

GSUM Radar

nº 23 | 19 November to 4 December, 2016



Colombia

New chance for peace



Venezuela

Political Dialogue and Multilateral Impasses



BRICS Policy Center Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas - BRICS



GSUM

Global South Unit for Mediation



Colombia

New chance for peace

In the last few weeks, with the signing and approval of the new peace deal between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country took crucial steps in the direction of peace. In a ceremony more discrete than the one held in Cartagena in September, on November 24 the parties signed the new deal in the Colón Theater, in Bogotá, in front of 800 guests. The signing was held in the **presence** of victims of the conflict, ambassadors of different countries, ex-presidents, high judges, members of Congress and representatives of civil society. On the occasion, the top leader of the guerrilla, Rodrigo “Timochenko” Londoño Echeverría, expressed his solidarity to all victims of the conflict and vowed that from now on **“the word will be the only weapon used by Colombians”**. President Santos, for his part, also celebrated the final agreement and signaled that he will enlist **“all political parties, all sectors of society to participate, contribute and achieve, in this manner, a great national consensus for the implementation of peace”**.

The method for ratifying the new agreement – **a vote in Congress** – was revealed days before the signing. In an official statement, the President said that he was in a hurry and justified his choice by raising concern with the **fragility of the ceasefire** (see *Radar n. 22*) and with the growth of violence directed towards social movements’ leaders. On November 21, in an **open letter** to the President, FARC asked for concrete measures regarding the 200 social activists already killed this year in Colombia. Santos said he feared the polarization that another referendum would cause and defended the legitimacy of the congressional mechanism as representative of the popular vote and Colombian departments. In view of this, he concluded that **“after hearing all the proposals and alternatives, and in agreement with FARC, it is clear that the most convenient and legitimate way to ratify this new agreement is by means of the Congress of the Republic, where all political viewpoints and options of the country are represented, from the extreme left to the extreme right”**.

Amid **protests** by opposition leaders, still in favor of a popular vote, the agreement **was sent to Congress** immediately after the signing by the parties. On November 29, the agreement was **ratified by the Senate** by 75 votes to 0. The session, which lasted over 12 hours, included interventions by the chief negotiator of the government, Humberto de la Calle, by leaders of the “Yes” and “No” campaigns, and by dozens of senators. On the

following day, by 130 votes to 0, the House of Representatives equally gave its approval to the agreement. The representatives of the Democratic Center party abstained from both votes.

With the approval, on December 1 the “D-Day” inaugurated the timetable for the demobilization of FARC. On the following day, the **Commission for the Follow-up, Impulse and Verification of the Peace Agreement and the National Council for Reintegration** were installed. The Commission will be charged with accompanying the advances in implementation, and will be made up of leaders of the Havana negotiations. The Council will be responsible for guaranteeing the implementation of the rehabilitation of the ex-guerrillas, and will have two members of each party – Pastor Alape and Jairo Quintero will represent FARC, and the members of the government yet to be confirmed. In a controversial debate, moreover, the Constitutional Court will decide in the coming days on the validity of the **fast track** method for the approval of measures regarding the implementation of the agreement, a mechanism introduced by the Legislative Act for Peace that is considered fundamental by the government.

Sources:

