULTURA DE RECONCILIACIÓN Y PAZ EN COLOMBIA: DESAFÍOS, RETOS Y FUTURO”



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On the day after the end of the Summit, all Laureates were invited to the **Casa Campesina**, the **headquarters of ANUC** (the Asociacion Nacional Usuarios Campesinos, the peasants who cultivate the land). Several other Colombian organizations had assembled there to tell us about the work they do, about their roles in the peace process, about their hopes and, in some cases, their disappointments. We were divided into different groups and each group met separately with representatives of several organizations. I was lucky enough to be included in the group whose topic was land and reconciliation: the men and women we listened to were all highly articulate and committed activists from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Afro-Colombian associations, students from Bogotá’s many universities, farmers from several different regions, women telling the stories of disappeared husbands, brothers, fathers; a representative of the Colombian Romany community; a former guerrilla fighter turned nonviolent peace activist, and more. The meetings ended when we are called to what was termed a “cultural exchange.” Coming from a Latin country, I was not as surprised as some of the others, to find that this meant food and music!



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Despite the grievances that some of these associations shared with us, I could not help feeling that the wealth of diversity will be one of the most precious resources for the future of Colombian society. And this is excellent, since I have read that the national characteristic Colombians are most proud of is the plurality of their society!

I really want to thank all those who worked so hard to get the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates organized in Colombia. Of course, the Permanent Secretariat, who are always so capable and so tireless in ensuring that everything goes according to plan. But on this occasion a special acknowledgement goes to the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce who put all their energy in ensuring the success of a truly remarkable event in Colombia.

I must also convey a special and personal word of thanks to Roberto Hinestrosa Mejia, who acted as a wonderful guardian angel during my days in Colombia. Roberto guided me through these unforgettable days, ensuring that I did not miss the significance of any of the encounters I was privileged enough to have. And, after the Summit was over, he helped me understand more about the citizens of Bogotá, the recent history of the country, and arranged for me to meet some extraordinary members of Colombian society. Through Roberto I also had the opportunity to meet faculty members from the Externado University, with whom I hope IPB will be able to develop an information project, so that many more people in other continents can learn a little more about the Colombian peace process and perhaps be kept updated on its developments.

As I wrote in the article before leaving for Bogota, I believe that our support for the peace process cannot shy away from denouncing what is wrong and still needs to be addressed. That is why I wrote to my Ambassadors in January about the assassination of community leader Emilsen Manyoma, from the CONPAZ network and leader of the Baja Colima Community Council in Buenaventura, and her husband, as denounced by one of IPB's member organizations, the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The disturbing fact that some areas have experienced increased violence against human rights defenders and community leaders cannot be silenced. It is my belief that the peace process will be strengthened by demanding the full implementation of those elements of the peace accord that provide for adequate protection measures for all community leaders under threat, and that ensure full investigation of violent crimes perpetrated by armed gangs, such as those formed by former paramilitaries. A member of our Nobel Peace Laureate family, Amnesty International, has launched a campaign along these lines. The International Peace Bureau is certainly in favour of this campaign, since we see this as further support for the Colombian peace process.

In our Final Declaration, the Laureates present at the 16th World Summit stated that:

“The agreement ending the conflict in Colombia has been the best peace news the world has received in a long time. That is why, as Nobel Peace Laureates, we commit ourselves to support the consolidation of that peace, for the benefit of the Colombian people, the Latin American region and the whole world.”



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Final Declaration

BUILDING ROADS TO PEACE

Bogotá, February 4, 2017

(Adopted by the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates)

We, the Nobel Peace Laureates, have gathered in Bogotá to promote peace in the world and to support the efforts of the Colombian people to achieve a fair and long-lasting peace. We welcome President Juan Manuel Santos to the Nobel family and congratulate him for the agreement reached to end a 52-year internal armed conflict. We thank the Colombian people, civil society, and particularly the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá, for the extraordinary support given to this summit.

We are also here, in Colombia, to share our experiences in peace building with the Colombian people and to seek a consensus on the fundamental principles that should guide the way to peace.

We welcome, enthusiastically, the recent signature – in November 2016 – of the agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrillas that ended the last and longest armed conflict in the Western Hemisphere, a conflict that left more than 8 million victims and displaced people, and over 220,000 deaths.

We highlight some characteristics of the peace process in Colombia, which may serve as lessons for other conflicts in the world:

- Positive and negative experiences of other processes were studied and considered.
- The negotiations started with a fundamental tenet: the core of the solution to the conflict is recognizing, restoring and guaranteeing victims' rights to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition.
- An innovative model of transitional justice was achieved, which respects international standards, while seeking to attain maximum justice without sacrificing peace.
- The process was conducted in an environment of discretion, patience and seriousness, with regular communiqués to the media, avoiding the pressure to produce news or results every day.

