



# **WILLIAM J. PERRY CENTER for Hemispheric Defense Studies**



*Presents A Hemispheric Forum*



## **Understanding the Colombian Peace Process** *Main Points and Implications for the Future*

**Thursday, March 17, 2016**  
**from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Abraham Lincoln Hall, Auditorium, Room 1300**  
**National Defense University**  
**Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC**

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After a half century of internal armed conflict, Colombia is in the last stage of negotiations that could lead to a peace agreement being signed on March 23, 2016.

How did the negotiators get to this point?  
What will be the result of a signed agreement?  
What are the implications for the future  
of Colombia and the Americas?

# Understanding the Colombian Peace Process

## *Main Points and Implications for the Future*

The international community and the parties have expressed optimism about the proposed agreement as Colombia enters the last stage of negotiations in anticipation of signing the accord on March 23, 2016.

### **The final six points of the negotiation**

**Agricultural development policy:** this includes access, infrastructure and land use; formalization of property; protection of reserve areas; social development (health, education, housing, eradication of poverty); consolidation of cooperatives through technical assistance, subsidies, credit and income generation; marketing and legal labor; and food security system. The agricultural development policy is fundamental to promote equitable integration of the regions and socio economic development.

**Political participation:** this includes rights and guarantees towards political opposition parties (particularly for the FARC) and new movements that could appear after signing the final agreement; media access; promotion of direct civil and political participation at national, regional and local levels in all sectors of the population; and protection of vulnerable groups.

**End of conflict:** this includes peacebuilding and security assurances; ceasefire and hostilities; weapon and landmine clearing; inclusion of FARC and ELN to political, economic and social life. Colombian government will coordinate and review convicted persons, and also those who have been deprived of liberty or collaborated with FARC-ENL; it will intensify the fight against corruption, impunity, slaughtering, killing, drugs and other trafficking, by eliminating criminal organizations and their networks, together with the defense of humanitarian and political movements.

**Eradication of illicit drugs:** this includes developing programs for replacing illegal crops and eradicating the illicit in every stage (production, marketing, and commercialization). Including community participation on design, implementation and evaluation of the programs.

**Victims:** compensation and health improvements for civilian victims of the conflict. This historical agreement looks extremely promising, and will take effect immediately once the final peace deal has been signed in March 2016. As part of the peace negotiations, the FARC has agreed to work jointly with Colombian security forces to clear land mines in selected areas of Colombia as part of a peacebuilding pilot project.

**Implementation, Verification, and Ratification:** following the signing of the final agreement on all of the agreed points.

# Hemispheric Forum

## Understanding the Colombian Peace Process *Main Points and Implications for the Future*

March 17, 2016

### Agenda

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- 13:30–13:35:** Welcome and Introduction of Speakers
- 13:35–13:45:** Moderator: Dr. David Spencer, Associate Professor at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies Fort McNair, Washington, DC: *will give a program overview*
- 13:45–14:00:** Dr. Cynthia J. Arnson, Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC: *will address the six points of the negotiation (in total or in part), what a lasting peace accord means to both parties, and how to implement the accords*
- 14:00–14:15:** Mr. Adam Isacson, Senior Associate for Regional Security Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Washington, DC: *will address the six points of the negotiation (in total or in part), what a lasting peace accord means to both parties, and how to implement the accords*
- 14:15–14:30:** Mr. Pat Paterson, Professor of Practice at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies Fort McNair, Washington, DC: *will address transitional justice in Colombia: amnesty, accountability, and the truth commission*
- 14:30–14:40:** Break (collect questions: from the on-line audience)
- 14:40–15:15:** Q & A Session
- 15:15–15:27:** Panelist given two-three minutes each to make final comments
- 15:27–15:30:** Moderator closes out program and offers final remarks

## Speaker Biographies



### Dr. Cynthia J. Arnson

Dr. Cynthia J. Arnson is the director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her most recent work has focused on democratic governance, conflict resolution, citizen security and organized crime, international relations, and U.S. policy in the Western hemisphere. She is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, the Spanish-language edition of the distinguished

journal *Foreign Affairs*. She is a member of the advisory boards of Human Rights Watch/Americas and the Social Science Research Council's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum. She served as associate director of the Americas division from 1990-1994, covering Central America and Colombia. In the early 1980s, as a consultant to Americas Watch, Dr. Arnson wrote many of the organization's first reports on human rights conditions in El Salvador.

