Peace Process in Colombia: Options for the Trump Administration

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“After the Peace Agreement: What Next for Colombia?”
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Overview

• Introduction
  – How/Will the Trump Administration Support the Peace Process?

• Range of Options for the Trump Administration
  – Unconditional Support for the Peace Process
  – Press for Amendments to the Peace Accords
  – Support the Peace Process with Conditions

• Review Options

• Conclusions
The Range of Options

Unconditional Support For Peace Process

Support the Peace Process w/ Conditions

Press to Amend the Peace Process

Trump: Americans First... Everybody else got to go... America is not your sugar daddy
Option 1
Unconditional Support for Peace Process

Rationale: Support Colombia—a Steadfast US Ally

• US spent Billions on Plan Colombia w/Bipartisan Support
  – Peace Accords are evidence of Plan Colombia’s success
  – President Obama promised $450M for Implementation

• US Traditionally Supports Democratic Governance
  – Peace accords result from democratic process

• Agreement not perfect—but there had to be incentives to get FARC to demobilize

• If Accords not implemented, FARC members will return to crime and insurgency:
  – BACRIM, Organized Crime, ELN, Dissident Groups

• Implementation will be Expensive ($30B over 10 years)—But less costly than 10 more years of war
Option 2
Press to Amend Agreement: Improve Chances for Success

**Rationale:** Why support a flawed process that could fail?

- **“No” Sector: Peace Agreement Does not Equal Peace**
  - A step on the path to peace

- **Agreement Could Increase Insecurity**
  - “Transitional Justice” only restricts liberty of perpetrators of atrocities
  - FARC Chiefs can be appointed to Congress despite heinous crimes

- **Will FARC Comply w/Agreement?**
  - 3rd Phase: Continued “political warfare” by any/all means ("Combinar todas las formas de lucha")

- **2018 Presidential Elections could Reverse Pact**
  - Congressional approval of amended agreement in Nov 16 lacks democratic legitimacy of referendum
  - Gaining a Popular Consensus Important
Option 3
Support Peace Process w/Conditions that Advance US Interests

**Rationale**: “America First”:
- Old approach: Benefits of US leadership worth more than the cost
- Current approach? Leadership Costs more than it benefits US?

**US policy results from integration of institutional interests:**
- DOS: **Regional Stability**—Uncertainty causes strategic instability
  - Would affect Colombian and regional economies
  - Impact of Venezuela Collapse?
- DOD: **Security**: Military-to-Military Relationship
  - Colombia helps export security
- DOJ: **Reduce Drug Flow and Counter Organized Crime**
  - Increase Eradication (Resume Aerial Spraying)?
  - Extradition of Narco-traffickers?
- NSC: Integrate Institutional and Presidential Objectives
Conclusions