We urge the international community, in the same manner that it embraced the peace *process* in Colombia, to accompany and support its *implementation*. This includes guaranteeing the presence of the State and its services in the areas most affected by the conflict; demining the territory; instituting the transitional justice system; implementing rural development, illicit crop substitution and victim reparation programs; combatting violence from criminal bands, such as those integrated by former paramilitaries; and reincorporating the former guerrillas into civilian life, including the participation of FARC in politics, once it has completed its disarmament.

The agreement ending the conflict in Colombia has been the best peace news the world has received in a long time. That is why, as Nobel Peace Laureates, we commit ourselves to support the consolidation of that peace, for the benefit of the Colombian people, the Latin American region and the whole world.

We have received equally with special consideration, “The Colombia Charter: 10 Principles of Peace”, which President Santos has proposed to this Summit for the endorsement of his Nobel Laureate colleagues, and for its international dissemination.

We hope that the example of Colombia will inspire people dealing with other conflicts to persist with their efforts to find just and lasting peace.

In recent years, world order and peace have been increasingly eroded, constituting an enormous challenge for the international community and the multilateral institutions. We are deeply concerned about the threat to global cooperation posed by a new wave of populism, exclusive nationalism, and protectionism. The threats that confront humankind can be resolved only if we continue to cooperate on a global basis.

The main existential threats to humanity, currently, are climate change, environmental degradation, and the continued existence of over 14,000 nuclear weapons.

The arms race, continuing wars, dictatorships, State and non-State terrorism, in their different facets and denominations, have sown and continue to sow death and pain in numerous countries. We acknowledge that terrorism can be best combatted by assuring social justice, democratic institutions and good governance. The war in Syria and the immense hardships endured by its people are an open wound in humanity's conscience that bleeds endlessly. The refugee and migration crisis is still escalating. The different migratory waves we have been experiencing over the past decades demand unprecedented human solidarity and long term strategic planning. We must guard against the politicization of humanitarian aid. We express our extreme concern over the bombing of hospitals and schools.

Other global crises, such as endemic poverty, social injustice, child labour, urban violence, sexual violence against women and children, human trafficking, drug trafficking and the devastating effects of the war on drugs, continue to claim victims in several regions of the world, and undermine sustainable development.

In view of these threats and challenges to peace, we make this **CALL TO ACTION** to the international community – to governments, and to civil society, youth, and the private sector, – to:

Implement the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change and move forward with a comprehensive global strategy to assure the long-term protection of our precious planet.

Work for inclusive development and sustainable peace, by addressing the deep causes of poverty and war, by prioritizing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals; and by calling on the international community to allocate the necessary financial resources for its implementation.

Renew the vision of a world without nuclear weapons and support the urgent negotiations of a new treaty to ban nuclear weapons leading to their complete elimination;

Confirm the need to eradicate other weapons that especially affect the civilian population, such as antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions, to pre-emptively ban fully autonomous weapons; and to control the possession and use of small arms;

Move forward with the development and implementation of coherent and interrelated policies aimed at promoting the harmonious and sustainable development of our societies; at creating peace, prosperity and wellbeing for all, particularly for marginalized children, youth and women, emphasizing the importance of reducing inequality;

Act on the clear evidence that our world will only achieve greater levels of peace, prosperity and development if the rights of women, children, and minorities groups are enshrined in peace processes, public policies, budget allocation and clear commitments towards more inclusive leadership.

Promote integrated and inclusive policies to create meaningful, productive and quality education and employment that benefits youth, women, victims and people displaced by violence, those who reintegrate into society after a peace process, and those who are discriminated against for ethnic, racist, religious, gender, disability or any other reasons, in order to incorporate them into the

workforce; we call on all States to combat hate speech based on any of these grounds.

Call on all sectors to advance concerted action to end human trafficking, modern day slavery, sexual exploitation, child labour and violence in all its form against women and children.

Advance concerted action at the global, regional, national and local levels, to fight drug trafficking, drug-tainted politics and corruption, and to accelerate the process of civil disarmament, always within parameters ensuring the protection and guarantee of human rights; we should not permit the criminalization of human rights advocates, and should resolutely oppose new forms of racism, discrimination, and xenophobia.

Promote campaigns and the development of programs that responsibly and actively engage youth, teachers, civil society; and social media and technology to strengthen a culture of peace.

Urge the States to include public policies to promote and strengthen education for peace.

Lead the development of a complete, modern, effective and operational architecture for peace, including the improvement of means for the resolution of international conflicts and disputes, sustaining peace, and to advance a broad, common and inclusive strategy to bring an end to war and to the threats of war.