- INFOLATAM. “Líderes de FARC llegan a Bogotá para implementación de nuevo acuerdo de paz”. (21/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/PDGNal>
- INFOLATAM. “Santos pide implementar ya acuerdo con FARC que firmarán el jueves”. (22/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/7J5CnQ>
- INFOLATAM. “Santos dice que Congreso refrendará acuerdo de paz porque es la mejor opción”. (23/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/URpKDg>
- EL ESPECTADOR. “Regocijo y ovación en la plaza de Bolívar tras la firma del acuerdo definitivo de paz”. (24/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/CZDDtF>
- EL ESPECTADOR. ““Que la palabra sea la única arma de los colombianos”: Timochenko”. (24/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/qYoQNH>
- EL ESPECTADOR. “Corre el reloj para el día D”. (24/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/ALpeMX>
- SEMANA. “El día en que las FARC llegaron de cachaco a firmar la paz”. (24/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/Qk02ea>
- SEMANA. ““El Gobierno cedió ante la presión militar”: HRW a Santos”. (24/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/8fawYv>
- EL PAÍS. “Con muerte de guerrilleros en Bolívar hubo violación del cese el fuego, dice informe”. (30/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/rBvwjB>
- EL TIEMPO. “Uribismo deja acuerdo de paz y se va por la campaña”. (22/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/RVSEKW>
- EL TIEMPO. “Consejo de Estado dice que Congreso sí puede refrendar acuerdo de paz”. (29/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/6o3ukR>
- EL TIEMPO. “Senado refrendó el acuerdo de paz con las Farc”. (30/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/8BV1mE>
- EL TIEMPO. “Congreso terminó de refrendar el nuevo acuerdo con las Farc”. (30/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/BzKyz9>
- EL TIEMPO. “CIDH da la bienvenida a aprobación de acuerdo con las Farc”. (01/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/fGvnIX>
- SEMANA. “Se aplaza decisión sobre Fast Track en la Corte Constitucional”. (02/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/gHxsGb>
- EL PAÍS. “Gobierno insiste que hoy es el 'Día D' que da inicio a desmovilización de las Farc”. (01/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/E2HJAc>
- EL PAÍS. “Proceso con el ELN queda suspendido hasta enero”. (30/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/fjbUI9>
- SEMANA. “¿Cómo va a ser la implementación de los acuerdos de paz?”. (01/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/gebWUe>
- EL ESPECTADOR. “Claves para entender en qué consiste el día D”. (01/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/kRiEMO>
- EL ESPECTADOR. ““El 77% del Congreso refrendó acuerdo de paz”: Santos”. (01/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/lyJZ23>

Reports

❖ Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

Peace is Ratified. When is “D-Day?”. (01/12/16): <https://goo.gl/QF0kIZ>

❖ Colombia Calls by Virginia Bouvier

Happy Thanksgiving: Peace Accord Signed Today in Bogota. (24/11/16): <https://goo.gl/bN0BGS>

❖ Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP)

¿Quién sigue matando a los líderes sociales en Colombia?. (28/11/16): <https://goo.gl/kfjDpX>

Radiografía del Nuevo Acuerdo: ¿Qué tanto se renegoció? (22/11/16): <https://goo.gl/j1Uflc>

ABC del monitoreo y la verificación del cese al fuego y la dejación de armas de las FARC. (30/11/16): <https://goo.gl/43ekrs>

❖ La Silla Vacía

Cristianos y Lgbti: ambos sienten que ganaron con el Acuerdo. (18/11/16): <https://goo.gl/qzL5kS>

Con la refrendación en el Congreso, Santos y Uribe ganan. (21/11/16): <https://goo.gl/dSMiYM>

Statements

❖ Presidencia de Colombia

Alocución del Presidente Juan Manuel Santos sobre la firma del nuevo Acuerdo de Paz. (22/11/16): <https://goo.gl/vaKDYF>

Intervención del Presidente Juan Manuel Santos en el acto de la Firma del Nuevo Acuerdo de Paz con las Farc. (24/11/16): <https://goo.gl/len6pw>

Palabras del Presidente Juan Manuel Santos en la Primera Macrorrueda para la Reconciliación. (01/12/16): <https://goo.gl/keJygn>

❖ FARC-EP

Carta abierta al Señor Presidente: Juan Manuel Santos. (21/11/16): <https://goo.gl/rRPi4M>

Que la palabra sea la única arma de los colombianos. (24/11/16): <https://goo.gl/D7vqCE>

Carta pública a señores Facebook Colombia. (30/11/16): <https://goo.gl/4shuQu>

Radars GSUM

nº 23 | De 19 de novembro a 4 de dezembro de 2016

FARC-EP hacen reconocimiento público de responsabilidades frente a familiares de los 12 diputados del Valle. (04/12/16): <https://goo.gl/oIXudl>

❖ Mesa de Conversaciones

Acuerdo Final para la terminación del conflicto y la construcción de una paz estable y duradera, 24 de noviembre de 2016. (24/11/16): <https://goo.gl/5zjsWm>

Comunicado Conjunto #6. (22/11/16): <https://goo.gl/nlp6d2>

Comunicado Conjunto #7. (23/11/16): <https://goo.gl/CqHCWV>

Comunicado Conjunto #8. (01/12/16): <https://goo.gl/8TK3dM>

❖ Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU)

Secretary-General 'Greatly Encouraged' by Ratification of Colombia Peace Accord, Voices Hope for Rapid Turn to Ending Violence. (01/12/16): <https://goo.gl/71MKe8>

Security Council Press Statement on Colombia's Peace Agreement. (01/12/16): <https://goo.gl/bbykGe>

❖ Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA)

Support for the Peace Process and the Termination of the Armed Conflict in Colombia. (18/11/16): <https://goo.gl/ihWsED>

