

regulations. However, the provisions of the Convention are being incorporated progressively into the national reality. Among these provisions, Article 11 of the Convention states that a State Party is obliged under international humanitarian and human rights law to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including armed conflict. Despite this, there is no specific focus on disability in the Peace Agreement of 2016¹³.

In 2016, the Colombian State and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – FARC signed a Peace Agreement based on six pillars: 1) Comprehensive Rural Reform; 2) Political Participation; 3) End of the conflict (which includes the reincorporation process of ex-combatants); 4) Solution to the Problem of Illicit Drugs; 5) Victims: Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition; and 6) Implementation, verification, and ratification.

While its implementation has presented an opportunity for the country to address various structural conditions upon which violence and conflict have been built, and renewed efforts are evident for a more comprehensive development of the Agreement, enormous challenges remain for its full implementation in all the six points for the construction of a stable and lasting peace.

From September 2016 to February 2024, 1461 leaders, activists, human rights defenders, and 413 signatories of the Peace Agreement have been killed¹⁴. In light of this, one of the major concerns, as highlighted in the most recent report by the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, pertains to the lack of security guarantees and the persistence of violence in several regions of the country, which have hindered the improvement of living conditions for communities and, at the same time, have been an obstacle to the transition to civilian life for peace signatories. Insecurity also threatens to prevent the full truth from coming to light within the context of the transitional justice process.

As a result of the Peace Agreement, over 12,000 people are undergoing their reincorporation process into society with the support of the Colombian State and international cooperation. Around 80% of peace signatories are engaged in productive projects, 99% are enrolled in the Colombian healthcare system, and 93.2% are enrolled in the pension system¹⁵. The vast majority receive monthly economic support equivalent to 90% of the current legal minimum wage. The recently approved *Comprehensive Reincorporation Programme (PRI)*, seeks to strengthen the capacities of individuals, families, and communities in four strategic areas: social, economic, political, and community reincorporation. This reflects the interest in consolidating the permanence of signatories in legality, ensuring access to their rights, and strengthening the community environments where they are undergoing their reincorporation process.

Although the Peace Agreement with the FARC meant the laying down of arms of the oldest and most powerful guerrilla group, the Colombian State still faces significant challenges for peace consolidation, security, and good governance due to the presence of various organised armed groups and criminal organisations with the capacity to control illegal economies (drug trafficking and mining) and with negative impacts on democratic stability at the regional level due to the territorial and political control they exert in several parts of the country. Institutional problems, such as corruption and impunity, further exacerbate these challenges.

The National Development Plan 2022-2026 of the Petro Government, ‘Colombia: A Global Power of Life’, which aims to address the country’s most relevant issues, revolves around five transformation axes: 1. Land-use planning around water, 2. Human Security and Social Justice, 3. The human right to food, 4. Productive transformation, internationalisation, and climate action, and 5. Regional Convergence. It also establishes four comprehensive axes: (a) Total Peace, (b) Differential Actors for Change, (c) Macroeconomic Stability, and (d) Foreign Policy with a Gender Approach¹⁶.

Total Peace, included in the PND, is understood as a participatory, inclusive, and comprehensive commitment to achieving stable and lasting peace, with guarantees of non-repetition and security; with standards that prevent impunity and guarantee the rights of victims to truth, justice, and reparation. The Total Peace proposal encompasses various fronts of action: the comprehensive implementation of the peace agreement signed with

¹³ Persons with disabilities and the Colombian armed conflict (tandfonline.com)

¹⁴ Institute of Studies for Development and Peace, INDEPAZ, <https://indepaz.org.co/>

¹⁵ Agency for Reincorporation and Normalisation, ARN, <https://www.reincorporacion.gov.co/es/agencia/Paginas/ARN-en-cifras.aspx>

¹⁶ Government of Colombia, National Development Plan (PND).