

National Afro-Colombian Peace Council (CONPA)

PUBLIC STATEMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ETHNIC CHAPTER NOW!

The National Afro-Colombian Peace Council (CONPA), as an independent body of the Black community, met in an assembly in Bogotá on February 27 and 28, 2021, to conduct a detailed analysis of the national and territorial context and assess the status of the implementation of the peace accord, particularly of its Ethnic Chapter.

Within this framework, we highlight the importance of PEACE: a fundamental right, a synthesis, and a prerequisite for exercising other human rights and constitutional guarantees. Therefore, we reiterate our desire to build peace from an ethnic-racial and territorial perspective. We stress the importance of this process needing to be carried out by the Colombian State. This process must be based on respect and self-determination, self-governance, free prior informed consent, social, economic, cultural identity and integrity, the rights to lands, territories, resources, and the right to restitution entitled to us as ethnic communities.

Therefore, we demand strong efforts from the National Government to implement the Peace Accords and comprehensively develop its components according to the established commitments. To date, the implementation of the Peace Accords continues to be deficient. The agreed measures have not reached 5% advancement. There is no land-use progress or land access, there are no specific budgets for the execution of the Territorially Focused Development Plans (PDET) ethnic initiative, and there is a permanent backsliding in the right to prior consultation. There is a lack of a cross-cutting ethnic approach within the National Integral Illicit Crop Substitution Program (PNIS) and Comprehensive Community and Municipal Plans for Substitution and Alternative Development (PISDA). There is no articulation with the PDETs, and despite the murders and other forms of violence to which ethnic communities and leaders are subjected, no progress has been made in guarantees or an appropriate ethnic reincorporation. There has been a failure to strengthen collective self-protection measures, including the Cimarrona Guard.

Additionally, the lack of financial and technical resources for ethnic peoples and organizations to submit reports to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the Truth Commission (CEV), and the Unit for the Search of Disappeared Persons (UBPD), and to obtain the legal and specialized assistance required in the framework of transitional justice is a significant obstacle to effective ethnic participation in the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition (SIVJRNR). This situation represents obstacles to the urgent process of reconstructing the truth and providing collective reparations for the Black community. It is aggravated by the

lack of measures regarding comprehensive reparation for peace. None of the 488 Ethnic Collective Reparation Subjects (SRC) reported by the Attention Unit for Comprehensive Reparation for Victims (UARIV—December 2020) have completed the reparation process.

Providing culturally relevant political, institutional, and financial solutions to implementing the Ethnic Chapter and the Peace Accords is necessary and vital to guarantee the Black community's survival. We continue to be victimized by a war that does not cease for us. The resurgence of violence in our territories and the reconfiguration of the armed conflict in the post-accord context keep ethnic peoples at the center of the conflict and in the front line of the damages and severe violations of human rights in Colombia. Our women continue to suffer the excesses of violence without implementing the safeguards for gender, women, family, and generation in the Ethnic Chapter. We do not understand the recurring non-compliance with Auto 005 issued to protect our people since 2009 by the Constitutional Court without any enforcement. The humanitarian crisis urgently requires implementing this and other protection orders of the Constitutional Court and adopting the *Humanitarian Agreement Now!* throughout the Colombian territory. We also urge the National Government to fulfill the civic strikes commitments in Chocó and Buenaventura immediately. Similarly, to address the humanitarian crisis in the Colombian Caribbean.

Our context analysis as the CONPA assembly allows us to see that the Black community continues to suffer directly and disproportionately from a prolonged humanitarian crisis that threatens our ancestral and community permanence and survival in the territory. This is in addition to the historical layers of devastation. We have been victims as a collective due to enslavement, structural and institutional racism, stigmatization, colonialism, and social injustice. Today, all this has been exacerbated by the national, environmental, and public health emergency generated by COVID 19, which reveals the communities' fragilities and society regarding access to fundamental rights for the preservation of life in conditions of dignity and justice.

We express our deep concern that the new dynamics of the war have not only put our lives at risk in the collective territories but have also been transferred to all other Black territories, including those at the urban level. Our people live in massive numbers due to the internal displacements that have been generated by the same violence, the current economic model, and social inequality. Likewise, we express our utmost concern that our young people, boys, and girls, the seeds of the Black community, are being used by the different armed groups as weapons for the actions aimed at our extermination in a sustained and systematic manner. We urge the National Government to resume the peace talks with the ELN and other armed groups that destroy our peace and tranquility without further delay.

National Council for Afro-Colombian Peace (CONPA).

Bogotá, DC February 28, 2021

