MECHANISMS FOR DIALOGUE AND PARTICIPATION AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE PEACE ACCORD

EASTERN PLAINS REGION

DIFFER about what should be the central focus of the Peace Accord's implementation:
- Consider that the focus should be on civil society in general.
- Feel that the state must first prioritize and benefit victims of the armed conflict.

BOTH HAVE feelings of distrust towards the mechanisms intended to implement the Peace Accord particularly those that involve developing dialogues and forums for consensus building at the regional level.

MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION

BUSINESS ARE INTERESTED in knowing if the participatory strategies contemplated as part of the implementation of the Peace Accord were created from similar experiences in transitional processes OR if they are initiatives that are going to be implemented for the first time in history.

CONSIDER it important to evaluate lessons learned, particularly regarding the most appropriate ways to involve the business sector in this process.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Businesses and communities of the three regions assert that the State failed to consult them at the local level, specifically on the methodologies for the implementing mechanisms for promoting dialogue, participation and consensus building at the regional level.

CONVENTIONS

- Do not know about the "Development Programmes with a Territorial-based Approach" (PDET) recently enacted by the government.
- Do not know about the strategy for the "Zones Most Affected by the Armed Conflict" (ZOMAC).
- Consider that the Development Programmes with a Territorial-based Approach should be implemented in other municipalities besides those already focused on.
- Distrust the process of implementation of the "Development Programmes with a Territorial-based Approach".
- Consider that the state failed to make consultations at the local level about official methodologies to develop forums of dialogue which involves business and communities.
- Consider it necessary to inform the public about these forums for dialogue and participation established by the Peace Accord.
- Consider that they can act as multipliers of the information related to the instances of dialogue and participation contemplated in the Peace Accord.
- Assert that the current mechanisms assisting victims of the war should be strengthened.

MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Businesses and communities agree that there is still the opportunity to develop awareness strategies for awareness raising regarding forums for dialogue and decision-making (that involve business and communities) that are necessary for the implementation of the Peace Accord.

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CONSIDER that until now the State has not generated spaces where their voices can be heard concerning the implementation of the Peace Accord, which has prevented from identifying what roles business could play in these forums for dialogue and public participation created through the Peace Accord.
2. SYSTEM OF TRUTH, JUSTICE, REPARATION AND NON-REPETITION (STJRNR) & THE TRUTH COMMISSION (TC)

EASTERN PLAINS REGION

CONSIDER
That those who have violated rights in the context of the armed conflict have not shown a genuine intention to publicly apologize.

THINK
That the State must guarantee conditions of confidentiality and security for those who want to go to the Truth Commission and that there is still the presence of armed criminal groups in the territory exercising violent control that may impede active participation in the Truth Commission.

MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION

CONSIDER
That there is no recognition of their double status as victims and businessmen and therefore their right to reparation will be limited.

THINK
The Impartiality and autonomy of those who are in charge of the mechanisms provided by the STJRNR.

ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
They feel that there may be political biases that will influence the development of an impartial official narrative in the final report.

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CONSIDER
That the existing historical memory exercises have been planned and elaborated from the central government, ignoring the needs and conditions of the victims at the local level.

THINK
They give as an example the technical and academic language of the reports that have been made, and the use of a limited and inclusive methodology for involve stakeholders at the local level.

MAIN CHALLENGES
Business and communities of the three regions assert the need for the State to recognize its responsibility in the armed conflict, and to be the first to contribute to the construction of truth with testimony of officials. Additionally, they insist on the importance of the State providing security conditions to participate in the STJRNR mechanisms, particularly the TC.

MAIN OPPORTUNITIES
It is considered opportune, especially by communities, that the State exercises oversight of the implementation of the STJRNR mechanisms, particularly those regarding the construction of truth.

CONVENCIONES

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MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION

EASTERN PLAINS REGION
3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND COMPANIES

**EASTERN PLAINS REGION**
- **CLAIM**: That business must generate job opportunities.
- **CONSIDER**: That there has been great difficulty in linking the victims population and demobilized population mainly due to the lack of psychosocial help from the State.
- **AFFIRM**: That the operation of their business is affected when victims have problems adapting and or collapse emotionally, business do not feel they have the capacity or the obligation to support processes to address these problems.

**MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION**
- **AGREE**: That there must be a process of helping raise public awareness of the benefits of legal economies.
- **CONSIDER**: There is a perception among communities in rural areas that working within illegal economies is more productive and profitable than linking with a legal activity.
- **ASSERT**: That the government’s “accompainment” is the key in this process, bringing support and incentives so that business can develop more inclusive strategies with communities.

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- **EXPRESS**: Their interest in getting involved in legal and formal economies through opportunities generated by businesses.
- **CONSIDER**: That they have not had nor will they have sufficient and necessary capacity to link the communities to jobs because they are limited in their ability to maintain and/or increase their operational capacity, due to the regional economic crisis and the lack of support from the government.

**MAIN CHALLENGES**
Businesses and communities of the three regions consider that there have been difficulties in their relationships that go beyond the armed conflict.

Businesses believe that the violent environment of the communities, their lack of knowledge about how the formal labor market works (contracts, salaries, schedules, etc.), and their belief that the illegal economy generates more productive results in terms of time and money, makes it difficult for them to thrive in a formal business environment.

