JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
Havana, September 11, 2014

Yesterday, the delegations of the National Government and the FARC – EP received the second delegation of victims in Havana, to whom we want to thank for sharing their stories and opinions with us. As well as the testimonial of the first 12 victims who came some weeks ago, this second visit was essential to enrich the discussions regarding item five of the Agenda, strengthening this process and the agreements we may reach on the matter.

We thank the United Nations Organization, the Peace Dialogue Follow-up and Think tank of the National University (Centro de Pensamiento y Seguimiento al Diálogo de Paz de la Universidad Nacional) and the Episcopal Conference for their participation in the freely carried out selection process, following the criteria set forth by the Dialogue Table.

Likewise, the two delegations exchanged points of view on the item of “Victims” and listened to experts referring to the experiences and lessons learned from truth commissions from around the world.

During this cycle, the gender sub commission was also set up, whose purpose is to provide recommendations to the Table in order to enable an appropriate gender approach, particularly in relation with women and the LGBTI community. This sub commission, which will include up to five members of each delegation, may have external advisors and shall meet at least once in each cycle.

The inclusion of a gender approach in a peace process such as this one has no precedents in the world, and sets a milestone in the construction of the agreements already reached and yet to be reached. In order to achieve it, the texts of the agreements will be analyzed and the necessary recommendations will be made regarding the inclusion of an appropriate gender approach. Recommendations will also be provided regarding the items and topics of the Agenda still pending discussion.

Lastly, we received the reports of the UN and the National University regarding the forums on the topic of victims held at Barrancabermeja, Barranquilla, Villavicencio and Cali.

The participation of the Colombian people in this process is very important for both delegations. Therefore, once again, we invite them to visit www.mesadeconversaciones.com.co and send us their opinions and proposals regarding the Agenda.

We reiterate our gratitude to the guarantor countries, Cuba and Norway, and to the accompanying countries, Chile and Venezuela, for their support in the development of the dialogues. A new dialogue cycle will start this coming September 23, and the third visit of the victims will take place on October 2.