

DECLARATION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF MINISTRIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES OF PEACE

Through this Declaration, the **International Peace Bureau (IPB)**, an international Non-Governmental Organization,

MANIFESTS its firm support for the creation and maintenance of Ministries of Peace and Peace Infrastructures that are organized and developed in the Latin American region and internationally with the objective of generating a peaceful, supportive and harmonious culture incorporated in sustainable and lasting way to the lives of people.

More specifically, convinced of the relevance and urgency of said government structure in the current Colombian reality and taking into account its long history of violence and armed conflict that has bled the country for more than 50 years, we adhere to the project to create the Ministry of Peace in Colombia, which will be presented by representatives of the Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace - GAMIP - in Bogotá, on November 9, 2023 in the format of a Public Hearing at the Congress of the Republic.

The planification of a Ministry of Peace and the development of Peace Infrastructures in Colombia, in all the countries of the Latin American continent and the world, means an unprecedented political and strategic challenge, enabling two simultaneous processes of extraordinary importance and impact on the future. of the history of the region:

DECONSTRUCT the prevailing Culture of Violence – both direct armed violence and all its manifestations in the domestic, interpersonal, school, community, urban, rural, institutional and governmental spheres,

And achieve BUILD clear processes, pathways or mediating tools for a Culture of Peace – collecting the countless experiences, practices, traditions, laws, “usages and customs” existing within Latin American societies and in other regions of the world.

The existence of Ministries at the government level and of Peace Infrastructures permeating the fabric of the political, social and economic structures of our countries establishes both constructions as scenarios for fruitful dialogue, citizen participation, conflict resolution and prevention of violence in all their manifestations.

They are also areas where the collective memory and the search for the truth about past events play a fundamental role, reminding countries in the region of their long history in obtaining their legitimate freedoms and rights, which must be redefined in the current complex and conflictual current situation.

Ministries of Peace are required to safeguard the social coexistence, ensure full citizen participation, deepen justice mechanisms and ensure to everyone a dignified life that respects democratic values in increasingly unequal and complex societies.

It is vital to recognize Ministries and Infrastructures of Peace as an essential part of a State policy, as well as their institutional role linking a visible network of tools and strategies available for peacebuilding, which should be present on the governments' agenda. from diverse communities, in civil society associations, and from the academic and religious world - both in the public and private fields.

Peace is a choice of quality of life and coexistence, a state of balance and security free of violence sustained by respect and tolerance, justice, human rights and the vocation for dialogue that allows the strengthening of social ties.

The Ministries and Infrastructures of Peace open the possibility for this deep human desire to become a reality in Latin American countries as well as in the entire world.

We welcome the creation of the Ministry of Peace in Colombia and the Peace Infrastructures that collaborate in a systematic and lasting construction of non-violence, strengthening solidarity and respect between peoples.

ALL OUR SUPPORT FOR IT

(Signature)

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International Peace Bureau (IPB)

