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WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work specifically related implementing the Final Peace Accord between the Government (GOC) and the FARC in Colombia.

President Santos announced this week that he will not object to the reforms to the JEP's procedural laws put forward by the Centro Democrático and approved in the Senate. He clarified that his position does not allow him to reject specific articles of law which have already been approved by the Legislature, but that the law will be referred to the Constitutional Court, which will above all study those articles related to extradition and a special procedure for Colombia's armed forces. The Minister of the Interior, Guillermo Rivera, also reasserted that the legal protections for the Peace Accord are immutable for three terms.¹

A year and a half after the signing of the Peace Accord, the International Verification Component's Technical Secretary delivered their first report on the implementation of its gender approach this week. The report concludes that, of the 35 decrees issued by the President, 17 included gender-sensitive elements, the same with two of five legislative acts, three of six 'Fast Track' laws, and six of seven projects filed during the second part of the last legislature. The Secretary highlighted, however, that many rulings are not explicit in the way in which they will implement a gender approach, and none of them made direct reference to LGBTQI people.²

Vice President Óscar Naranjo asserted this week that the use of aerial fumigation with glyphosate will not affect the Integrated National Illicit Crop Substitution Plan (PNIS) created for the implementation of Point 4 of the Peace Accord. He classified the GOC's plan to use drones to spread the herbicide as a complementary measure.³ This clarification comes after the UNODC and the White House announced record levels of coca cultivation over 2017, and mounting pressure from the United States for a more aggressive approach to crop eradication.⁴

Carlos Velandia, the ELN peace officer, has called on President-elect Iván Duque to name his representative at the negotiation table in Havana. A new round of talks between the GOC and the guerrilla group began on 2 July, and will continue for the coming five weeks, with an agreement on a bilateral ceasefire being a priority. The ELN also expressed their concern over changes the Centro Democrático has made to the Peace Accord with the FARC.⁵

Seven bodies were found in the municipality of Argelia, Cauca, early on 3 July, and social organizations and human rights defenders have expressed concerns over the threats of illegal armed groups in the region. Pamphlets produced by the self-named 'Popular Cleaning Command' have been circulated throughout western Cauca, with the group warning that people who sell or consume hallucinogenic substances should either leave the area or they will be killed.⁶