

Colombia and ELN invite U.S. and others to accompany peace talks



From L to R: Pablo Beltrán, Carlos Martínez, and Otty Patiño at peace talks, Caracas, Venezuela.
| Photo: Twitter/ @QuePasaMedia

Caracas, November 26 (RHC)-- Delegations of the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) have agreed to invite more countries, including the United States, Germany, Sweden and Spain to accompany the peace negotiation process in Colombia.

Representatives from Venezuela and Norway, two countries that are currently acting as guarantors of the talks, also reported that the Colombian government and the ELN expressed their intention to invite Chile, Brazil, and Mexico to participate as guarantors.

The negotiating parties will undertake diplomatic actions with the United States government to ascertain its willingness to participate through a special envoy in the peace talks. They will also contact the European countries to know their willingness to reactivate the Group of Accompaniment, Support and Cooperation Countries (GPAAC).

Government delegates and ELN representatives also agreed to reactivate the 2016 negotiations related to "humanitarian actions" through the implementation of short-term humanitarian relief processes. For this purpose, they will form an implementation mechanism with the support of the United Nations Verification Mission and the Catholic Church. The negotiating parties, however, did not provide further details on the characteristics and location of the relief actions.

Finally, the negotiating parties will form a joint communication team to inform in an "objective, timely, clear, and transparent manner on the development of the dialogue process."

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