



06.29-07.20.19
**COLOMBIA
SYMPOSIUM**
COORDINATED STABILIZATION
AND PEACEBUILDING



A Typical Day in Bogotá

7:30am You and your roommate (a Mindanao-based civil servant who promotes inclusive governance and civic engagement) wake up.

8:00am Over a steaming hot cup of Colombian coffee and fresh fruit and pastries you listen to a friend's story about her experiences working on stabilization operations in Raqqa, Syria.

8:45am You take the local transportation to the Cavalry School, and on the way, discuss Colombia's current internal situation with an summer staff member who has taken three weeks off from her job at a microfinance NGO to work with Creative Learning and IPSI (she's an alumna of the Sarajevo Symposium).

9:00am It is the third, and final, day of the Introduction to Coordinated Stabilization module. Yesterday, you were inspired by **Joshua Mitrotti** who, as the Director of DDR in Colombia, managed to support the reincorporation of ex-combatants post-peace agreement with the FARC.

The morning session begins with the Morning Coffee Groups where a summer staff member leads your small breakout group through a facilitated discussion of the previous evening's

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readings to ensure comprehension. He then passes out roles for a coordinated stabilization simulation based on Unity State in South Sudan. With coaching by **Dr. Gabriel Murillo**, former Dean of the Political Science Department at Los Andes University, you have 45 minutes as a team to design three governance projects that would address some of the root causes of violence in the region, then debrief with the group.

10:30am You take a thirty-minute coffee break walking through the pastures of the Cavalry School overlooking the surrounding mountains of the city of Bogotá and discuss the morning's session with the other participants.

11:00am Everyone gathers in the auditorium for the next interval in the South Sudan Simulation. You learn how to coordinate your group's governance projects with other small groups representing security, rule of law, and social well-being. Dr. Murillo debriefs the group.

12:00pm You eat a selection of Colombian food offered at the venue and go for a little stroll, petting the horses at the nearby stables.

1:00pm You decide to attend the day's optional 30-minute student presentation in the auditorium. Today, a fellow participant from the U.S. Army is speaking about her multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan training national forces. You hope to learn more about the practical skills she needed to operate in such dangerous environments, and you figure it will be good preparation for next week's workshop on Safe and Secure Environments.

1:30pm Hind Kabawat, Member of the High Negotiation Committee at the Syrian Peace Talks, kicks off the afternoon dedicated to civil society. Hind identifies some of the key issues that civil society have addressed within the peace talks and inspires you with her passion and dedication.

3:30pm The group heads outside again for a 30-minute coffee and snack break. You get in a discussion with a UN representative from the Democratic Republic of Congo about his two years working in the Central African Republic.

4:00pm You break into groups and are provided with instructions for an exercise with Hind on how to negotiate humanitarian assistance in the Syrian conflict. You are assigned the role of a community leader and spend the next twenty minutes with two partners preparing for the simulation.

4:20pm You and your partners enter structured negotiations with other participants playing the roles of other civil society actors, Syrian government forces, and government councils.

5:15pm You come to an agreement for humanitarian assistance delivery. The group gathers for a quick debrief, where you are provided additional information on tomorrow's activities.

5:30pm You head to the patio, where your focus group has decided to meet. You reflect on the day and try to apply the lessons-learned in a relaxed conversation facilitated by a summer staff member.

6:00pm You meet with a group of students in a local café in the old town for some traditional Bogotá hot chocolate. You brainstorm about some pioneering social entrepreneurship projects. Soon, a lively debate erupts a few seats down about the U.S.'s role in the Venezuela crisis.

6:45pm The group splits; some decide to order dinner, some head back to the hotel to screen a documentary on the Colombian peace negotiations, *La Negociación*. You have been selected to have dinner that night with the speakers, so you head back to the hotel to clean-up.

8:00pm You sit down with six other participants, Hind Kabawat, Gabriel Murillo, and **Colonel David Rodríguez** (President of the Colombian Armed Forces National Network of Human Rights - speaking tomorrow on Security Sector Reform in Colombia) for a traditional Colombian dinner in a quiet corner of a restaurant.

10:30pm You cannot believe that it is already half-past ten and that you have been listening and sharing stories with some of the most influential thinkers and practitioners in the world for two-and-a-half hours. You walk back to the hotel looking forward to **John Prendergast's** presentation on Tracking Illicit Finance Flows through The Sentinel Project, as well as hearing **Luc Lapointe's** insights on Innovative Finance Mechanisms for Stabilization.