EFFORTS FOR REFORM IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR IN COLOMBIA THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

7.2 Defence Procurement Reform
16 November 2006

Presented by Marcela Rozo, TPC
Acknowledgments

• Notes prepared on the basis of interviews performed to two defence experts from specialized NGO’s
  – Alfredo Rangel - Dir. Security & Democracy Foundation
  – Yaneth Giha – Dir. Post-conflict Area, Ideas for Peace Foundation
Main Efforts to control corruption

- Constitutional reform (1991) introduced civilian as Minister of Defence.
- Budget planning for defence included in the same procedures as the rest of the sectors.
- Measures to improve transparency in defence procurement
- Internal control office in the Minister, run by civilians
- General Comptroller’s Office – D&S division
Transparency in procurement

- Centralization of procurement in the Ministry: unified procedures, standardization of equipment, more value for money
- Public bidding – (attention to technical constraints)
- External monitoring – IP in warfare aircrafts acquisition
- Centralization on institutional Funds management
Persisting institutional limitations

- A more active and specialized role of Congress is required in the monitoring of the performance of the sector vis-à-vis assigned budget
- Need for better control of procurement at decentralized level (batallions & brigades)
- Better training of personnel of General Comptroller’s Office required
- Insufficient commitment from the armed forces
Defence corruption & illegal actors

- Corruption has not been an issue considered within peace negotiations with guerrillas or paramilitaries, despite serious problems of state capture at territorial level
- Relationship between drug trafficking money & defence corruption has changed
- A special strategy is needed to confront state capture & corruption at the local level
Suggested Measures for Defence Reform

1. Strengthen Institutions (consider complexity of criminal business)
2. Guarantee civilians with responsibilities in D&S management
3. High levels of publicity on how money is spent, competitive bidding with no technical constraints
4. Checks & Balances (military-govnmt-watchdog agencies-civil society)
5. Get Congress to monitor performance