

# *United Nations and CELAC to Verify Bilateral Ceasefire in Colombia*

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Havana, January 20 (RHC-PL) -- The United Nations and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) will monitor the bilateral and definitive ceasefire the government of Juan Manuel Santos and Colombia's largest rebel group expect to achieve in coming months.

The initiative, announced Tuesday by the two sides involved in the peace talks taking place in Havana, proposes to establish an international political mission for the verification of the agreement on the end of the conflict, which also includes putting down the weapons.

Settling disputes, making recommendations and presenting reports, will be the prerogatives of the mechanism in which peace delegates of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army, and the Executive of Santos will participate. Those negotiating teams requested that the international mission begins the preparations of necessary deployment, for which they will ensure adequate security conditions.

As agreed, the mission will last 12 months and will begin once the ceasefire has been agreed. The peace delegations reiterated their commitment to work for a final Agreement for the ending of the conflict and the

construction of a stable and lasting peace.

They also promised to implement effective monitoring and verification mechanisms, with international support, to ensure the full compliance with the consensus reached.

Since the establishment of the roundtable discussions in Havana in 2012, the two sides approached positions around the ways to ensure comprehensive agricultural development, political participation of the FARC-EP, fighting illegal drugs, and reparation for victims.

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