

Expert in Transitional Justice Processes and Customary/Traditional/Indigenous Law to the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (P3)

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background:

The UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC) was established on 10 July 2017, by the resolution 2366 (2017) of the Security Council with the mandate to verify the implementation by the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP of sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the Final Agreement, which include the political, economic and social reintegration of FARC-EP and the implementation of personal and collective security guarantees and of comprehensive programmes on security and protection measures for communities and organizations in the territories. On 11th May 2021, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2574 (2021), which expanded the mandate of the Verification Mission to include the additional task of verifying compliance with and implementation of the sentences to be issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) to individuals who acknowledge responsibility for crimes committed during the 50-year conflict between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP).

The armed conflict disproportionately affected ethnic peoples in Colombia (Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and Roma). Currently, four macro-cases opened by the SJP have accredited collective victims of ethnic peoples in Nariño, Norte del Cauca, and the south of Valle de Cauca, the Urabá region and a national case on crimes against ethnic communities and territories. However, the other cases also highlight specific effects on ethnic peoples, highlighting the murders and forced disappearances by State agents and recruitment.

Organizational Setting and Reporting:

This position is located in the Sentences Verification Office of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC). The incumbent reports to the Principal Political Affairs Officer, Head of the Sentences Verification Office and will be based in Bogota, Colombia.

Objective of the position:

Provide support to the UNVMC in its mandate of verification of the SJP's restorative sentences.

Specific responsibilities

- Support to the preparation and design of the monitoring and verification system
 - o Contribution to reflections and recommendations for the methodology for verification of restorative sentences of the SJP, including with lessons learned and comparative experiences from other contexts
 - o Support to the identification and selection process of restorative projects, led by Colombian authorities.
 - o Assist in elaborating guidance on ethnic affairs sensitive verification of the restorative sanctions and supports in developing and implementing advocacy strategies for the verification of the restorative sentences and restorative projects related to ethnic affairs.
 - o Support in promoting collaborative coordination with ethnic organizations (at local and national levels) and traditional ethnic authorities while providing advice and recommendations to the verification teams on engagement with such organizations and persons.
 - o Liaise with the United Nations Verification Mission Ethnic Affairs Advisor and coordinate matters related to their mandates.

- Technical advice
 - o Advice to UNVMC's leadership in its cooperation with stakeholders involved in the implementation of the restorative sanctions (victims' organizations, individuals subject to the SJP, state authorities, civil society, international community)
 - o Input for UNSC's reporting and briefing on the topic (successes, challenges)
 - o Provides inputs for the analysis regarding the situation of ethnic peoples related to implementation of the sanctions handed out by the SJP.

- Participation in the implementation of the monitoring and verification of restorative sanctions
 - o Support to the mission's coordination and exchange of information at the technical level with actors involved in the implementation of restorative sanctions (victims' organizations, individuals subject to the SJP, state authorities, civil society, international community)
 - o Contribution to the analysis of tendencies and trends in the implementation of restorative sentences, including those related to ethnic peoples.

- Other tasks
 - o Carry out field visits when needed and requested.
 - o Participate in trainings and other dissemination activities of the mandate of the mission for the verification of restorative sentences, as needed and requested.
 - o Support activities carried out by UNVMC Regional Offices, including by providing lessons learned and comparative experience regarding processes of transitional justice, as needed.
 - o Contributes to the development of guidance material and tools to support a ethnic sensitive verification process, based in guidelines and protocols necessary to carry out the additional task of verifying compliance with the sentences issued by the SJP.

Requirements:

- **Education:**
 - An advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in a relevant field: International relations, Political Sciences, International Law. A first-level university degree (Bachelor degree) in combination with at least two years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

- **Work Experience:**
 - A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in transitional justice processes in different contexts (e.g., in a special court or similar institutions), in conflict or post-conflict settings is required.
 - In-depth knowledge about transitional and restorative justice, international (criminal) law, including traditional and/or indigenous justice systems, is required.
 - Proven experience coordinating multi-stakeholder processes and working with high-level representatives from government and international community; sensitivity in liaising with conflict victims is desirable.
 - Experience in policy advice, promotion of human rights/ indigenous peoples or ethnic minorities rights or against discrimination at the national or international level in peace processes or development, in UN or in other international development organizations is desirable.
 - UN experience is desirable.
 - Proven analytical skills, solution oriented, capacity to contribute with own ideas and innovation-oriented is desirable.
 - Relevant work experience in Latin America and/or knowledge of the Colombian peace process is desirable.

- **Languages:**
 - English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post, fluency in Spanish, English, and one of Switzerland's national languages is required.

- **Other:**
 - Physical and mental fitness to work in this context, (Assignments are subject to successfully meeting the medical standards);
 - Possession of a valid automobile driving license and the ability to drive a 4x4 vehicle using manual transmission;
 - Swiss nationality (Dual citizenship with country of assignment not possible).