❖ Human Rights Watch

Letter to President Santos on the new peace agreement with the FARC. (23/11/16): <https://goo.gl/6Rb7yu>

Pronunciamento de José Miguel Vivanco. (24/11/16): <https://goo.gl/cK4X1S>



Venezuela

Political Dialogue and Multilateral Impasses

Venezuela is in the middle of an important moment of the dialogue between government and opposition (see *Radars n. 21 and 22*). The process is currently facilitated by the Vatican and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and has resulted, so far, in two meetings discussing the negotiation of possible democratic exits from the current crisis. On November 23, the Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro met with the

ex-President of Spain, José Luis Zapatero, one of the mediators of dialogue. During the conversation, Maduro confirmed that “the government will remain firm in the process”.

This statement was made on the same day that Henrique Capriles, member of the opposition party *Popular Will* (VP) and former presidential candidate, said that Maduro had removed himself from the negotiations. This claim was backed up by a comment made by opposition politician Jesús Torrealba, member of the coalition *Table of Democratic Unity* (MUD), who told the news agency Reuters that “the government, in an irresponsible way, froze the process by not showing up to two technical meetings”.

The next phase of the dialogue process is arranged for December 6, which is also the deadline for the government to show compliance with terms determined in the agreement. Jesús Torrealba stated that “on November 30 it marks one month since the first meeting of the negotiation table and [so far] the government has not completed its side of the deal”. According to the “Living in Peace” statement released on November 12, one of tasks attributed to both parts would be “to overcome economic hardships [and combat] insecurity and criminal violence”. Going further, MUD also informed that in the event that the government shows no commitment to what has been agreed by the date of the next meeting, the opposition coalition will no longer attend negotiations.

Another event that ended up adding to the scenario of political instability in Venezuela was the attempt of the VP party to advance a “democratic exit from the crisis”. On December 1, the party requested that the National Assembly (AN) of Venezuela move forward in trying the President of the country for abandonment of duty. VP said that it is necessary “to find a faster way to remove Nicolás Maduro through a constitutional path, in which the people can vote and decide”.

One of the most notable facts of recent weeks, however, was the attempt to expel Venezuela from MERCOSUR. On December 2, by means of a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of Argentina, the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay determined that Venezuela “terminate its exercise of the rights inherent in the status of MERCOSUL member state”. According to the statement, Venezuela was unable to comply with the requirements defined by the Protocol of Accession of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In response, by means of a communiqué, Venezuela stated that the decision imposed a fraudulent suspension of the rights of the Venezuelan state. In the same

statement, the government called the suspension a “serious illegal act”. According to the country, this sanction has no legal validity, as it lacked an express legal procedure and a collegial body competent to decide on expulsion. In addition, Venezuela claims to have incorporated 95% of the standards required for membership in four years. According to the government, this incorporation has been done more efficiently by Venezuela than by the other member countries of the regional bloc.

Despite the animosity between Venezuela and the founding countries of MERCOSUR, the Uruguayan chancellery has made itself available to talk to the Venezuelan government. Tabaré Vázquez confirmed that “the Uruguayan government and the President always choose dialogue and the exchange of ideas”, therefore, “nothing is irreversible, everything can change, [as long as there are] legal grounds”.

Sources:

- AGENCIA EFE. “Venezuela se mantiene en diálogo a la espera de que se cumplan los acuerdos”. (23/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/L42YDY>
- INFOLATAM. “Gobierno venezolano niega haber abandonado la mesa de diálogo con oposición”. (23/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/ByjMSz>
- INFOLATAM. “Oposición venezolana reitera si Gobierno no cumple acuerdos dejará el diálogo”. (30/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/vNkhHF>
- INFOLATAM. “Partido de López pide retomar proceso a Maduro por supuesto abandono de cargo”. (1/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/c0xS3u>
- INFOLATAM. “Chavismo dice no abandonará el diálogo y pide a oposición que no dé ultimatum”. (2/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/rmVl4N>
- INFOLATAM. “Aprobación de presidente venezolano cae en octubre a 19,5%, su nivel más bajo”. (17/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/PIFrB6>
- REUTERS. “Venezuela opposition says Vatican-brokered talks frozen”. (23/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/LSZvQS>
- REUTERS. “Venezuela decries MERCOSUR ‘coup’ after trade bloc suspension”. (2/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/jv4ooN>
- REUTERS. “Venezuela is suspended from MERCOSUR: Brazilian Oficial”. (1/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/al7q6j>
- THE NEW YORK TIMES. “Venezuela Opposition Says Vatican-Brokered Talks Frozen”. (23/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/Pvrv8Z>
- ESTADO DE MINAS. “Diálogo para resolver crise venezolana cambaleia”. (24/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/NaaXk6>
- EL PAÍS. “Mercosur suspende a Venezuela y aumenta la presión sobre Nicolás Maduro”. (2/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/fMq1ur>
- DEUTSCHE WELLE. “Mercosul confirma suspensão da Venezuela”. (2/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/GrPXo4>
- BBC. “Mercosur suspends Venezuela over trade and human rights”. (2/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/Fp6IZS>
- EL NUEVO HERALD. “Venezuela rechaza suspensión de Mercosur y proclama su permanência”. (2/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/dC5Lpz>

