

**Video Message by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
At Forum on Colombia Peace Process  
Bogota, Colombia  
April 28-30, 2013**

**Greetings! I am President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and I send warm greetings to all those working for peace in Colombia.**

**My own country went through two civil wars, from 1989 to 1996 and from 1999 to 2003. The fighting claimed the lives of around 250,000 people, mostly civilians; displaced many more into neighboring countries; and destroyed our moral values. It left Liberia in economic ruin and overrun with weapons. We are still working to rebuild our lives and build a peaceful, just and prosperous democracy.**

**I am very happy to hear that the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are now involved in peace talks to end more than five decades of conflict. I can only imagine how so many years of violence have affected the Colombian people.**

**I know that you have gathered, at the request of the Government and the FARC, to propose how Political Participation issues should be reflected in a future peace agreement.**

**In 2011, I was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace together with two other women. We received the Prize for our “non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work.”**

**In accepting the Peace Prize, I dedicated it to the countless women and girls who have suffered, whose struggles are often not noticed but who help to shape our world.**

**I spoke to those who had shed tears and blood and lost their dignity, and I told them: “My sisters, my daughters, find your voices.”**

**This is my message to you, the women and men gathered today in Bogota: Reject senseless violence, find your voices and work together for a better tomorrow in Colombia.**

**Thank you, and I wish you a successful Forum.**