

# *Colombian government and ELN reinstate peace talks in Venezuela*



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Caracas, November 22 (RHC)-- The delegations of the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) carried out this Monday the act for the reinstatement of the peace talks table from Caracas, Venezuelan capital, highlighting the importance of this moment for their country.

During the event, General Carlos Martínez read a communiqué on behalf of the government of President Nicolás Maduro and the Venezuelan people, in which they greet "with renewed hope the peace dialogues" between the parties.

"Venezuela, as the host country of the first cycle of negotiations, will spare no effort to accompany this transcendental moment of the reconciliation process in our beloved Colombia, with a clear conscience that this is the way for Latin America and the Caribbean to consolidate as a zone of peace and prosperity."

The head of the ELN delegation, Pablo Beltrán, highlighted the diversity of the Colombian government's representation in the dialogue. He thanked the host country and the guarantors, as well as the accompaniment of the Catholic Church and the United Nations Mission.

"This table must be, and we aim for it to be, an instrument of change (...) Colombians cannot see each other as enemies. The task we have is one of reconciliation, of finding common ground again", he said.

For his part, the High Commissioner for Peace, Iván Danilo Rueda, stated that they are honoring the lives of those who have been affected by the violence. "We are honoring those lives to try to resolve a series of conflicts," he said. In addition, he indicated that an exercise of respect for differences has begun, "of recognition of the histories from which we come and in which we have participated."

"This political dialogue has important issues for the country (...) we have a horizon of dialogue to settle, to agree and to generate these transformations", Rueda added and affirmed that they perceive the willingness for this process.

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