

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL BATTLES

By Iván Márquez, August 24, 2016 (Member of the Secretariat of the FARC-EP and Head of that organization's peace delegation in Havana) Source: <http://anncol.eu/colombia/politica-economia/item/5036-la-mas-hermosa-de-todas-las-batallas>

Translator's note: Readers may well ask why the remarks of the head of the FARC-EP team negotiating with the Colombian government in Havana appear on a website focusing on Cuba. Here's the reasoning. First, the Cuban government had a major role in encouraging, facilitating, and hosting negotiations that, after four years, ended August 24, 2014 in a peace agreement. Márquez and Humberto de la Calle, head of the Colombian government team of negotiators, signed the accord.

In addition, the leader of Cuba's revolution and former president Fidel Castro has long been a close observer of political developments in Colombia and of the insurgency itself. He was present in Bogota on April 9, 1948, when the populist leader Jorge Eliécer Gaitán was assassinated. The violence and turmoil that exploded then has continued to the present time. Castro has studied and developed opinions about the FARC-EP and its longtime leader Manuel Marulanda.

Lastly, Cuba's revolutionary leaders, Jose Marti among them, have had an eye toward Latin American unity and close relations among Latin American and Caribbean peoples. That consciousness probably had much to do with why Fidel Castro was in Bogota in 1948 and why he remained interested in Colombia.

In an addendum, below, we present excerpts from Fidel Castro's writings on Colombia along with background information.

We have closed today in Havana, Cuba, the process toward the most sought-after peace agreement in Colombian history. Land, democracy, victims, politics minus armed conflict, and implementation of the accords through international supervision: these are some of the elements of an agreement that will have to be converted, sooner than later, into bedrock norms guaranteeing a future of dignity for everyone. We will do this through a primary constituent [assembly] (1).

We can state that armed conflict is at an end and that debate over ideas is beginning. We say frankly that we have concluded the most beautiful of all battles: that of putting in place the basis for peace and living together.

The peace agreement is not the point of arrival; instead it's the point of departure for a multi-ethnic and multicultural people, united under flags of inclusion, to be the smithy and sculptor of change and social transformation masses of the people are demanding.

Today we are handing over to the Colombian people the transformative power of the rebellion we have been building for over half a century, so that with it, and with the force of unity, they may begin to build a future society, the society of our shared dreams, and with a shrine

dedicated to democracy, social justice, sovereignty and relations of brotherhood and respect with the whole world.

We have signed commitments on the six points making up the agenda of the General Agreements [established prior to the formal talks]. They are:

One, "Towards a new Colombian countryside: comprehensive rural reform," which seeks the transformation of conditions of misery and inequality dominating in the agricultural areas of our country through planning and programs for the good life and for development. The start will be to give rural communities the power to grant titles to land.

Two, "Political participation: democratic opening in order to attain peace." The emphasis there is on getting rid of exclusion through an expansion of democracy that allows broad citizen participation in defining the country's destiny.

Three, a "Solution to the problem of illicit drugs", through which new policies will be designed to fight against illegal drugs. Account will be taken of their social context and the focus will be on emphasizing human rights over the shortcomings of the misbegotten "war against drugs."

Four, an agreement on "Victims," which consists of a "Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition", a "Special Jurisdiction for Peace", plans for comprehensive reparation, land restitution measures, guarantees of non-repetition, and a unit to look for persons given up as disappeared in the midst of the conflict and because of it – and more.

Five, an agreement on the "End of Conflict;" this includes a bilateral and definitive ceasefire, and end to hostilities, a laying down of arms, and mechanisms for monitoring and verification put into effect by the United Nations through deployment of observers from countries belonging to the CELAC alliance. Also, agreements were reached on security guarantees and clearing away paramilitary forces; a unit for investigating and dismantling criminal organizations, especially those thought to be successors of the paramilitaries and their support networks. (This will be done from a viewpoint that prioritizes avoiding bloodshed and pain over military considerations.) Another section of this agreement covers re-insertion of members of the FARC-EP into civilian life - economically, politically, and socially. It rests on pardon and on the broadest political amnesty with the idea that the road will open up for our conversion to a legal political movement within the new social context emerging from the peace accords, considered as a whole.

Six, there is an agreement on "Implementation, verification and endorsement," which provides for guarantees for planning, funding, budgeting for, and creating regulatory changes allowing for commitments to be implemented.

