



Report of the 3rd International Mission of La Via Campesina: Solidarity and Accompaniment to the Construction of Peace in Colombia

On November 24, 2016, the Colombian State and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (FARC-EP) signed the Final Agreement for the end of the conflict and the construction of a stable and lasting peace, with the objective of ending to an armed conflict of more than five decades. The oldest in the Western Hemisphere, this conflict in figures translates into the death of 218,094 people, more than 80,000 disappeared, and seven million forcibly displaced persons (National Center for Historical Memory, Observatory of Memory and Conflict, 2019), among others.

The signing of the Final Agreement constitutes a historical possibility to solve the causes that originated the social and armed conflict: the land problem, the restrictions in the political participation of the citizenship, and the misery and marginalization that the rural communities of the country have suffered. That's why La Vía Campesina (LVC) celebrates the decision of the parties to take the first step in the path of building a more equitable, democratic and plural society, in which the full enjoyment of the rights of the citizenship, fully assuming the responsibility born of the trust that the signatory parties have deposited in LVC by appointing them as an international accompanist in the implementation of Point 1, referring to Integral Rural Reform.

In this sense, LVC has carried out three International Missions of Solidarity and Accompaniment between 2016, 2017 and 2019 made up of delegations from the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia, going to the territories historically most affected by the conflict, evidencing the systematic failure of the national government by means of contradictory policies to the agreed or omissions to the implementation and to the panorama of murder of social leaders, legal insecurity of ex-combatants, among others.

The 3rd International Mission of La Via Campesina (March 29 to April 2, 2019) developed the components of: a) Communication and dissemination on the development and conclusions of the mission; b) Relations with parliamentarians on the legislative progress of the implementation; c) Encounter and dialogues with social, peasant, ethnic and popular organizations; e) Regional (Cauca and Tolima) and national (Sumapaz) meetings in territory with communities and ex-combatants; f) Relationship with the FAO, UNDP, and EU official accompaniers of the RRI, in addition to the Technical Board by CINEP and CERAC; and g) Relationship with responsible government bodies and guarantors of

the agreement (Ombudsman's Office, Attorney General's Office and High Commissioner for Peace), as well as participation in forums and panels for short-term analysis and peacebuilding.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

La Vía Campesina has life in the peasant to peasant dialogue in the territories, and this was also the case of the III Mission of solidarity and accompaniment to the peace agreement, where we continue to join the hard work of peace building in Colombia. The following general considerations arise from the development of the mission not only because of the official role as companions, but also as organizations of peasants, small and medium producers, rural women, indigenous communities, migrant agricultural workers, young people and landless laborers, gathered in the international peasant movement for the defense of human rights, comprehensive and popular agrarian reform, and food sovereignty, peasant and popular feminism, and a dignified and peaceful life.

Considerations on point 1 - Integral Rural Reform:

- Concern regarding the normative implementation of land: it exceeds and contravenes the provisions of the 1 point on the RRI. Decree Law 902 of 2017 is issued establishing measures for access and formalization, however this rule: a) does not guarantee the free awarding of the RRI subjects nor facilitates access to land; b) Modifies the requirements for the adjudication of vacant land by including the category of onerous agrarian reform subjects, to benefit them from the land programs; c) it slows down the process of adjudication and formalization due to the complexity of the procedures
- Concern over the New Land Law (Bill that modifies the Agrarian Reform Law 160 of 1994): a) Structurally modifies the uncultivated system to provide legal security to large businessmen; b) It allows the delivery of vacant land funds to mining, oil and hydroelectric companies that carry out activities of supposed public utility and social interest; c) Allows the undue accumulation of wasteland in exchange for cash payments, legalizing the dispossession of land to peasants; and d) This norm is not part of the implementation of the agreements, but is directly against the agreement
- Concern about the nature of the National Development Plan (NDP) of the present government at the following: a) Absence of a special chapter for implementation; b) Goals on formalization of much less land to the agreement; c) Change of hectares to titles to measure the formalization; d) Absence of the Peasant Reserve Zones (ZRC) as fundamental peasant territoriality; e) uncertainty about the role of the National Sector Plans and Development Programs with Territorial Approach (PDET), this framed in the de-financing and the policy in favor of the big industry and not of agriculture, family and community.

Considerations on point 4 - Solution to the problem of illicit drugs:

- Concern about the effective non-implementation of the agreements in point 1 and its close relationship with point 4, which means not only a difficulty but a setback in peacebuilding, where it was evident that the families that voluntarily eradicated face a social and economic

risk, since they lost their source of income, and productive projects, technical assistance and financing are insufficient, late or have not arrived.

- Concern over the lack of capacity for institutional articulation by the national government to address the implementation of this point, generating a discouraging panorama due to : a) replanting of crops as the only alternative for small producers, b) return of eradication forced manual and aerial by the government, among others.

Considerations on item 6 - International accompaniment:

- It is essential to reactivate the accompaniment table integrated by FAO, UNDP, European Union and La Vía Campesina, given the current state of implementation and to strengthen the actions that have been developed and generate joint actions.
- It is important to look for communication and advocacy strategies on the accompaniment of the notables (Felipe González, former president of Spain and José Mujica, former president of Uruguay) with the aim of strengthening and coordinating the accompaniment work.
- It is essential that the CLOC Colombia and LVC International strengthen their work with the Kroc Institute for International Studies for Peace, on the information on the state of implementation in the territories. In the intervention on the report presented by the KROC Colombia Institute, the context of internal war that is being lived in the territory was not evident. They refer to how the government has complied with the agreements of Havana and points out in several of these points a clear strategy of the government to deepen a corporate state and also increase the humanitarian-environmental crisis, while much of the advances point to them in the framework of the green economy with projects such as payment for environmental services, among others. In addition to difficulties refer 5, within which the armed conflict or public order is not included officially. However, verbally they say that it has been difficult to construct the report for two situations: 1. In the case of Antioquia there is only one person from the Institute who works for them and who lives in the municipality of El Bagre, Bajo Cauca Antioqueño ; 2. Public order puts them at risk of displacement.

Considerations about the human rights situation LVC states:

- Concern about the killings of leaders and social leaders in the territories, with general patterns such as their participation in processes of restitution of land, substitution of illicit crops, among other means. At the hands of the upsurge of paramilitarism as a strategy of territorial control and fear in the communities.