Statements

❖ Henrique Capriles

Tweet. (23/11/16): <https://goo.gl/zSymBD>

❖ Voluntad Popular

Radar GSUM

nº 23 | De 19 de novembro a 4 de dezembro de 2016

Voluntad Popular propone declarar abandono del cargo a Nicolás Maduro y referendarlo con el pueblo. (01/12/16): <https://goo.gl/lBhYgZ>

Luis Somaza: “#SiHaySaida a este gobierno y es a través de nuestra Constitución”. (02/12/2016): <https://goo.gl/EjNxfM>

❖ Mesa de Unidad Democrática

Jesus Chuo Torrealba: Venezuela necessita Gobierno de emergencia y de unidad nacional. (30/11/16): <https://goo.gl/lBdJHe>

Si el Régimen no cumple, MUD no asistirá al diálogo el 6D. (30/11/16): <https://goo.gl/wjXxmi>

Torrealba: Unidad analiza revisar su papel en el diálogo si no hay resultados concretos de cara al 6D. (29/11/16): <https://goo.gl/Acz8Os>

❖ Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela

Presidente Maduro se reunió con el exmandatario Rodríguez Zapatero. (23/11/16): <https://goo.gl/yzZXQR>

❖ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores

Venezuela en ejercicio de la Presidencia Pro-Témpore denuncia intención de suspenderla del Mercosur. (3/12/16): <https://goo.gl/Bdjklf>

Presidente Maduro: Venezuela seguirá ejerciendo la Presidencia Pro Témpore del Mercosur. (3/12/16): <https://goo.gl/GSy8Ph>

❖ União das Nações Sul-americanas (UNASUL)

Comunicado de la Secretaria General de UNASUR Frente a La Declaración del Consejo Permanente de la OEA de Apoyar el Diálogo en Venezuela. (17/11/16): <https://goo.gl/YOlmzh>

Presidencia Pro Témpore venezolana instala II Foro de Participación Ciudadana de UNASUR. (18/11/16): <https://goo.gl/VFwoSb>

❖ Ministério de Relações Exteriores e Culto da República da Argentina

Situación de Venezuela en el MERCOSUR. (2/12/16): <https://goo.gl/l8fCnu>

❖ República Oriental del Uruguay

Radar GSUM

nº 23 | De 19 de noviembre a 4 de diciembre de 2016

Vázquez sobre situación de Venezuela: “El Gobierno siempre está abierto al diálogo, con fundamentos”. (4/12/16): <https://goo.gl/ZwBpnb>

Uruguay entiende que Venezuela tiene derecho a seguir participando en el Mercosur con voz y sin voto. (2/12/16): <https://goo.gl/bhIL6H>

Reports

❖ Infolatam

Maduro y el diálogo. (05/12/16): <https://goo.gl/nbQk17>

❖ Iniciativa Democrática de España y las Américas (IDEA)

Documentos para el diálogo en Venezuela. (24/11/16): <https://goo.gl/wSgomC>

❖ Foreign Policy

At least Lawmakers in Venezuela Can Agree Its Wrong To Massacre Civilians. (30/11/2016): <https://goo.gl/zSDktq>

About the Radar

The GSUM Radar is a biweekly monitoring platform of the current Latin American conflicts.
(Translation: Alec O'Donoghue)



Follow us on Facebook! www.bricspolicycenter.org/gsum | gsum@bricspolicycenter.org



BRICS Policy Center Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas - BRICS
63 Dona Mariana St – Botafogo – Rio de Janeiro / RJ
Phone number: (21) 2535-0447 | CEP/ZIP CODE: 22280-020
www.bricspolicycenter.org | bpc@bricspolicycenter.org