As each point was being developed, the Gender Sub-Commission was working parallel to the discussions and analysing the issues and the resulting texts that were agreed upon. It provided input promoting a full defence of all human beings.

Our job is done. We'll be in Colombia in the coming days to hold the National Guerrilla Conference, which represents our highest authority, and to which we are subject. We must submit to its judgement the political work embodied in the Special Agreement on Peace in Havana. We confess that the work has been tough, full of difficulties, with bright points but also perhaps with shadows. We've approached it with hearts full of love for the homeland and for the poor of Colombia. We were confident all along that we were faithfully interpreting the feelings and ideas of our comrades in arms who always fought thinking about a political solution to the conflict and above all about the possibility of a just homeland, with none of those horrific chasms that today are interposed between development and poverty.

We send out our message of love to the comrades held in prisons and jails within the country and beyond its borders. We hope to have them with us in building the New Colombia our founding fathers were dreaming of, and doing so in freedom.

We embrace the people of Colombia with all the strength of our heart as we reaffirm that the guerrilla struggle taking place throughout the national territory had no justification other than to lend dignity to human life, within the framework of the universal right attending all peoples in the world to rise up in arms against injustice and oppression. Unfortunately, in every war, but especially in ones that last a long time, mistakes are made that inevitably weigh upon the civilian population. With the signing of this peace agreement, which implicitly bears a commitment to non-repetition, we are hoping in a definitive way to leave behind the danger of weapons being turned against citizens.

Peace is for everyone; all are called to reflection and to solidarity. It embraces every strata of our society and says to us it's possible to move the country forward. To the layers of society subsisting in the catacombs of despair, neglect and official neglect, we say, "yes," it's possible, and especially if we trust in the inner strength and determination we all have within us to bring us out of misery and poverty. While we live, everything is possible, and things are much better if we do things in an organized way. There are the young people of Colombia, studying and always generous, who are willing to help in the collective search for solutions to social problems.

There are the peasants, men and women humble and very pure who through their work and sweat look to the furrow to find food sovereignty in Colombia. We offer them a place in the struggle for the comprehensive, rural reform that was agreed upon. We invite communities of Afro-Colombians and indigenous people to look at the topography of the entire approach reflecting varied ethnic needs that we agreed to. It was won through your own struggles. We say to women that we will make good on the focus on gender permeating the Special Peace Agreement.

Powerful force of change stemming from the dreams and hopes of a people claiming their rights cannot be stopped. Nothing can move us off this road. The people of Colombia require answers to their concerns and the government must respond with tangible actions.

There will be international monitoring of what both parties have committed to, not only the guerrillas, as some might like, but also the government which has committed to basic themes like ending the fighting; re-integrating the guerrillas into political, economic, and social life; and providing guarantees of security and the guerrillas' transition into a legal political movement.

For us, great expectations arise as to the commitment taking shape in favor of institutional reforms and adjustments needed for dealing with the challenges of building peace. For that, we think, the field must be opened up, after the plebiscite, to the Great National Political Pact that the parties have proposed. We extend an invitation to active political forces of the nation so that such a space can be used for devising a new framework for political and social co-existence guaranteeing peacefulness to coming generations.

We will have peace if the agreements are honored. The people have to be constituted as the main guarantor of their implementation. The Special Peace Agreement and the people must be like the sea and wave together, where the agreements are the sea and the people are the ever-present wave requiring fulfilment.

In the name of the FARC, I address the nations of the world asking the peoples and their governments for solidarity, and for their backing in the full sense, so that the longest conflict on the continent becomes old business and a reference point of the past that must not be repeated.

We ask the Government of the United States that long has supported the Colombian State's war against the guerrillas and against dissent, to continue in a transparent way its support for Colombian efforts to restore peace. We will always be hoping for humanitarian gestures from Washington, consistent with the kindness characterizing the majority of North American people, friends as they are of reconciliation and solidarity. And, we are waiting for Simon Trinidad [to be released from prison.]

We hope also that the ELN (National Liberation Army) can find a way toward rapprochement in order that the peace we crave may be fully achieved through the involvement of all Colombians.

Finally, the FARC expresses its deepest appreciation to the government led by General Raul Castro Ruz and to the people of Cuba for all that he has done for peace in Colombia. Eternal gratitude to the homeland of Martí! We also thank the kingdom and the people of Norway for their generous support and for their contribution as guarantor to the efforts toward reconciliation in our country. We extend our appreciation and affection to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its ongoing assistance to her sister Colombia in solidifying the peace agreement. We thank both Nicolas Maduro for continuing the work entrusted to you by President Chavez and President Michelle Bachelet and the people of Chile for their extraordinary accompaniment on the way to a peace that, as they know very well, is essential for consolidating peace in the continent.

