



STATEMENT ON THE DESIRE FOR PEACE FOR THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE
35TH WSCF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
5 March 2015

We, the participants of the 35th General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation held in Bogota, Colombia from the 27th of February to the 5th of March 2015, listened to and shared the testimony of the diverse sectors of the Colombian people, including the victims of the conflicts, showing us the humanitarian and human rights crisis and the lack of justice that has produced more than five decades of armed, social and political violence in Colombia.

Despite the pain the Colombian people has lived, we were received by the leadership and youth of the churches, as well as by people from different ecumenical and social organizations of Colombia. They welcomed us with joy, and conveyed to us their wishes and hope for peace before the dialogue between President Juan Manuel Santos and the insurgent groups to find a negotiated solution to bring the armed conflict to an end.

Motivated by the testimonies we listened to, and the theme of the General Assembly, "We Are Many, We Are One, Called to build God's peace," we want to share this message with the Colombian people and the international community.

As a global fellowship of Christian students, we commit ourselves to pray and accompany the Colombian people in its hope and wishes for peace, which we have seen in the youth, students and leaders of churches and social organizations.

We appeal to the Colombian Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) not to leave the negotiations until an agreement is reached in order to put an end to the armed violence that has affected the Colombian people. We also ask the Colombian Government to initiate soon a public dialog with the National Liberation Army or ELN.

We ask the Global Ecumenical Movement to accompany and support the social organizations, communities and churches in Colombia in their endeavors for peace, based

in the respect for human rights and the search for justice and democracy to allow a true reconciliation.

We call upon the international community, country governments and multilateral organizations, to maintain their presence in Colombia to make a contribution to the compensation of the victims, and a peace that's a fruit of justice and reconciliation in Colombia.

We leave the General Assembly in Bogota, but we will stay united with the Colombian people in its desire of peace. We will give testimony of the many peace initiatives being built by the communities, and we will advocate for our Student Christian Movements (SCMs), churches and ecumenical movement to stay with you until an agreement is reached to build peace and reconciliation among all citizens.

(Approved on March 5, 2015 by the delegates and participants of the WSCF 35th General Assembly held at ACJ/YMCA Bogota Auditorium, Bogota, Colombia.)