Dr. Arnson is the editor of *In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Stanford University Press, 2012); and co-editor, with Carlos de la Torre, of *Latin American Populism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). She is editor of *Comparative Peace Processes in Latin America* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Stanford University Press, 1999), co-editor (with I. William Zartman) of *Rethinking the Economics of War: The Intersection of Need, Creed, and Greed* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), and author of *Crossroads: Congress, the President, and Central America, 1976-1993* (2nd ed., Penn State Press, 1993). Since joining the Wilson Center's Latin American Program in 1994, she has written or edited scores of Woodrow Wilson Center publications on Colombia and the Andean region, Central America, Argentina, Venezuela, China-Latin American relations, citizen security and organized crime, energy, human rights, and U.S. policy in the Western hemisphere.

Dr. Arnson served as an assistant professor of international relations at American University's School of International Service, 1989-1991. As a foreign policy aide in the House of Representatives during the Carter and Reagan administrations, she participated in the national debates over U.S. policy and human rights in the Southern Cone and in Central America. Dr. Arnson graduated magna cum laude from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and has an M.A. and Ph.D. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.



### **Mr. Adam Isacson**

Mr. Adam Isacson is a Senior Associate for Regional Security Policy, Washington Office on Latin America, (WOLA) Washington, DC. He joined the Washington Office on Latin America in 2010 after 14 years working on Latin American and Caribbean security issues with the Center for International Policy. At WOLA, his Regional Security Policy program monitors security trends and U.S. military cooperation with the Western Hemisphere.

Since the late 1990s, Mr. Isacson focused especially on Colombia, the principal destination of U.S. aid in the region. His study of U.S. policy and accompaniment of Colombia's peace processes has brought him to Colombia about seventy times, including twenty of the country's thirty-two departments. Mr. Isacson has published and co-written dozens of reports and articles, testified before Congress several times, and led several congressional delegations. He holds an MA in International Relations from Yale University. Before WOLA and CIP, he worked for the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress in San José, Costa Rica.

Mr. Isacson is known for commentary shared online daily through regular contributions to Security Assistance Monitor, WOLA's ColombiaPeace.org, WOLA's Border Fact Check, and other blogs. Among Latin America analysts, he has been a leader in cutting-edge use of technology for transparency, instant analysis, and advocacy purposes. He earned a B.A. Hampshire College, Social Science and a M.A. from Yale University in International Relations.



### **Professor Patrick (Pat) Paterson**

Pat Paterson is a Professor of Practice of National Security Studies, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. A 1989 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, he retired from the U.S. Navy as a Commander in 2009. His last assignment was as the Political-Military Advisor and Senior Foreign Area Officer (FAO) on the Fourth Fleet staff in Mayport, FL. He has a Masters degree in National Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate

School in Monterey, CA, a Masters equivalent from the Argentina Naval War College in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a Masters degree in Political Science from the American University in Washington DC. As part of those studies, he has researched and written on numerous topics about Latin America including civil-military relations, U.S. foreign policy, democracy, rule of law, human rights, social movements, political violence, and counterinsurgency. He is the author of

numerous defense and security related articles in journals such as *Military Review*, *Armed Forces Journal*, *Proceedings Magazine*, *Joint Force Quarterly*, *Naval History*, *The Journal of International Affairs*, and *Security and Defense Studies Review* and has appeared on BBC Radio. His principal areas of expertise include civil-military relations, human rights, rule of law, counter-insurgency, and U.S. and Latin American history.



**Professor David Spencer PhD.**

Dr. David Spencer is an Assistant Professor of National Security Affairs, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. Dr. Spencer earned his Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University, where he specialized in Latin American politics. Dr. Spencer grew up in Latin America, living in Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala. His specialty is in the study of Latin American insurgencies. He spent five years working in El Salvador during the recent civil war, and for the last nine years worked in a variety of capacities in relation to the conflict in Colombia. Dr. Spencer has worked for a number of defense think tanks, including the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Prior to accepting the position at the Perry Center, Dr. Spencer was the Senior Director for Combating Terrorism at Hicks & Associates. In this capacity he provided support for a variety of projects for United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM).



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