

# *Government and ELN seek greater participation from Colombian society*

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Bogota, October 4 (RHC)-- In search of building a methodology for civil society participation that contributes to the peace talks, the delegation of the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the government delegation will hold meetings in different areas of the country to listen to communities and unions.

"Ten regional meetings will be developed corresponding to: Pacific Coast, Southwest, Northeast, Orinoquia, Amazon, Caribbean, Central, Eje Cafetero, Antioquia and Magdalena Medio."

"The design phase will culminate in February 2024 and this will specify the criteria and scope to ensure the central role of society in the participation process. In addition, the themes, methodology and scenarios for participation will be developed through a national process," the parties explained.

It is expected that people of all ages, from all economic sectors, and from all ethnic groups and indigenous peoples will participate in these meetings, since the objective is to bring all the ideas collected to the peace talks table, so that they can then be incorporated into a future agreement.

The spaces will begin on October 6 under the supervision of the National Participation Committee (CNP) in Bogota with the meeting of alternative, community and popular media. The territorial ones will begin in November and will last until December 15.

The CNP was made official on August 3, with the presence of more than three thousand people from the territories affected by the armed conflict, the government of Gustavo Petro and the ELN. The body is made up of 81 delegates.

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The ELN years ago had asked for the participation of civil society and now they specified that they are sure that this participation "will enrich the dialogue process with diagnoses and approaches that, will allow gaining more allies for peace, and without a doubt, will be an important contribution to political conciliation in the country."

"We call on Colombian society to build the model and plan for participation, which guarantees to all that their words, interests and perspectives will be taken into account."

"Only with these criteria, it will be guaranteed that the dynamics of participation will be inclusive, democratic, effective and binding. Building peace from the peoples and communities must start by recognizing and strengthening our diversity," the organization said.

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