Let us pay the most deeply felt homage to those who fell in this long fratricidal conflict. To families, mothers, widows, brothers, children, and friends, our condolences for the mourning and sadness that war [has brought you]. We join our hands and our voices as we shout out, "NEVER, NEVER AGAIN."

White smoke has emerged from the conclave in Havana. Habemus Pacem. We have peace. Viva Colombia! Long live peace!

Translated by W. T. Whitney Jr.

Note:

1. A primary constituent assembly aspires to establish a new state and new political system; it's different from a derived constituent assembly which reforms an existing constitution.

Addendum:

Notes on Fidel Castro as student of conflict in Colombia

As a leader of the Cuban Federation of University Students, Fidel Castro was in Bogotá in April 1948 helping to organize student leaders from throughout Latin America. They had in mind a continent-wide student congress that would mount protests against the Pan-American Union which was holding its 9th Conference in Bogotá then. But the Pan-American Union disappeared at that gathering, and the Organization of American States was born. The switch happened under the gavel of U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall, intent upon bringing Latin American and Caribbean states together to fight communism.

In Bogota, Fidel Castro, hardly beyond his teenage years, was in the thick of things. The unveiling of the OAS coincided in time and place with an assassination that would help shape subsequent Colombian history and indirectly contribute to the founding of the FARC-EP in 1964. Jorge Eliécer Gaitán was a charismatic political leader who headed masses of Colombians fighting for land reform, against exclusion, and against a wave of deadly right wing

violence, evolving over several years. He had been expected to win the 1950 presidential elections.

Gaitán was going to speak at the student congress. Castro had already met with lawyer Gaitán and was to have met him again at his office at 2 PM, on April 9, 1948. However, an assassin shot and killed Gaitán at 11 AM. That crime augmented violent conflict that would permeate Colombia's political life for decades to come.

The intellectual authors of Gaitán's assassination remain unknown. Colombian president Mariano Ospina Pérez and Secretary of State Marshall charged that communists were responsible. The CIA has been accused. In the immediate aftermath, chaos, killings, and destruction overwhelmed Bogotá. Fidel Castro remained for a few days, fighting with leftist students defending against attacks.

Later Fidel Castro kept close track of the FARC-EP and of its leader Manuel Marulanda. In 2008 he wrote an article and published a book about the Colombian civil war, taking those occasions to assess the FARC's strategies and objectives and also problems with its conduct of the war. He reflects on guerrilla struggles in general. Translated excerpts from the article and the book appear below.

Castro's article of July 5, 2008, [entitled Pax Romana](#), centers on conflict in Colombia and on the FARC-CP. He writes:

"The deceased leader of the FARC was born on May 12, 1932, according to his father's testimony. Marulanda, a poor peasant with a liberal thinking and a Gaitán follower, had started his armed resistance 60 years back. He was a guerrilla before us; he had reacted to the carnage of peasants carried out by the oligarchy.

"The Communist Party that he joined later on was the same as every other in Latin America, being under the influence of the Communist Party of the USSR and not of Cuba. They were in solidarity with our Revolution but they were not subordinated to it The Colombian Communist Party never contemplated the idea of conquering power through the armed struggle. The guerrilla was a resistance front and not the basic instrument to conquer revolutionary power, as had been the case in Cuba. In 1993, at the 8th FARC Conference, they decided to break ranks with the Communist Party.

"... Marulanda, a man with a remarkable natural talent and a leader's gift, did not have the opportunity to study when he was young. ...The paramilitary forces, armed by the oligarchy, drew basically from the great pool of men serving in the country's armed forces who were discharged from duty every year without a secure job. Thus the situation in Colombia was very complex and there was only one way out: real peace. This was a distant and hard-to-achieve goal ... Cuba has advocated for that option for Colombia for three decades.

"...I have expressed, very clearly, our position in favor of peace in Colombia. But we are neither in favor of foreign military intervention nor of the policy of force that the United States intends to impose at all costs on that long-suffering and industrious people. ...I have honestly and strongly criticized the objectively cruel methods [used by the FARC-EP] of kidnapping and retaining prisoners under the conditions of the jungle. But I am not suggesting that anyone lay down his arms, especially because everyone who did so in the

last 50 years didn't survive to see peace. If I dared suggest anything to the FARC guerrillas, it would simply be that they declare ... their willingness to release the hostages and prisoners they are still holding, without any precondition."

