

Madrid, 5 July 2019

FM/19/0998/0588

Mr Don Iván Duque Márquez

President of the Republic of Colombia

Mr President:

I offer on my own behalf and on behalf of the Fundación Cultura de Paz [Culture of Peace Foundation] a cordial greeting and our expression of solidarity with Colombia.

The UN stated when establishing UNESCO, that *"it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed"*. Faced with circumstances such as those experienced by your country, it is essential to use international law and maintain a *"commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts"*.

I am mindful of the request made on 18 June 2019 by the High Commissioner for Peace, Mr Miguel Ceballos, that the Republic of Cuba extradite the delegates of the negotiating committee of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army) (ELN).

In that connection, I would like to share with you the attached document prepared by academics and lawyers from various countries, who are concerned about the virtual breakdown of the peace talks with that guerrilla organisation.

Having over recent months closely followed the crisis in relation to the Round Table Talks held in Havana, I would ask you to consider the arguments which I am presenting to you on the proper fulfilment of the agreement concerning the talks and the safeguards of international law applicable to peace talks and processes.

Like many people throughout the world who hope for peace to be achieved in the near future, and for conflicts to be resolved through negotiation, I very much hope that the long cycle of internal war in Colombia will finally come to an end and that the construction of a stable and lasting peace will continue.

Mr President, I hope that this legal opinion will be useful to you in your future decisions.

Yours sincerely,



Federico Mayor Zaragoza  
President of the Fundación Cultura de Paz  
Former Director General of UNESCO

Attachment: as described