Defend and revitalize the United Nations, strengthening the enforcement of the Rule of Law at the international level and in the organization’s Member States; and impartially and cogently condemn all violations of human rights and humanitarian law, the repression and persecution of peaceful opposition and civilian massacres that are perpetrated with impunity; we call on States and the international community to enforce the Rule of Law.

We invite all the States, peoples and religions of the world to recognize and understand the interdependence among individuals, communities and nations, within a sense of unity, compassion and solidarity. This is the only way to transform the Earth – the common home of the human family – into a world in peace.

Shirin Ebadi
Leymah Gbowee
Tawakkol Karman
Rigoberta Menchu' Tum
José Ramos-Horta
Juan Manuel Santos

Kailash Satyarthi
Lech Walesa
Jody Williams
International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
International Peace Bureau (IPB)
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)



THE COLOMBIA CHARTER

10 Principles for Peace

Without ideals and values, human conduct lacks a compass

1. **PEACE IS A RIGHT:** Peace is the birthright of every individual and the supreme right of humanity.
2. **WE ARE ONE:** Humanity is one family, sharing the gift of life together on this fragile planet. What happens to one of us, it happens to all of us.
3. **WE ARE DIVERSE:** Our humanity is enriched by diversity. This is a treasure that we all must honor and take care of.
4. **WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE:** The moral principle of treating others as one wants to be treated must be applied not only to the personal conduct but also to the conduct of religions and nations.
5. **WE MUST AVOID WAR:** War shreds the fabric of human community and represents failures of our humanity.
6. **WE MUST BE LEGAL AND JUST:** World peace and stability require adherence to and respect for International Law, including International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. Lasting peace can only be achieved if it is based on social justice.
7. **WE SHOULD TALK:** Whenever it is possible, conflicts should be ended through dialogue. The international community has to validate effective measures to prevent and limit wars.
8. **WE HAVE TO RESPECT EACH OTHER:** Even in conflict, an enemy must be recognized as a human being entitled to respect, and their motivations must be understood. The elimination or humiliation of the adversary is the seed of more violence in the future.
9. **WE HAVE TO EDUCATE:** We have to promote tolerance, solidarity, compassion, respect for differences and minority rights, in order to create a global culture of peace. Education based on these values must be implemented across the world.
10. **WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND:** All lives are as valuable as one's own. If we understand this with our hearts and our minds, we will build and keep peace in the world for us, for our children and the generations to come.

Shirin Ebadi
 Leymah Gbowee
 Tawakkol Karman
 Rigoberta Menchu' Tum
 José Ramos-Horta
 Juan Manuel Santos

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 Lech Walesa
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IPPNW February 5, 2017

Nobel Peace Laureates: Time to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons is now!

[The following statement from 21 Nobel Peace Laureates was released at the conclusion of the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Bogota, Colombia.]

On March 27, negotiations will commence at the United Nations for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. As Nobel Peace Laureates we applaud the UN General Assembly for convening this negotiating conference, fully support its goals, and urge all nations to work for the speedy conclusion of this treaty in 2017 and for its rapid entry into force and implementation.

The nine nuclear-armed states retain some 15,000 nuclear warheads, enough to destroy the world many times over. Nearly 2,000 of these warheads are on hair-trigger alert. They can be launched in a matter of minutes at the whim of an unstable or intemperate leader, and leaders of nuclear-armed states have made increasingly dangerous and irresponsible statements about the use of these weapons. Some display a shocking and appalling ignorance about the nature of nuclear weapons and the consequences of their use.

In response to this danger, more than 120 nations around the world have supported a Humanitarian Initiative that seeks the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. The nine states that possess these weapons have responded with plans to spend more than a trillion dollars to upgrade their nuclear arsenals and make them even more dangerous. Their behavior is an intolerable threat to the lives of everyone on this planet, including the citizens of their own countries. That behavior must change.

A large-scale nuclear war between the US and Russia would cause a global winter that would kill most of the people on the planet, and possibly cause our extinction as a species. Even a very limited nuclear war, as could well take place involving states with smaller nuclear arsenals, could disrupt the climate sufficiently to cause a prolonged global famine that would put up to 2 billion people at risk of starvation and destroy modern civilization.

The danger of nuclear war is growing. The time for action is now. We must prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Oscar Arias (1987)

His Holiness the Dalai Lama (1989)

F. W. de Klerk (1993)

Shirin Ebadi (2003)

Leymah Gbowee (2011)

Mikhail Gorbachev (1990)

International Campaign to Ban Landmines (1997)

International Peace Bureau (1910)

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (1985)

Tawakkol Karman (2011)

Mairead Maguire (1976)

Medecins Sans Frontiere (1999)

Rigoberta Menchu (1992)

Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (1995)

Jose Ramos-Horta (1996)

Kailash Satyarthi (2014)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1984)

Lech Walesa (1983)

Betty Williams (1976)

Jody Williams (1997)

Muhammad Yunus (2006)

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