Fidel Castro also wrote a book, 265 pages long, entitled "Peace in Colombia" ([La Paz en Colombia](#)), which appeared in November, 2008.

The book covers Colombia's civil war and the FARC-EP only indirectly. For the most part, Castro presents quotations taken from the writings of participants and observers; the book is useful in part as a historical resource generally. He makes use of FARC leader Manuel Marulanda's published recollections of guerrilla fighting prior to the FARC's formation in 1964. Castro presents excerpts from the memoirs of Jacobo Arenas, a Communist Party leader assigned to the FARC during the insurgency's early years, and from two biographies of Marulanda written by historian Arturo Alape.

Castro makes extensive use of reports from Cuban officials and emissaries who were present at earlier peace talks or observed incidents related to the conflict. His book reproduces parts of his own conversation with a group of Colombian guerrilla leaders who were passing through Havana. Castro also presents material related to Cuba's confrontations with imperialism.

Fidel Castro is sparing in his judgment of the FARC -EP and of Marulanda. He confines his thoughts to a couple of paragraphs at the book's end, from which the following excerpts are taken:

"I part ways with the head of the FARC as to the rhythm that he attached to the revolutionary process in Colombia, his idea of an excessively prolonged war. His conception of creating first an army of more than 30,000 men from my point of view was neither correct nor something that could be financed for the purpose of defeating adversarial forces on the ground in an irregular war.

"He, Marulanda, did extraordinary things with guerrillas units under his personal leadership penetrated deep into the enemy terrain. When someone failed in carrying out such and such a mission, he was always ready to show that it was possible. At one point he was moving around half of Colombia with a unit of 40 men. The FARC, in accordance with its concepts of operation, never surrounded nor forced to surrender complete battalions supported by artillery, armed units, and air power. This was an experience that we came to know and we did defeat larger units with their elite troops. "That didn't happen with the FARC in spite of the enormous quality of its combatants. My opposition to taking on prisoners of war is well known. I oppose an approach that humiliates them or subjects them to the harshest conditions of the jungle. Under those circumstances they'll never give up their arms even though they are not winning their fight. I did not agree with the capture of civilians some distance from the war. I have to add that prisoners and hostages take away from the capacity of combatants for maneuver. I admire, nevertheless, the revolutionary firmness that Marulanda demonstrated and his disposition to fight until the last drop of blood. The idea of surrender never passed through the mind of any of the ones we developed in the guerrilla struggle in our country. That's why in one of my Reflections I declared that a truly revolutionary fighter never has to lay down arms.

"I have been thinking this way for more than 55 years. I think that way today. I invested more than 400 hours in this effort [in writing *La Paz en Colombia*]."

LA MÁS HERMOSA DE TODAS LAS BATALLAS

Por Iván Márquez - Secretariado Farc, *delegación de paz de farc, 24 agosto, 2016*

Hemos cerrado en el día de hoy en La Habana, Cuba, el acuerdo de paz más anhelado de Colombia. Tierra, democracia, víctimas, política sin armas, implementación de acuerdos con veeduría internacional, son, entre otros, los elementos de un acuerdo que tendrá que ser convertido, más temprano que tarde por el constituyente primario, en norma pétrea que garantice el futuro de dignidad para todos y todas.

Podemos proclamar que termina la guerra con las armas y comienza el debate de las ideas. Confesamos que hemos concluido la más hermosa de todas las batallas: la de sentar las bases para la paz y la convivencia.

El acuerdo de paz no es un punto de llegada, sino el punto de partida para que un pueblo multiétnico y multicultural, unido bajo la bandera de la inclusión, sea orfebre y escultor del cambio y la transformación social que claman las mayorías.

Hoy estamos entregando al pueblo colombiano la potencia transformadora, que hemos construido durante más de medio siglo de rebeldía, para que, con ella, y la fuerza de la unión, empiece a edificar la sociedad del futuro, la de nuestro sueño colectivo, con un santuario consagrado a la democracia, a la justicia social, a la soberanía y a las relaciones de hermandad y de respeto con todo el mundo.

