

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LWBC HERALDS THE HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE END OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE COLOMBIAN STATE AND THE FARC-EP

Quebec City and Bogotá, August 24th 2016 - Lawyers without Borders Canada (LWBC) heralds the historic announcement of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Agreement for ending the conflict and the construction of a stable and lasting peace between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (FARC- EP). With this General Agreement, it is hoped that a new chapter of peace and coexistence for Colombia may begin.

The negotiation process that began in 2012 between the parties is now completed and ends an armed conflict of over fifty years that has caused millions of victims. The agreement covers the implementation of a policy for comprehensive agricultural development, political participation, the end of armed conflict, solutions to the problem of illicit drugs, measures to ensure respect for the rights of victims and the implementation, verification and the popular referendum of the peace process.

According to the lawyer Pascal Paradis, Director General of LWBC, "Today is a historic day for every Colombian directly or indirectly affected by the conflict. LWBC congratulates the parties on reaching a Final Peace Agreement. Furthermore, we recognize that the real success of these agreements shall be determined by their implementation to ensure non-repetition and the construction of a stable and lasting peace. After the official signature by the parties of the final Agreement that should take place in September, Colombians will be invited to analyze it and express themselves in the referendum. Finally, LWBC urges that this process has all the necessary guarantees to ensure the widest possible civic participation."

LWBC will continue monitor the peace process in Colombia. LWBC will especially work to ensure the recognition of the rights of victims in the eventual implementation of the agreements reached in accordance with international standards. In this respect, LWBC recently published the report *Peace Negotiations: Observations on the partial agreements on victims in Colombia* (only [available in Spanish](#)) that analyzes the proposed model of transitional justice in terms of international law.

[Lawyers without Borders Canada \(LWBC\):](#)

Lawyers without Borders Canada (LWBC) is a nongovernmental organization dedicated to international cooperation whose mission is to help defend the human rights of those most vulnerable by advocating for access to justice and legal representation. LWBC is active in over 20 countries.



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