



UNGPs in Colombia: remediation as a tool in peacebuilding

Parallel session

29 November

15:00-16:25

Organized by the Office of the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights of Colombia

Short description: This session aims to address the role of Business and Human Rights in the context of peacebuilding in Colombia, with a particular focus on the third pillar of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(UNGPs\)](#): access to remedy. In particular, the dialogue aims to focus on non-judicial mechanisms and provide examples; lessons learned and identify challenges in the implementation of these mechanisms by both the private sector and the State. The event will also introduce participation and reconciliation as two important foundations for the remedy and the confidence building in the Colombian context.

Session objectives:

- Dialogue about the contribution and importance of the third pillar of PRNU in peacebuilding process.
- Dialogue about the reconciliation component and the strengthening of participation systems as essential elements in the local implementation of the PRNU and in particular in the third pillar.
- Share experiences and challenges in the territorial application of mechanisms of non-judicial remedy (state and non-state) in Colombia with emphasis in conflict prevention

Key discussion questions:

1. How was it possible that, in the crucial moment of signing of the final agreement for the construction of a stable and lasting peace, the National Government, at the highest level, decided to adopt a national plan of action on human rights and business?
2. Why is it important to start by recognizing participation, reconciliation and building trust for the implementation of the third pillar in Colombia?
3. How has the private sector managed to build trust in the territory and at the same time open the door to new forms of relationships with an emphasis on conflict prevention?
4. What are the main weaknesses and challenges in the current system of non-judicial mechanisms to address potential conflicts in the territory and what are the possibilities for improvement?
5. What role do local justice systems play in the peacebuilding process? Why is this approach so important in the Colombian context?
6. What are the main challenges in accessing remedy from a territorial perspective?
7. What measures should governments take to ensure a peaceful resolution of conflicts and prevention of human rights violations as a result of or in relation with business operations?

Speakers:¹

- **Beatriz Londoño**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Colombia in Switzerland, Embassy of Colombia in Switzerland (**Moderator**)
- **Luis Fernando de Angulo**, Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) / CREER
- **Paula Gaviria**, Presidential Advisor on Human Rights, Office of the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia
- **Margarita María Díez Vélez**, Social Professional – Human rights and peace building, Isagén
- **Álvaro Francisco Amaya Villareal**, Adjunct Ombudsman on economic, social and cultural rights, Defensoría del Pueblo (National Human Rights Institution of Colombia)
- **Amaury Padilla**, Executive Director, Cesar's Peace and Development Programme (Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Cesar)
- **Maria Victoria Llorente Sardi**, Executive Director, Fundación Ideas para la Paz

Format:

Multistakeholder panel aiming to tell the story of the peace building process in Colombia and the implementation of remedy mechanisms for the prevention of conflicts.

This story will depart from the identification of the challenges in the process of implementing the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights in a peacebuilding scenario. This territorial adaptation of the UN Guiding Principles, especially the third pillar, and the factors of reconciliation, participation and confidence building in a context that has been strongly impacted by violence, are essential for progress in the Colombian context. The challenge is advancing in the construction of joint visions for development, among actors with diverse interests.

¹ Further information on speakers provided in Annex

Background:

Today Colombia finds itself in a new scenario. The signing of the Final Agreement for the construction of a stable and lasting peace between FARC-EP and the National Government, which took place on the 24th of November 2016, presents a new reality for Colombia. The National Government has acknowledged the signing of the Final Agreement not as peace in itself but rather as the first step towards building a more just and equitable society without weapons and violence, where the rights of individuals and peaceful settlement of conflicts can be negotiated. Colombia faces a unique opportunity to start thinking about the country in a new way, incorporating the territories in this process, and departing from the vision of a society that the Colombians want to build, reducing the social and economic gaps between the countryside and cities, the real causes of armed conflict.

Given this new scenario, business activity today is developed in a different context, with a more propitious environment for businesses to operate while guaranteeing the respect of human rights. In addition, this new scenario has been reinforced by the adoption of public policy on business and human rights embodied in the [National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights](#). Colombia is the first Latin American country to assume the commitment of the highest international standards for the protection and guarantee of human rights in the framework of business activities through the adoption of this Plan.

