

CARTAGENA DECLARATION

1. On 3 – 4 February 2005, the second meeting of the international Coordination and Cooperation Board for Colombia took place in Cartagena de Indias to continue the policies and cooperation dialogue initiated in London on 10 July.
2. The meeting was convened by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, and was attended by high-level representatives of the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, United States of America, Japan, México, Norway, Switzerland, The European Union and its member countries, together with representatives of the European Commission, the United Nations system, the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Inter-American Development Bank, The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Colombian Government.
3. The President and the Vice President of Colombia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Minister of Internal Affairs and Justice, the High Commissioner for Peace, the Director of the National Planning Department and the Presidential Counsellor for Social Action participated on behalf of Colombia, submitting reports on the progress of government policies, the peace process, human rights and the National Strategy for International Cooperation.
4. The attending government representatives, members of the G-24, reaffirming the London Declaration, highlighted the importance of the processes started therein. In addition, they acknowledge the efforts made, the mechanisms established, such as the Follow-up Commission, and the achievements attained by the Government of Colombia in relation to the aforementioned Declaration.
The participants favorably received the points of view put forth by civil society as an important contribution to building a dialogue conducive to peace.
5. They reaffirmed their support of the Colombian Government in its efforts to improve the well-being and the security of all citizens, and in the fight against terrorism and illegal drugs. They acknowledge the progress being made within a democratic context by improving governance and promoting institutional presence and law enforcement to ensure respect for the law and human rights throughout the country and for International Humanitarian Law, where applicable.
6. They supported and acknowledge the efforts and progress being made in the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the situation of internal violence stemming from the conflict with illegal armed groups, highlighting the work undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Catholic Church, the Government of Mexico and other countries.
7. They demanded that illegal armed groups commit to a cease fire and a meaningful peace process, show respect for International Humanitarian Law and the rights to which Colombians are entitled, stop attacks on civilian population, recruitment of

minors and extortion, halt the production and trafficking of illegal drugs and immediately free all *kidnapped persons*. In this context, they underscored the benefits that a humanitarian agreement could bring, taking into account the rule of law and International Humanitarian Law.

8. They highlighted the importance and relevance of the disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion processes that have been taking place. They stressed the need to complement the current legal framework with legislation that would fulfil the principles of truth, justice and reparation thus permitting further support for such processes.
9. They highlighted the progress made and the willingness of the Government and state institutions to work towards implementing the recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and encouraged them to continue with their efforts in order to obtain results as soon as possible. In this sense, they stressed the importance of the Government's initiative to develop a National Action Plan for Human Rights and its intention to reach an agreement in this respect with broad sectors of Colombian society, so as to help build an environment that favors peaceful coexistence, justice and reconstruction of the social fabric. They took note of the recent changes made in the judicial system to strengthen justice and the fight against impunity.
10. Acknowledging the achievements attained, they encouraged the Government to continue to strengthen its presence throughout the country, stressing the need to reinforce existing measures to guarantee the right to life and freedom of expression for union members, journalists, human rights defenders and leaders of civil society in their legitimate and important work, urging it to firmly maintain this commitment. They made a vigorous appeal to illegal armed groups to respect these rights.
11. They reiterated their demand that illegal armed groups comply with the recommendation issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia.
12. They congratulated the Colombian Government for the recent destruction of mines stockpiled by the Armed Forces, in compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction. They acknowledge this measure as an additional expression of Colombia's commitment to the consolidation of International Humanitarian Law. They demanded that illegal armed groups immediately cease the production and use of anti-personnel mines.
13. They acknowledge the efforts of the Government and encouraged that they be continued in order to improve the serious conditions facing the vulnerable population, particularly those of the internally displaced, indigenous communities and Afro-Colombians. They expressed the need to strengthen attention to this

worrying humanitarian situation. In this sense, they supported efforts that seek long-lasting solutions, such as the National Plan for Integral Attention to the Displaced Population and the Humanitarian Action Plan, on which an agreement is still pending.

14. They highlighted the importance of the discussion process aimed at establishing the International Cooperation Strategy, in which national public entities, the international community and the civil society have participated actively. At the same time, they welcomed the Colombian Government's willingness to provide space for democratic participation and encouraged it to continue working in this direction.
15. They assumed a commitment to continue to support the International Cooperation Strategy in a decisive and concrete manner, pursuant to the priorities established in the six thematic blocs: "Forest; Return to Civility; Productive and Alternative Development and Peace Programs; Forced Displacement and Humanitarian Assistance". In this context they acknowledged the Governments' commitment to the Millennium Goals.
16. They stressed the support provided by the international community and the importance of dialogue and cooperation between the Government of Colombia and civil society in all its diversity, including the private sector. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Government to continue working in a coordinated manner, with the participation of civil society and relevant international bodies, within the framework of the London Process.