

United Nations

Fifth report on human rights of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

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Note by the Secretary-General

1. This document contains the fifth report of the Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). It covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996, during which the peace process took a significant step forward with the signing, on 6 May 1996, of the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation. I shall convey a copy of this report to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a request that it be transmitted to the members of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

2. I appointed Mr. David Stephen as Director of the Mission with effect from 1 June 1996, to succeed Mr. Leonardo Franco,

and notified the President of the General Assembly of this change in my letter of 8 May 1996 (A/50/954). I should like to pay tribute to Mr. Franco's important contribution to the process of setting up and running the Mission and to his dedication to the work entrusted to him.

3. Once again, I wish to thank the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) for their continued cooperation with the Mission, which has enabled it to function. I am also grateful to the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process for their unswerving support for the Mission's efforts, which is crucial to the achievement of its objectives; to the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Italy, Spain and Sweden for contributing police personnel to the Mission; and to the Governments of Brazil, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela for providing the services of their military officers.

4. The Mission continued to receive support from the members of the United Nations system in Guatemala, represented by the Resident Coordinator of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System in Guatemala, for which I am very grateful. Also of note is the special contribution made by the United Nations Volunteers Programme through the 111 volunteer experts currently working in MINUGUA.

ANNEX

Fifth report of the Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive

Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala

I. INTRODUCTION

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1. The United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) continued to carry out its mandate of monitoring compliance by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) with the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Agreement), signed on 29 March 1994 (A/48/928-S/1994/448, annex I), and with the relevant aspects of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement on Indigenous Rights), signed on 31 March 1995 (A/49/882-S/1995/256, annex).

2. The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996, during which the Mission continued to receive complaints of alleged human rights violations and expanded its activities to strengthen human rights institutions. The international community continued to support the Mission's work through both financial contributions to the Trust Fund for the Guatemalan Peace Process and contributions of professionals and equipment.

3. The Mission continued its contacts with each of the parties, as stipulated in the Comprehensive Agreement. These contacts took the form of periodic meetings with the President of the Republic or his ministers and, in Mexico City, with the URNG General Command. The meetings with the Presidential Human Rights Committee (COPREDEH), which had been suspended in recent months, were resumed following the appointment of a new