Hemos suscrito compromisos sobre los seis puntos que integran la Agenda del Acuerdo General:

Acuerdo "Hacia un nuevo campo colombiano: Reforma Rural Integral", que busca la transformación de las condiciones de miseria y desigualdad que imperan en las zonas agrarias de nuestro país, llevando los planes y programas para el buen vivir y el desarrollo a partir de la titulación de las tierras en poder de las comunidades rurales.

Acuerdo "Participación política: apertura democrática para alcanzar la paz", en el que el énfasis está en la eliminación de la exclusión a partir de la expansión de la democracia que permita la amplia participación ciudadana en la definición de los destinos del país.

Acuerdo "Solución al problema de las drogas ilícitas", que diseña una nueva política de lucha contra las drogas de uso ilícito, mirando sus connotaciones sociales y brindando un enfoque con énfasis en los derechos humanos que supere las falencias de la fracasada "guerra contra las drogas".

Acuerdo sobre Víctimas, consistente en un "Sistema Integral de Verdad, Justicia, Reparación y No Repetición", una "Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz", una Unidad para la Búsqueda de Personas dadas por Desaparecidas en el contexto y en razón del conflicto, planes de reparación integral, medidas de restitución de tierras y garantías de no repetición, entre otras.

Acuerdos sobre el punto Fin del Conflicto: "1. el Cese al fuego y de hostilidades bilateral y definitivo; 2. La Dejación de las armas; 3. El Mecanismo de Monitoreo y verificación que Naciones Unidas puso en marcha mediante el despliegue de observadores de países de la CELAC; 4. Se definieron acuerdos sobre garantías de seguridad y desmonte del fenómeno del paramilitarismo creando una Unidad de investigación y desmantelamiento de las organizaciones criminales, incluyendo las que hayan sido consideradas como sucesoras del paramilitarismo, y sus redes de apoyo..., pero con una visión no militarista sino de búsqueda de soluciones que eviten más derramamientos de sangre y dolor, y como aspecto quinto, lo más reciente consensuado fueron los acuerdos sobre Reincorporación de las FARC-EP a la vida civil – en lo económico, lo social y lo político, lo cual a partir del indulto y la más amplia amnistía política, abre el camino para nuestra conversión en partido o movimiento político legal en el nuevo escenario social que surge del conjunto de los Acuerdos de paz.

Tenemos también un Acuerdo sobre implementación, refrendación y verificación, que da las garantías para la planeación, financiación y presupuesto, como para la realización de los cambios normativos que permitan la materialización de los compromisos.

Durante el tratamiento de cada punto, en paralelo, trabajó la Sub Comisión de Género sobre el análisis del conjunto de los textos consensuados y los temas en debate, proveyendo insumos que abren paso a la plena reivindicación del ser humano.

Hemos cumplido la tarea. En los próximos días estaremos en Colombia realizando la Conferencia Nacional Guerrillera, nuestra máxima instancia de autoridad, a la que debemos subordinación, para someter a su veredicto la obra política que representa el Acuerdo Especial de Paz de La Habana. Confesamos que ha sido una construcción dura y llena de dificultades, con luces y tal vez con sombras, pero trabajada con el corazón

llo de amor por la patria y los pobres de Colombia. Nos asiste la convicción de que hemos interpretado fielmente el sentimiento de nuestros compañeros y compañeras de armas y de ideas, que siempre combatieron pensando en la solución política del conflicto, y, sobre todo, en la posibilidad de una patria justa, sin esos abismos horrorosos que hoy se interponen entre el desarrollo y la pobreza.

A los compañeros y compañeras recluidos en prisiones y calabozos del país y fuera de las fronteras, va nuestro mensaje de amor con la esperanza de tenerlos muy pronto construyendo en libertad la Nueva Colombia soñada por nuestros padres fundadores.

Al pueblo de Colombia lo abrazamos con toda la fuerza de nuestro corazón, para reafirmarle que la lucha guerrillera que se escenificó en todos los puntos de la geografía nacional no tuvo razón distinta a la dignificación de la vida humana, en el marco del derecho universal que asiste a todos los pueblos del mundo a alzarse en armas contra la injusticia y la opresión. Lamentablemente, en toda guerra, pero especialmente en las de larga duración, se cometen errores y se afecta involuntariamente a la población. Con la firma del acuerdo de paz, que lleva implícito el compromiso de No Repetición, esperamos alejar definitivamente el riesgo de que las armas se vuelvan contra los ciudadanos.