On the other hand, communities affirm that businesses hinder their connection to the formal economy by demanding them to adhere to difficult procedures and documents; discriminating based on their educational level, sex, condition of being a victim, ethnicity, etc., and for preferring to hire people from outside the community/region where they live.

**MAIN OPPORTUNITIES**
Businesses and communities express their interest in developing new approaches and strategies, especially in the area of employment, so that businesses can be more inclusive and generate opportunities for communities. However, there are several particular conditions that must be met and barriers to overcome.

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**CONVENCIONES**
- Consider that businesses at the local level have interests that conflict with the interests of communities regarding the vision of development in their region.
- Perceive conflicting interests between large businesses and the government, with businesses and communities at the local level. Not sure I understand this one.
- Consider that the State must guarantee conditions for the inclusion of communities in the formal economy.
- Consider that there is a general lack of opportunities for communities in general terms.
- Consider that there is a willingness to work on labor inclusion strategies.
4. PEACEBUILDING AND RECONCILIATION SPACES IN THE TERRITORIES

**EASTERN PLAINS REGION**
- Regarding opportunities for generating local forums for discussion on peacebuilding, social and economic development...
- Agree and consider it important to have greater support from the State and essentially businesses.
- Think that it is necessary for the State to be the one who promotes incentives so that businesses can not only offer job opportunities, but also contribute to different ways of peacebuilding and territorial reconciliation.

**MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION**
- Consider that their participation in the STIRNAC peacebuilding strategies depends on whether they will work, and also by offering them guarantees (for example, security and confidentiality).
- Do not believe in the effective participation of businesses in these mechanisms (especially large businesses) because, due to their economic interests, it is not convenient for them to promote reconciliation.

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- Affirm that it has not been possible to approach communities due to security problems.
- Affirm that they do not find in the State or businesses willing to approach them. They are in conversation in order to generate development in the region.
- Differ on the approaches that must be the State and the public institutions that facilitate approaches to what is feasible. The approaches must be facilitated by actors such as NGOs or churches, that have flexibility and the ability to choose who? In the territory

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**MAIN CHALLENGES**
Businesses in the three regions feel that the State has promoted development guidelines that prioritize large businesses leaving aside the support to local small and medium businesses. For local businessmen, this presents a great challenge for peacebuilding and reconciliation, as they claim not to have the capacity to contribute to the reconstruction of the region or the social fabric at the local level.

At the same time, several businesses assert that the State must provide economic incentives to local businesses for them to contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation processes, especially those that are managed to get ahead despite the internal armed conflict.

**MAIN OPPORTUNITIES**
If the State generates greater incentives and strengthens the local and regional economy, both local businesses and communities are disposed to work together in scenarios of reconciliation.

Both actors believe that strategies for strengthening the economy could be developed by offering privileges to businesses at the regional level (not only focusing on new investments) so that they can contribute effectively to peacebuilding and reconciliation.

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**CONVENCIONS**

1. Consider that territorial peacebuilding initiatives must be led by the State.
2. Consider that territorial peacebuilding is everyone’s responsibility.
3. Perceive that socio-economic indicators that are elaborated from the central level do not show the real dynamics at the local level.
4. Consider that there is a prioritization of certain economic sectors over others.
5. Expressed the need for the State to strengthen local businesses so that they can contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation.
6. Expressed willingness to work on joint reconciliation strategies (businesses-communities).
5. STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

EASTERN PLAINS REGION

AGREE
That the demobilization of FARC did not necessarily mean that the State strengthened its presence in the areas that this guerrilla occupied.

In fact, other illegal armed and common crime groups are fighting over control of these territories, leading to the persistence of different dynamics of violence.

THINK
That it is necessary to implement an effective strategy for development in the region due to high rates of migration from rural areas to the cities. It must include responses to the problem of illicit crops.

CONSIDER
That there are difficulties for developing their career goals while being in rural areas, where they do not find opportunities, incentives or good conditions.

MIDDLE PACIFIC REGION

AGREE
In the perception that the State has the main responsibility for the armed conflict because it has promoted inequality and social injustice through corruption.

This has led to a generalized lack of credibility of public institutions.

AFFIRM
That there are certain economic sectors or businesses that have greater support and respect for the community compared to the State.

They consider it important that the State articulates or regenerates the territorial development initiatives that these sectors or businesses have been leading and implementing.

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CONSIDER
It is necessary for the state to make more investment in the hydrocarbon sector, taking into account the region’s dependence on it.

BELIEVE
It is necessary, in addition to investing in this sector, to start thinking about what other economic activities could be developed in the region.

AGREE AND AFFIRM
That despite the Peace Accord reached with FARC, other groups continue to exercise violent control in the region.

Therefore, business activity and communities remain at risk.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Businesses in the three regions consider that, currently, government incentives to the private sector are focused only on large businesses, ignoring the contribution and needs of small and medium-sized businesses that operate in the regions.

A general distrust of public institutions as a result of known acts of corruption at both the central and regional levels.

Businesses and communities also express their concern about a systematic absence of investments by the State in the regions, which they believe is a problem that will not be resolved in the short term.

Finally, it was discussed the unsolved problem of illicit crops which generates serious conflicts at a regional level for both businesses and communities.

MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Although there are many doubts about the mechanisms for implementing the Peace Accord, businesses and communities consider that it represents an opportunity to rebuild the regions. However, this process must be based on discussion and resolution of the structural problems that historically have affected their environments.