

Mr. President:
IVÁN DUQUE MÁRQUEZ
Republic of Colombia

CP: NUVIA MARGOTH PEÑA GARZON, President of the State Council
CP: ALBERTO ROJAS RÍOS, President of the Constitutional Court
CP: CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

REF: The Special Peace Electoral Constituencies are an Opportunity to Strengthen Colombia's Democracy. "Delivering for the Victims".

Bogotá, March 1, 2021

From the Ethnic Commission for Peace and Territorial Rights, we have insisted on the need to continue building bonds of harmony and communication to solve the problems that affect the lives of the peoples of Colombia. We resist from the territories that have been converted once again, as a cause of the pandemic, into fields of war and death, while we observe the impassive silence of the national government and its institutions in the face of the pain experienced by the families and communities who are victims.

We insist on achieving our right to peace, which we preserve as a dream that should not fade away despite the war efforts of those who have infiltrated public management, placing the peace agreement in a scenario of low importance and creating a facade of compliance and implementation at the national level. We especially regret that while this is happening, the peoples are entering into an ethnocide by social destruction and the dismantlement of communities that leads to the violent murders of ethnic leaders and authorities, which is increasing with each passing day. Mr. President, 2020 ended in a high level of impunity with 91 massacres and more than 1200 leaders murdered. In the year 2021, there have been 6 massacres and 15 leaders murdered, overwhelming figures that to date have no response from the government and no concrete and effective actions to stop the bloodshed.

Given the recent results of the U.S. elections and the new policies and declarations of supporting peace made by the new President Joe Biden, we hope that the conditions of trust and adequate guarantees for the victims and society, in general, will be established in our country. Also, that there is a prompt and comprehensive implementation of the final peace agreement in all territories throughout the country. Concerning our Ancestral Peoples and Nations, the fulfillment of the Ethnic Chapter, the Final Peace Agreement is a State Agreement that must be fulfilled and take account for the existence of the multi-ethnic and pluricultural vision manifested in the Colombian Political Constitution of 1991.

In that order, we respectfully demand an end to the delay and denial of the Special Peace Electoral Constituencies (chapter 2 of the peace accord) as its implementation would allow the regions most affected by the conflict and their communities to participate in policy making, rather than observe the Congress of the Republic make decisions that directly affect their destinies. In our case, about 40% of these seats are located in areas of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous population. We, the Ethnic Peoples of

Colombia, urgently insist on the institutions involved in the legal process in the State Council with Case No. 110010324000-2017-00474-00. to resolve promptly and adequately the implementation of the Peace District and the allocation of the 16 seats that correspond to the victims collectively. Time is pressing and having lost the first legislature, we ask you, Mr. President, let us not lose the second. Denying political participation constitutes in effect a large-scale re-victimization.

Peace is our right, our duty to guarantee life and survival for all.