La paz es para todos y abraza todos los estratos de nuestra sociedad llamándolos a la reflexión, a la solidaridad, y nos dice que es posible sacar el país adelante. A los estratos que sobreviven en las catacumbas de la desesperanza, el olvido y el abandono oficial, les decimos que es posible, confiando en la fuerza interior y decisión que todos llevamos por dentro, levantarnos de la miseria y de la pobreza. Mientras tengamos vida, todo es posible, y mucho mejor si lo hacemos organizadamente. Ahí están los jóvenes de Colombia, siempre generosos, desde claustros y universidades, dispuestos a ayudar en la búsqueda colectiva de soluciones a la problemática social.

A los campesinos, hombres y mujeres llenos de humildad y de pureza, que buscan en el surco a través de su trabajo y sudor la soberanía alimentaria de Colombia, les ofrecemos un puesto de lucha en la Reforma Rural Integral acordada. A las comunidades afro de Colombia, a los pueblos indígenas, los invitamos a mirar en la geografía de todo lo acordado el enfoque étnico diferencial, ganado con su propia lucha. A las mujeres, les decimos, que haremos valer el enfoque de género que respira el acuerdo Especial de Paz.

No será posible detener la poderosa fuerza del cambio originada en los sueños y esperanzas de un pueblo que reclama sus derechos. Nada podrá desviarnos del camino. El pueblo de Colombia exige respuestas a sus inquietudes y el gobierno debe darlas con acciones tangibles.

Habría veeduría internacional para los compromisos de las dos partes, no sólo para la guerrilla, como quisieran algunos, sino también para los compromisos del Gobierno en temas fundamentales del fin del conflicto, como la reincorporación en lo político, económico y social, en las garantías de seguridad, y en el tránsito de la guerrilla a movimiento político legal.

Nos suscita gran expectación el desarrollo del compromiso de las reformas y ajustes institucionales necesarios para hacer frente a los retos de la construcción de la paz. Para ello, consideramos, debe abrirse campo el GRAN ACUERDO POLÍTICO NACIONAL post plebiscito, propuesto por las partes, al que invitamos a las fuerzas vivas de la nación para que en ese espacio pensemos en un nuevo marco de convivencia político y social que garantice tranquilidad a las generaciones venideras.

Tendremos paz si se respetan los acuerdos. El pueblo debe constituirse en garante principal de su cumplimiento. Acuerdo Especial de Paz y pueblo, deben ser uno solo como mar y ola, donde los acuerdos son el mar y el pueblo la ola persistente exigiendo su cumplimiento.

En nombre de las FARC me dirijo a las naciones del mundo pidiéndole a los pueblos y a los gobiernos su solidaridad, su respaldo en todo sentido para que el más dilatado conflicto del continente se convierta en un referente y asunto del pasado que no debe repetir un pueblo.

Al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos que durante tanto tiempo apoyó la guerra del Estado contra la guerrilla y contra la inconformidad social, le pedimos siga respaldando de manera diáfana los esfuerzos colombianos por restablecer la paz, siempre esperando de Washington gestos humanitarios que concuerden con la bondad que caracteriza a la mayoría del pueblo norteamericano, amigo de la concordia y la solidaridad. Quedamos a la espera de Simón Trinidad

Esperamos que el ELN pueda encontrar un camino de aproximación para que la paz que anhelamos sea completada con creces involucrando así a todos los colombianos.

Finamente las FARC expresan su más profundo agradecimiento al gobierno liderado por el General de Ejército Raúl Castro Ruz y al pueblo de Cuba, todo lo que ha hecho por la paz de Colombia, gratitud eterna a la patria de Martí. Gracias también al Reino y al pueblo de Noruega por su contribución generosa y por su acompañamiento como garante a los esfuerzos de la reconciliación del país. Nuestro reconocimiento y afecto a la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, por su aliento permanente a su hermana Colombia, en la concreción del acuerdo de paz. Gracias Nicolás Maduro por continuar la obra que le encomendara el Presidente Chávez. Un

agradecimiento a la Presidenta Michelle Bachelet y al pueblo de Chile por su acompañamiento extraordinario a una paz que saben muy bien, es esencial para consolidar la paz del continente.

Permítannos rendir el más sentido homenaje a los caídos en esta larga confrontación fratricida. A las familias, madres, viudas, hermanos, hijos y amigos nuestras condolencias por el luto y la tristeza de la guerra. Unamos nuestras manos y nuestras voces para gritar NUNCA MÁS, NUNCA MÁS.

