

Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings Expert Event

**Political party assistance for the conversion of armed movements: Colombia's peace process**

21st June 2017, Het Nutshuis, Commissarissenzaal, The Hague

**Programme**

- 8.30 – 8.45 Coffee and tea
- 8.45 – 9.00 Opening and welcome to participants  
Moving into a new phase in the Colombian peace process, it is time for NIMD to take stock, look at where we are and what we should be doing. This event is to discuss the pertinent questions regarding political party support and strategies for building peaceful political organisations.
- 9.00 – 9.45 An introduction to the Political context in Colombia  
An in-depth look at the specific political context of Colombia, with up-to-date information on the peace process, and insights into the systems, actors and behaviours that shape developments, with a focus on the FARC.
- 9.45 – 10.00 NIMD in Colombia  
A short introduction to NIMD's work in Colombia. Placing our strategies, ambitions and goals in the current political context of Colombia.
- 10.00 – 10.10 Break
- 10.10 – 11.30 Session 1: Party System  
What is the impact of this new political party on the overall party system and other political actors? The emergence of a new political party will affect the political landscape, what can be expected, how will other parties react.
- 11.30 - 11.40 Break
- 11.40 - 13.00 Session 2: Links to DDR/SSR  
What is the relationship between the political conversion process of former insurgent groups and the DDR/SSR processes? The changing political environment of post-war transition often creates new dynamics, which can strain internal and external relations, and help determine the outcomes of the conversion process.
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 – 15.20 Session 3: Party Organization  
How is the organisational structure of the new political party affected by historical or cultural contexts? How is the organisation structured now and how should, or could they, function internally after converting to a political party? What challenges might they face?
- 15.20 – 15.30 Break
- 15.30 – 16.45 Session 4: Providing Support

How can we best approach providing technical assistance in this context? What are the political sensitivities to consider? What to do and not to do?

16.45 – 17.00 Brief summary and reflections