

United Nations Authorizes Second Political Mission to Colombia



United Nations, July 11 (RHC)-- The United Nations Security Council has adopted a British-drafted resolution that authorizes a second political mission in Colombia with a focus on the reintegration of former FARC rebels after handing over their weapons.

The unanimous 15-member vote established the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, which will begin when the current U.N. mission ends on September 26th, and last for one year, with a special representative appointed by the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The U.N. monitored and verified the handing over of arms by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which finished on June 27th.

Included in the mission will be the ex-guerrillas' security, as requested by the FARC. The character of the mission is set to be purely civil, unlike the current mission, which is mostly made up of military observers.

The mission will "verify the political, social and economic reintegration, as well as the implementation of the guarantees of its security," according to El Espectador, and will cover the measures set forth in the

peace agreement between the Colombian government of President Manuel Santos and the FARC, including the fight against paramilitary groups.

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