

# *Pope Francis to participate in Mexico's peace process*

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Mexico City, July 17 (RHC)-- Pope Francis has accepted an invitation to participate in the framework of the consultations that the team of Mexican president-elect will carry out, in order to create strategies to decrease violence and insecurity in the country.

Loretta Ortiz, the peace process coordinator for the upcoming government, said that the Pope's participation "will be virtual, as obviously he will not come (to Mexico), he accepted, we will have to wait, but he has already accepted." In addition to Pope Francis' "virtual" presence, two experts will be sent to represent the supreme pontiff during the talks.

The peace forums will start early August and end in November, and generate "the inputs to make the whole country's pacification strategy," Ortiz said. The peace coordinator also affirmed that the consultation process will elicit the participation of citizens, religious communities, experts and leaders across different sectors.

Ortiz further added that the conclusions and the information processing must be ready as soon as possible, in order to be used in January 2019, as it "will result in different laws and public policies."

During the electoral campaign, AMLO had proposed to change the drug policies and the use of military forces to fight trafficking, since the current policies failed to prevent more than 200,000 murders since it

was adopted in 2006.

"We will propose decriminalization, create truth commissions, we will attack the causes of poverty," Olga Sanchez, AMLO's proposed interior minister remarked on the matter.

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