The development of the third pillar (remedy) has been a challenge and an important priority in the process of implementing the National Plan of Action on Human Rights and Business in Colombia. The strategy in this regard has been to design a participatory consultations with civil society, government and business, as well as a broad set of public bodies that together share obligations under the third pillar. The aim has also been to explore a systematic [approach to non-judicial remedy](#) by developing integrated responses relating to access, repair and assurance of non-repetition. The hope is that lessons learned from this project can be a useful contribution for other countries and actors participating in the 2017 forum.

ANNEX. SPEAKERS SHORT BIOS.

Beatriz Londoño

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Colombia in Switzerland, Embassy of Colombia in Switzerland

Ambassador Londoño has worked as consultant for a large number of governmental, non-governmental as well as private organizations including the Mount Sinai Hospital, the International Organization for Migrations, the World Heart Federation, UNICEF, the World Food Program, the Colombian National Federation of Coffee Growers and the Harvard School of Public Health

Paula Gaviria

Presidential Advisor on Human Rights, Presidency of Colombia

Paula Gaviria graduated as a lawyer, and specialized in journalism, and political marketing in the Universidad de Los Andes. She has completed several programs in Human Rights, such as the Transitional Justice Fellowship in South Africa, and the International Visitors Leadership Program in the State Department of the United States.

In her current role as Presidential Advisor on Human Rights, she leads the implementation of the National Strategy for the Guarantee of Human Rights and IHL. Previously, she was the head director of the Victims Unit, a Government's entity that coordinates the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law, which provides attention, assistance, and reparation for those affected by the Colombian armed conflict. Gaviria has also worked as the communications chief officer of the Colombian Constitutional Court, as well as director for Human Rights Advocacy and private secretary in the Ombudsman's Office.

@PauaGaviriaB @ConsejeríaDDHH

Luis Fernando Angulo

Executive Director, Centro Regional de Empresas y Emprendimientos Responsables (CREER)

Centro Regional de Empresas y Emprendimientos Responsables (CREER), aims to be a regional hub and centre of south-south learning, knowledge and exchange, using its affiliation with IHRB to develop strategic partnerships and share lessons internationally.

Luis Fernando De Angulo worked previously as director of Corporate Social Responsibility for Occidental Petroleum Corporation. In that role he was responsible for implementation of the company's Human Rights Policy and its involvement in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, along with risk assessment and training tools required by the social responsibility function.

De Angulo joined Occidental Petroleum after a two year fellowship at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University where he co-directed the Colombia Civil Society Initiative. He served as board member from 2009 to 2013

Alvaro Francisco Amaya Villarreal

Adjunct Ombudsman on economic, social and cultural rights, Defensoría del Pueblo (National Human Rights Institution of Colombia)

Lawyer, Historian, LLM International Human Rights Law in Economic Relations, is also adjunct professor, speaker and researcher of outstanding universities in Colombia.

Amaury Padilla

Executive Director, El Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Cesar

Licensed in philosophy, history and has also studied journalism. Padilla has worked with journalism and been an University professor, and holds extensive experience of working with civil society in the Colombian territory and currently manages the program for development and peace in Cesar. The programme aims to foster civil society contribution to the territory through collective and participatory methodology. The engagement is based on the principles of respect for life, respect for diversity, participatory governance and protection of nature.

Margarita María Díez Vélez

Social Professional – Human rights and peace building, Isagen

Anthropologist of the University of Antioquia. Specialist in Social Management from the same university. Currently part of the group managing Human Rights policy of the company and representative of the company in initiatives of human rights such as Guides Colombia, and Energy Mining Committee of Security and Human, in which it participates in the development of guidelines and recommendations for business management in human rights.

María Victoria Llorente Sardi

Executive Director, Fundación Ideas para la Paz

Political Scientist from Universidad de Los Andes, specialist in crime and violence issues, national and civil security policies and Police reforms. Executive Director for FIP since 2006. Advisor to the Presidential Counselor's Office for Peace, the Presidential Counselor's Office for National Defense and Security and the Ministry of National Defense. Consultant to multilateral agencies and Colombian public institutions in projects relating to peace, civil security, crime prevention, police reforms and drug policy.

@ideaspaz