



Wilton Park

Programme

Colombian and international stabilisation experience: sharing lessons and shaping the way ahead

Wednesday 19 – Friday 21 June 2019 | WP1704

Context and objectives

Colombia represents an unusual case in the litany of modern counterinsurgency and stabilisation experiences, which have mainly occurred in weak states. Colombia has a developed state and vibrant economy, recently became a member of the OECD and is a NATO associated country. Yet, an extensive area of the country has only a weak or no presence of the State, which competes with an array of armed groups (criminal and political) for control of the population, resources and illicit economies including coca crops, mining and deforestation. The government of President Iván Duque is developing a stabilisation plan for these insecure regions, establishing priorities amongst them. The Colombian government will carry out its stabilisation plan without the support of foreign troops and in parallel with implementation of some aspects of the landmark 2016 peace agreement with the FARC, another particular circumstance compared to other stabilisation missions.

This Wilton Park dialogue will enable sharing lessons from Colombia's Democratic Security Policy during the 2000s and stabilisation operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other contexts. It will examine how Colombia's new stabilisation plan can help achieve progress towards the threefold objective of implementing peace, combating armed groups and expanding state authority, how the Colombian government and armed forces can meet the challenges of coordination in combined civil-military missions, and what role the UN and other donors can usefully play in assisting Colombia with its stabilisation goals.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to learn from Colombia's particular and complex experience and extract lessons on state building for political processes in other contexts.

In partnership with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, United Nations Colombia and with support from the Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

In association with:



Wednesday 19 June

1500-1530

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee on arrival

1530

Welcome and introduction

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Pontus Ohrstedt

Head, Resident Coordinator Office, United Nations in Colombia, Bogotá

1545-1700

1. Colombia's stabilisation challenges

How do Colombians analyse their current stabilisation challenges? What are the key elements of instability and how do they interact? Who provides jobs, services, justice and security in areas of the country with no or weak State presence? How well is the political economy of these territories understood? What are ways of deepening that understanding? How does implementation of the peace agreement with the FARC interact with stabilisation in the territories?

Alejandra Botero

Counselor, Delivery Unit, Government of Colombia, Bogotá

Héctor Fabio Henao

Director, Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social, Cáritas Colombiana, Bogotá

Melissa Nader Moreno

International Cooperation Adviser, Colombia in Peace Fund, Bogotá

1700-1730

Tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. International stabilisation experience

What key lessons have international powers learned about stabilisation and state building from Iraq, Afghanistan and other contexts? How did they work to support national and local government in establishing their authority and providing public services and justice in insecure regions? What are key policy dilemmas and trade-offs in stabilisation?

Emma Sky

Director, Yale World Fellows, Yale University, New Haven

Clemens Hach

Head of Division SO3, Conflict Prevention, Stabilisation, Peace Building, Auswaertiges Amt (German Federal Foreign Office), Berlin

Tom Rodwell

Senior Conflict and Stabilisation Adviser, Stabilisation Unit, London

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 20 June

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

3. Civil-military planning and delivery in the field

What has Colombia's experience been of collaboration between civilian agencies and the military in planning and implementing counterinsurgency and stabilisation? What civilian capability and capacity do Colombian civilian agencies have to operate in insecure territories?

What did international powers learn about how to develop civil-military collaboration in support of stabilisation missions, both in national capitals and in the field? What measures were pursued to be able to deploy civilian agencies and expertise to insecure regions? In what areas of "delivery" is civil-military collaboration most critical?

Michel Rentenaar

Deputy Permanent Representative, Joint Delegation of the Netherlands, NATO, Brussels

Matthew Jackson

Senior Research Associate, Global Insecurities Centre, University of Bristol; Independent Consultant, Bristol

Fredy Padilla de León

Former General Chief Commander Colombian Armed Forces, Bogotá

1030-1115

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1115-1245

4. Interacting with local communities: experience and lessons

What has Colombian and international experience been in interacting with local communities in stabilisation contexts? What can be learned from these communities for territorial development, providing security and justice, building peace and overcoming the challenge of illicit crops and other illicit economies? How can local populations be transitioned away from an attachment to "alternative" political-economic systems and towards support for a legitimate State order? How do local populations perceive "legitimacy"?

Julieta Lemaitre

Associated Professor, Law Faculty, University of Los Andes, Bogotá

Vanda Felbab-Brown

Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC

Alba Patricia Lancheros

Chief, Peace Building Police Unit, National Police of Colombia, Bogotá

1245-1400

Lunch

1400-1430

Free time

1430-1600

5. Breakout groups meeting in parallel

Group one: Civil-military coordination

What new steps should Colombian military and civilian agencies take to tackle the challenges of coordination and delivery in combined civil-military missions?

Co-Chair: Philipp Lustenberger

Co-Head, Mediation Program, swisspeace, Bern

Co-Chair: Rocío Pachón

Assistant, Colombian National Security Adviser, Presidency, Republic of Colombia, Bogotá

Group two: Moving into the territories

What needs to be done to support a transition from an illegal to a legal order and a new Social Pact? How can government tackle illicit economies without alienating local populations whose livelihoods depend on those economies?

Co-Chair: Alessandro Preti

Head of Office, United Nations Verification Mission, Bogotá

Co-Chair: Kristian Herbolzheimer

Director, International Catalan Institute for Peace, Barcelona

Group three: Security and justice

What steps does the State need to take in order to make progress in strengthening security in the territories as well as in demilitarising the provision of security there? Should State provision of justice sit alongside alternative legal structures or attempt to replace them?

Co-Chair: Stephanie Blair

Director, Opimian Ltd, Swindon

Co-Chair: Alex Riaño

Social Conflict and Sustainable Development Coordinator, Foundation Peace and Reconciliation, Bogotá

Group four: The peace agreement and the territories

What is most critical regarding implementation of the peace agreement in the territories? What is the best approach to pursuing this?

Co-Chair: Adam Isacson

Director, Defence Oversight, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Washington

Co-Chair: Juan Carlos Garzón

Director, Conflict Dynamics and Peace Negotiations Area, Ideas for Peace Foundation (FIP), Bogotá

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1715

6. Report back in plenary from session 5 breakout groups

1715-1900

7. Colombia's stabilisation strategy – discussion in breakout groups

Three breakout groups will meet in parallel, all of them focusing on how Colombia should structure and implement its stabilisation plan. What stabilisation strategy should Colombia pursue? Should Colombia pursue its stabilisation objectives as parallel or consecutive processes, and if the latter in what sequence?

Chairs:

María Victoria Llorente

Executive Director, Ideas for Peace Foundation (FIP), Bogotá

Guillermo Fernandez Maldonado

Deputy Representative, UN Human Rights, Bogotá

Jared Kotler

Colombia Team Leader, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, New York

Following the conclusion of the group discussions the chairs will meet to collate the outcomes from the different group discussions and prepare a consolidated report back at the start of the final session, session 10.

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 21 June

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1030

8. Measuring the impact of stabilisation missions

What are key metrics in order to measure the impact of stabilisation missions? What are the most effective ways of gathering and assessing data?

Andrew Rathmell

Visiting Professor, Strategy and Security Institute, University of Exeter

Oliver Kaplan

Associate Professor, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1115

9. Evaluation survey

1115-1300

10. Report back and concluding discussion

Consolidated report back from the session 7 breakout groups and concluding discussion on how Colombia should take forward its stabilisation plan as well as on how international donors can most effectively support the plan.

María Victoria Llorente

Executive Director, Ideas for Peace Foundation (FIP), Bogotá

Mariano Aguirre Ernst

Senior Advisor, United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator, Bogotá

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart