



Research Article

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International Cooperation for Peace? Development of a Conceptual Proposal

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Abstract

The subject of peace assumes a pivotal role within both the realm of literature and the ambit of collaborative initiatives. Nevertheless, a discerning examination of the distinct sphere termed "peace cooperation" exposes a lacuna in its theoretical underpinnings and nuanced connotations, as per the Sartorian conceptual framework. The prevailing focus in scholarly investigations on cooperation predominantly centers on scrutinizing processes and dynamics associated with "development cooperation," relegating the discourse on peace to a tangential position. Considering this, the inquiry arises: What constitutes the conceptual understanding of "peace cooperation" within academic discourse and practical contexts? Employing an analytical methodology, this study endeavors to furnish a comprehensive array of conceptual components to methodically address its examination and proffer insights for pragmatic application. Employing an interpretative epistemology, the concept of cooperation is juxtaposed against a critical analysis of pertinent literature and insights gleaned from prominent contributors in the Colombian context. This endeavor aims to formulate a conceptual framework, rooted in the delineation of the "peace cooperation" category, to augment comprehension and optimize the implementation of peace cooperation strategies in regions affected by conflict. This scholarly contribution serves to delineate the contours of a novel classification within the overarching domain of development cooperation.

Keywords: Cooperation; peace; official development assistance; Colombia

1. Introduction

In the broadest sense, cooperation is defined as the process of coordinating actions between two or more entities to achieve a specific objective. Within the realm of International Relations (IR), Keohane (1988) asserts that cooperation transpires when entities adjust their behavior to the present or anticipated preferences of others through a process of policy coordination (p.74). Consequently, this concept encompasses diverse global issues, manifesting itself through various modalities

(financial, technical, cultural, etc.) and involving numerous actors (both state and non-state) engaging in different relationships (bilateral, multilateral, decentralized, etc.) and directions (North-South, South-South, triangular). The non-specialized literature sometimes contributes to confusion by using terms interchangeably, such as international cooperation (IC), international cooperation for development (ICD), and Official Development Assistance (ODA) (Tassara 2017a).

Similarly, when delving into the specific matter of "cooperation for peace," confusion arises when it is exchanged interchangeably with other instruments of international support related to the pursuit of external support for peace, such as military cooperation, peacekeeping operations, or diplomacy for peace.

The fundamental postulate guiding this research posits that cooperation for peace pertains to a distinct field of international development cooperation, encompassing various means, channels, and thematic categories. Its primary objective is to contribute to the transformation of violent conflicts and the consolidation of peace. Moreover, its characteristics and objectives extend beyond the realm of peace diplomacy and operations conducted within the United Nations framework, situating itself outside the dynamics of military cooperation.

Consequently, this research aims to offer technical insights for a more precise delineation of programs and projects within this field. Additionally, it enriches academic discussions on international cooperation in conflict zones and its role in peacebuilding.

Methodologically, the analysis centers on the study of the Colombian case, where the topic of peace assumes a central role in both literature and cooperation agendas. Remarkably, when focusing on the specific category of "cooperation for peace," the findings disclose a topic of increasing interest but not fully consolidated, with relatively few academic studies and an undefined and uncertain application in practice. This situation presents opportunities for further exploration.

The existing literature reveals a discernible void in the conceptualization and connotation, particularly in the Sartorian sense, of the conceptual category termed "cooperation for peace." Predominantly, research in the field of cooperation has concentrated on scrutinizing processes and dynamics unique to "development cooperation," addressing peace-related issues in a multifaceted manner. Consequently, a pivotal question arises: What does the academic literature comprehend as "cooperation for peace," both theoretically and in practical application?

In response to this query, the present article undertakes a meticulous analytical review of academic literature pertaining to cooperation for peace in Colombia, alongside an examination of documents originating from the field. The latter encompasses information generated by key actors involved in cooperation for peacebuilding in Colombia, as outlined in the methodology (see Methodology).

An early observation of the academic literature review, which warrants attention, is the scarcity of works centrally addressing cooperation for peace. Conversely, a notable analytical emphasis exists on the participation of international actors in the pursuit of peace in Colombia within the domain of foreign policy. In the Colombian context, a substantial body of work provides valuable insights into topics such as the internationalization of conflict and endeavors to negotiate peace (Bayer, 2013; Bergamashi, García, & Santacruz, 2017; S Borda, 2012; S Borda & Cepeda, 2012; S Borda & Gómez, 2017; Sandra Borda, 2007; Bouvier, 2014; Garay, 2011; Rodríguez Pinzón, 2017, among others).

Conversely, within the specific domain of cooperation, the majority of studies in the Colombian context concentrate on the analysis of International Development Cooperation (CID) and Official Development Assistance (ODA). These studies, while alluding to issues related to peace, do so in a peripheral manner (Agudelo Taborda & Rodríguez, 2016; Bergamashi et al., 2017; Duarte-Herrera & Pedraza-Beleño, 2018; Duarte, González, & Mesa, 2017; Hernandez Acuña & Gallardo, 2019; Tassara, 2019b, 2019a).

The imperative to enhance clarity surrounding the concept of interest within the ambit of international cooperation becomes evident. As elucidated earlier, a more profound comprehension of the distinct characteristics of peace cooperation in conflict-affected regions could furnish insights that enhance efficacy in peacebuilding processes and outcomes. This understanding facilitates a more

discerning recognition of the spheres of operation, methodologies, constraints, and opportunities inherent in this realm of cooperation. To achieve this, the paper necessitates further refinement to ensure proper typesetting and meticulous proofreading, encompassing a comprehensive examination of spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and terminology, as advised by the reviewer.

The primary contribution of this research lies in the identification and classification of conceptual categories utilized in both scholarly literature and practical applications to delineate the notion of cooperation for peace. To achieve this objective, the paper is structured as follows: commencing with the introductory section, the subsequent paragraph delves into methodological considerations. The third section endeavors to enhance conceptual clarity regarding pivotal terms essential for the article's development.

In alignment with Sartori's abstraction scale (1971) and informed by relevant internationalist literature, a conceptual exploration is undertaken concerning cooperation, international cooperation for development (ICD), and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Subsequent attention is directed towards the conceptual analysis of diplomacy for peace, peacekeeping operations, and military cooperation.

The fourth section advances a conceptual framework for investigating cooperation for peace, synthesizing insights derived from a comprehensive review of academic literature and information gleaned from practical contexts. A concluding section encapsulates the findings and reflections of the study.

2. Methodology

The present study seeks to elucidate the definition and characterization of cooperation for peace, employing qualitative methods rooted in an interpretive epistemology. According to Della Porta (2010, pp. 6-7), this approach posits that objective reality is comprehensible solely through subjective categories, facilitating an understanding of reality construction through contextualized knowledge. The methodology involves a detailed examination of a case study, specifically the cooperation for peace in Colombia, achieved through the meticulous review, analysis, and systematization of documentary sources.

The examination of the literature review and the inquiry into the Colombian case facilitates the observation of actors, terms, and actions inherent to the subject of cooperation for peace within a specific context. Subsequently, the formulation of conceptual content emerges, serving as a foundation for future studies.

The pertinence of the Colombian case in addressing this matter is underscored by its unique status as a recipient of cooperation. Notably, a significant portion of the international support received by Colombia in recent decades has been channeled towards cooperation for peace. As asserted by Rueda-Florentino and Osorio Pereira (2019), the context of conflict has sustained Colombia as a major recipient of Official Development Assistance (ODA), persisting even after its classification as a high-income middle country in 2012. Recent developments, such as the signing of the Peace Agreements in 2016 and the accession to the OECD in 2018, have reshaped the cooperation landscape, emphasizing the implementation of the Agreements.

To address the introductory inquiries comprehensively, it was deemed pertinent to initially engage in conceptual groundwork regarding cooperation and fundamental arguments linking security, peace, and development. This endeavor draws from noteworthy publications within the realm of international relations.

Subsequently, the article delves into the conceptual category of "cooperation for peace" through an examination of the Colombian case. Two distinct sources are employed for this purpose: (i) academic literature on cooperation for peace in Colombia and (ii) documents originating from the field, encompassing information generated by key actors in cooperation for peacebuilding in Colombia. The exploration of scientific publications on cooperation for peace in Colombia involved the use of reputable academic databases and publishers, ensuring a comprehensive and rigorous

approach. The ensuing refinement of the paper will encompass meticulous typesetting and proofreading, addressing aspects such as spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and terminology, as highlighted by the reviewer.

Texts on the Colombian case that included the words "cooperation" and "peace" in the title or main argument, published between 2012 and 2022, were consulted. The initial search yielded a total of 98 records. Among them, the research that met the following criteria was identified and selected: (a) scientific publications (articles, books, book chapters) written in English and/or Spanish; (b) that used "cooperation for peace" as a conceptual category or main argument; (c) that were published from the beginning of the peace process between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP (2012). Taking these criteria into account, the search was refined by eliminating works that did not fit the selection criteria, as well as duplicate results. Thus, a total of 21 publications that met the selection criteria were obtained.

Regarding the second type of sources, the study focused on government donors in order to understand and analyze references to the argument of cooperation for peace from the perspective of the partner providing the resources. To do this, the AIDMonitor tool (FAO – United Nations 2020) was used to identify the top five donors for Colombia in the subsector of ODA "Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution" (2012-2017). In order of the amount of committed resources, these are: Germany, European Union, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. Once identified, the publications and statements available on the websites of these actors were reviewed.

Additionally, the United Nations was included as a universally-reaching organization with the objective of promoting and ensuring peace at the international level. The information was systematized and analyzed by creating first and second-level codifications (Saldaña, 2009). This was done to identify recurring themes in the consulted academic studies, as well as the conceptual categories used in the definition and use of the term "cooperation for peace" in both the literature and the information provided by the donors.

3. Brief Approaches to International Cooperation and Peace

The initial discourse within the field of International Relations, commencing with the debate between realists and liberals, has consistently centered around issues pertaining to war and peace (Salomón, 2002). Significantly, the prominence of the cooperation discourse escalated from the 1970s onward, marked by the interparadigmatic debate involving realists and transnationalists, as well as the ongoing dialogue between neorealists and neoliberals (Salomón, 2002).

From a theoretical standpoint, this study is grounded in the framework of neoliberal institutionalism, also known as neoliberalism, within the domain of International Relations (Keohane, 1988; Keohane & Nye, 1977). According to this theoretical perspective, the international system is influenced by a multitude of actors, both state and non-state, alongside global issues, fostering increased interdependence and a growing demand for cooperation (Keohane, 1988; Keohane & Nye, 1977; Jiménez González, 2003; Del Arenal, 2009). An illustrative example of this phenomenon is evident in the delineation of global development agendas within the United Nations, manifested through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 and the subsequent formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Notably, within the framework of the SDGs, the explicit inclusion of the peace issue emerges as a fundamental aspect. SDG 16, titled "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions," is identified by Villanueva (2020) as "the sine qua non of the 2030 Agenda," as it collaboratively contributes with SDG 17 to establishing a comprehensive approach and a conducive environment for the attainment of other goals (p.191).

In the context of peace, this article aligns with the perspective of Peace Studies, conceptualizing peace as a dynamic process encompassing the cessation of three distinct forms of violence: direct violence (violent confrontations), structural violence (embedded within systems or customs), and cultural violence (which legitimizes the former) (Galtung, 1969). As elucidated by Mouly (2022), negative peace denotes the termination of violent confrontations between conflicting parties, while

positive peace signifies a constructive process built upon the absence of all three forms of violence.

In a similar vein, Castañeda (2017) observes that activities related to peacebuilding can occur at any juncture or phase of a conflict, constituting an integral aspect of a more extensive process associated with the initiation of negotiations and the subsequent endorsement of peace agreements, collectively referred to as the peace process. Mouly (2022) underscores that peacebuilding, its maintenance, and establishment are interrelated processes that address "the three components of conflict according to Galtung: the behavior of the disputing parties, their attitudes, and the underlying contradictions of the conflict" (p.163).

From the standpoint of Peace Studies, emphasis is placed on the involvement of various local and international actors in the peacebuilding process (Mouly 2022). In this context, Rettberg's observation (2012) is noteworthy, as she draws attention to the distinctions between two major international actors—The United States (USA) and the European Union (EU)—involved in supporting peace-seeking initiatives in Colombia through American and European cooperation. The former is predominantly associated with the pursuit of negative peace, primarily focused on counter-narcotics efforts, while the latter is oriented towards a vision of positive peace that addresses the structural causes of the conflict.

It is essential to note that the disparities between these approaches contribute to broader discussions concerning the interconnectedness of security, peace, and development. Since the 1980s, there has been a reevaluation of the traditional security paradigm, incorporating environmental, economic, political, and social variables in its conceptualization. This shift has led to an alignment between security and development concerns (Perez de Armiño 2007; Arreaza and Mason 2012). More recently, the discourse has evolved towards comprehensive approaches recognizing that the stability and sustainability of peace necessitate not only ensuring physical security but also instigating profound social, economic, and political changes (Rettberg, 2003, 2012). In essence, both theoretically and practically, strides have been taken in acknowledging an implicit relationship between peace, security, and development. This sentiment arguably culminates in a global consensus, as evidenced by the materialization of the 2030 Agenda (Sanahuja, 2018).

4. Cooperation for Peace: An Analytical-Conceptual Review

The exploration of peace, defined herein as a process encompassing the absence of three types of violence, and the comprehension of International Cooperation as the coordination of policies among actors toward a specific goal, prompts an inquiry into the nature of cooperation for peace. Despite its seemingly straightforward nature, the course of the research has revealed a certain degree of confusion regarding the understanding, explanation, and application of this term. Consequently, this section has been structured into three levels or approaches to provide conceptual content that proves valuable both in academic discourse and practical applications.

In accordance with Goertz (2006), the first approach to defining cooperation for peace involves identifying what it is not, thereby distinguishing it from similar concepts such as DP, CM, and POMs. The second level delimits the usage of the term within the realm of International Cooperation in Colombia. Finally, the third level introduces the proposed analysis.

4.1 First approach: The definition of Cooperation for Peace

The initial exploration of the topic delves into the distinction between cooperation for peace and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) as delineated by Aumayr (2015). PKOs represent a collective initiative and a global alliance operating under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), serving as a tool to aid nations in transitioning from conflict to peace (Alvarez-Espada, Fuentes-Bargues, and González-Gaya 2022). Typically deployed in regions marked by internal violent conflicts, these operations involve the coordinated deployment of military forces, police, and civilian personnel to facilitate the establishment, construction, and maintenance of comprehensive peace (United Nations

2008).

A subsequent imperative distinction pertains to the differentiation between "cooperation for peace" and "military cooperation." While their overarching goal of achieving peace aligns, albeit broadly, their fundamental divergence lies in their conceptualization of peace itself. The former embraces peace as the absence of direct physical violence (negative peace) or, more comprehensively, as the absence of both direct and structural or indirect violence (positive peace) (Galtung 2010; 1969).

In the context of military cooperation, the focus aligns with negative peace, prioritizing security as the conduit to attain peace, in accordance with Galtung's perspective (2007). Strategies within this realm predominantly concentrate on the modernization of Armed Forces in terms of technology, weaponry, intelligence, and on-the-ground advisory (Rojas 2017). Due to its distinct characteristics and objectives, military cooperation does not fall within the purview of International Development Cooperation (CID) or Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows. A pertinent illustration can be drawn from the Colombian case, exemplified by the bilateral military cooperation program, Plan Colombia (Otero Prada, Carreño Pilonieta, & García Estévez, 2017; Ríos Sierra, 2016; Rojas, 2015; A. Tickner, 2007; A. B. Tickner & Cepeda, 2015; A. B. Tickner & Morales, 2015; Tokatlian, 2001). Incepted in the late 1990s, this program initially framed the issue of peace as a security concern, entwined with the anti-drug efforts and subsequently within the global war on terrorism.

In contrast, the concept of cooperation for peace, the focal point of the ensuing section, aligns with a vision of positive peace. A notable illustration of this approach in the Colombian context is the cooperation extended by the European Union and its member countries (Agudelo Taborda & Riccardi, 2019; Barreto Henriques, 2016; Castañeda, 2009, 2017). Specifically, European support for Peace Laboratories (2002-2010) concentrated on addressing the structural underpinnings of violence and conflict (Guerrero 2012). Consequently, the paper acknowledges the need for further refinement, encompassing meticulous typesetting and proofreading, to ensure linguistic precision and coherence throughout the document.

The third essential distinction pertains to diplomacy for peace, as proposed by Watson (1982), who asserted that "diplomacy, in general, exhibits a predisposition towards peace" (as cited in Kornprobst 2023, pp. 2). In a conventional framework, peace is construed as an exclusive state responsibility, and consequently, diplomacy serves as a tool wielded by states to avert war and amicably address conflicts (Kornprobst 2023; J. G. Tokatlian, 1999). According to Tokatlian (1999, pp. 340), diplomacy for peace entails the "deliberate management of a country's international relations with the specific objective of securing external support for the resolution of an internal war." More recently, the acknowledgment of both state and non-state actors in the diplomatic domain has emerged to foster more comprehensive communication processes, guiding the trajectory towards sustainable peace (Kornprobst, 2023; Morini, 2018). In this context, diplomacy for peace is intricately linked to the pursuit and attainment of external support in the political-diplomatic sphere, with the overarching goal of achieving the peaceful resolution of conflicts and advancing towards peacebuilding.

4.2 *Second approach: delimiting the concept*

The document under consideration explores the terminological confusion prevalent in non-specialized literature concerning the interchangeable use of terms such as international cooperation (IC), international cooperation for development (ICD), and Official Development Assistance (ODA), as highlighted by Tassara (2017a). A potential avenue for enhancing clarity in this regard is to adopt the scale of abstraction proposed by Sartori (1970; 1971).

According to Sartori's conceptual framework, there exists an inverse relationship between the extension and connotation of a concept. To elaborate, the process of rendering a concept more abstract and general involves a reduction in its properties or attributes. Conversely, specificity is achieved by augmenting a concept with qualifications, thereby increasing its properties or attributes (Sartori, 1971, p. 41). Consequently, terms positioned at higher levels of the scale exhibit less

connotative characteristics, signifying their status as more abstract or general concepts. Conversely, concepts at lower levels are identified as subtypes of those preceding them, encompassing all the attributes of their predecessors along with additional characteristics (Carneiro de Sousa, 2014).

In light of this framework, "international cooperation" emerges as the most general concept, while "international cooperation for development" is identified as a subtype. Correspondingly, the concept of "Official Development Assistance" assumes the role of the most specific concept, demanding a greater number of specific attributes or characteristics for its definition. The graphical representation in Figure 1 succinctly encapsulates and illustrates the hierarchical relationship between these concepts based on their placement on the scale of abstraction.

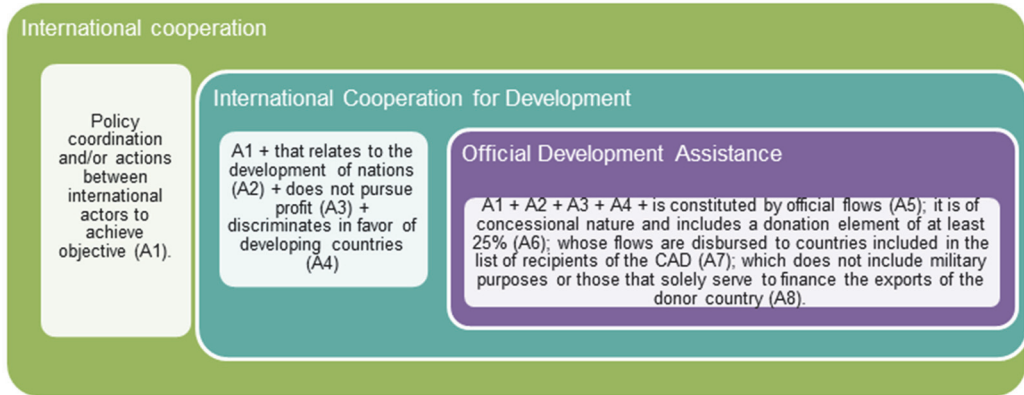


Figure 1. Definition and characterization of the concepts Cooperation, CID, and ODA (A=attributes). **Source:** Self-made based on the data available at the United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC], 2015; Keohane, 1988; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], n.d.; Tassara, 2016.

In elucidating the concept of Coordination of International Actors (CI) as a process aligning policies among global entities toward specific objectives, this document introduces the term Coordination for International Development (CID). CID, in turn, refers to distinct actions geared towards contributing to development. Official Development Assistance (ODA) emerges as a noteworthy subtype of CID, distinguished by its concessional transfer of exclusively public resources and services, as articulated by Arias Rodríguez (2020, pp. 33-34).

Within the realm of peace, it is noteworthy that Colombia accords paramount significance to this theme, evident in both literary discourse and cooperative agendas. Notably, the examination of "peace cooperation" reveals an emergent yet inadequately consolidated domain, characterized by a limited body of scholarly research and ambiguous operationalization in practice. This nascent field offers prospects for further investigation.

In the documents produced from the field, donors maintain different approaches regarding cooperation and peace (table 1).

Table 1. Main donors and CP approaches: summary of the collected information.

Donor	Approaches to Cooperation for Peace (CP)
Germany	German collaboration in Colombia is centered around three pivotal themes: peace, environment, and ecological development. The primary aim is to contribute to the enhancement of the populace's quality of life, emphasizing dignified living, security, peace, poverty alleviation, and environmental preservation. The German cooperation strategically directs its efforts toward identifying and rectifying the structural roots of conflict while simultaneously striving to implement sustainable resolutions.

Donor	Approaches to Cooperation for Peace (CP)
European Union	Accentuating European endorsement for the peace process constitutes a pivotal facet within the overarching European Union-Colombia bilateral association. Particular emphasis is placed upon the designation of a European Union Special Envoy for the Peace Process, coupled with the establishment of the European Fund for Peace in Colombia. Noteworthy acknowledgment is extended towards a targeted initiative encompassing sustainable integral development in various domains, including but not limited to territories, social cohesion, governance, and institutional fortification.
Sweden	The document delineates collaboration across three spheres: sustainable development, peace cooperation, and humanitarian assistance. Within the purview of Cooperation Protocol (CP), key focal points encompass the endorsement of Development and Peace initiatives, a steadfast commitment to civil society, active facilitation in the realization of agreements, and providing counsel to the government in the formulation of the Law of Justice and Peace.
Norway	The Comprehensive International Development (CID) framework is grounded in the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Norwegian development cooperation policy identifies five key priority areas, namely: Education, Health, Climate Change, Environment and Oceans, Private Sector Development, Agriculture, and Renewable Energy, along with Humanitarian Assistance. The consideration of peace within the CID is contextualized within the broader context of global security challenges. This underscores the pivotal role of development policies as instrumental tools for effectively addressing such challenges. In the pursuit of peace through international cooperation, concerted efforts are concentrated on the exploration and promotion of enduring political solutions.
USA	In the sphere of instability and conflict within the nation, the imperative is to delineate a framework for collaboration. Emphasis is to be placed on elucidating the intricate nexus linking inequality, conflict, and the clandestine rural economy characterized by drug trafficking, extortion, and illegal mining. The agency spearheading this collaborative endeavor is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which channels its cooperative efforts towards pivotal subjects, including but not limited to economic prosperity, amelioration of living standards for the most susceptible strata of the populace, and the advancement of human rights and justice.
United Nations	The document centers on the vital aspects of peacebuilding and sustainable development. It contextualizes the assistance provided by the United Nations (UN) in Colombia within the parameters delineated by the United Nations Charter, the National Development Plan, as well as the international treaties and conventions officially endorsed by the Republic of Colombia. Moreover, the UN's involvement is intricately aligned with the overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Source: Own elaboration based on: German Cooperation Agency - GIZ, n.d.; EU Delegation in Colombia, 2016; German Embassy in Bogotá, 2020; Swedish Embassy in Colombia, n.d.; FOS, 2020; United Nations Organization [UN], n.d.; Royal Norwegian Embassy in Colombia, n.d.; USAID, 2020.

The cooperation between Germany and Sweden with respect to Colombia explicitly incorporates the theme of peace as a central focal point. Both nations affirm their dedication to addressing the structural causes of the conflict and fostering sustainable solutions. This bilateral commitment underscores a shared emphasis on contributing to the resolution of underlying issues.

In contrast, Norway adopts a distinct approach by categorizing issues into "development cooperation policy" and "peace, security, and stability." While acknowledging the significance of development policies in advancing peace and justice, Norwegian development cooperation policy in Colombia, unlike the approaches of Germany and Sweden, does not explicitly include the theme of peace within its five priority areas.

Conversely, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contextualizes the American government's cooperation within the framework of conflict, emphasizing instability, inequality, and challenges related to illicit drug trafficking. The American agency underscores the imperative to promote economic prosperity through a licit economy, enhance institutional presence, and advocate for reconciliation among other pertinent topics.

- i. In the discourse surrounding the role of donors in peacebuilding, a predominant theme underscores the collaborative efforts of the United States and the European Union as principal contributors to the resolution of the conflict in Colombia. Notably, the distinctive approaches employed by these international actors under the auspices of the Plan Colombia (USA) and the Peace Laboratories (EU) during the early 2000s, as well as their alignment in supporting the peace dialogues in Havana (2012-2016), are accentuated (Agudelo Taborda & Riccardi, 2019; Barreto Henriques & Grandas Estepa, 2020; Rojas, 2017; Castañeda, 2012, 2014,

2017; Rojas, 2017). Furthermore, there exist scholarly inquiries delving into European cooperation from a bilateral perspective, such as Spanish and Chilean collaboration in peace negotiations, and German participation in the implementation of the Justice and Peace Law and, more broadly, in the peace process (Calvillo Cisneros, 2017; Guerrero Soto, 2017; Birle, 2016; Macana & Valdivieso, 2014).

However, the involvement of international actors transcends the mere financing and endorsement of specific projects or programs. These entities also play a pivotal role in contributing to "the construction of new narratives and social realities in the country" (Arreaza and Mason, 2012, p.488). Consequently, it becomes imperative to scrutinize the formulation of the international cooperation agenda in Colombia concerning the establishment of the peacebuilding concept within the country from a global standpoint (Arreaza and Mason, 2012).

- ii. The publications encapsulated within the overarching theme of Cooperation and Post-Conflict shed light on the enduring challenges within post-agreement scenarios in regions marred by violence, exemplified by the Catatumbo region (Jimenez, Gamboa 2018). These works delve into the potential role of international cooperation as a strategic instrument or alternative for progressing towards conflict resolution. Within this conceptual framework, cooperation is construed as a pivotal facet of foreign policy, serving as a means to foster dialogue with states and international organizations that have engaged in post-conflict rehabilitation in other locales. These entities bring forth invaluable experiences in addressing the exigencies and aspirations of civilian populations in areas afflicted by violence (Castro and Gonzalez 2016; Corredor 2020). Moreover, it is imperative to underscore the significance of fortifying technical and South-South cooperation modalities, alongside cultivating relationships with neighboring countries. Emphasis is placed on the exchange of experiences and best practices derived from analogous contexts, which can be strategically applied in Colombia to surmount persistent challenges in peacebuilding within the post-agreement milieu (Jima, Paradela, and Serrano Ávila 201; Diaz and García 2016; Marquez 2016).
- iii. The nexus between local and international actors in matters pertaining to peace is of significant importance. Colombian civil society has assumed a central role in the dynamics and collaborative endeavors aimed at fostering peace. This role underscores an inherent interdependence between initiatives propelled by local actors and the resources bestowed by external donors, as articulated by Arias Rodríguez in 2020. Within local civil society organizations, peace laboratories have emerged as instrumental mechanisms in the pursuit of alternatives for reconciliation and the transformation of the underlying structural causes of conflict. These peace laboratories have garnered substantial support, with European cooperation standing out as a pivotal ally. European cooperation not only provides political backing but also extends crucial financial support, as elucidated by Castañeda in 2017, Barreto Henríquez in 2016, and Rueda-Florentino & Insignares-Cera in 2022. A facet that warrants further theoretical exploration within the overarching theme is the examination of collaboration between private enterprises and international cooperation in the context of peacebuilding, as posited by Barreto Henríquez in 2014. This dimension adds a layer of complexity to the intricate web of interactions shaping the landscape of peace initiatives.

4.3 *Third Approach: a proposal for analysis*

Upon conducting a more nuanced analysis, the employment of the phrase "cooperation for peace" has been discerned within the examined literature and practical applications. As a result, four primary categories have surfaced, delineating comprehensively the connotations and motivations underlying cooperation for peace (refer to Table 2).

1. The term "Human Security" gained prominence on the international stage during the 1990s, notably introduced through a report by the United Nations Development Programme, subsequently

consolidated by the Commission on Human Security (CSH). Human security involves safeguarding fundamental freedoms, acknowledging the existence of diverse freedoms such as freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the capacity for autonomous action (CSH, 2003). This concept, likewise, encompasses the security of individuals. Thus, the comprehension of human security revolves around two primary spheres: (i) its connection to freedom from fear, as aligned with life and international human rights law, and (ii) its inclusion of freedom from wants, which entails sustainable human development intertwined with economic security and the freedom from fear, enabling individuals to autonomously address their basic needs (Villanueva, 2009).

2. The elimination or transformation of conflict roots stands as a pivotal facet in the pursuit of cooperation for peace, emphasizing the imperative to eradicate key conflict elements. This approach enables states to surmount the crisis scenarios they encounter. Consequently, the identification of numerous variables within disruptive scenarios becomes crucial, facilitating endeavors to combat poverty. Simultaneously, concerted actions against social, economic, and political inequality are essential. These actions necessitate coordination among diverse stakeholders involved in the conflict, including civil society.
3. Within the realm of conflict root identification, the European Union (EU), guided by its foreign policy, has defined key pillars dedicated to the preservation of peace, international security, and cooperation. The EU recognizes the imperative nature of devising strategies that propel the fight against inequities within the Colombian armed conflict landscape. This acknowledgment underscores the significance of fortifying the institutional framework necessary for the efficient implementation of cooperative endeavors.
4. Mitigation of Consequences: An essential component for the establishment and sustenance of peace within conflict scenarios necessitates the implementation of palliative measures to address resultant challenges. In the Colombian context, among various approaches, the adoption of transitional justice has surfaced as a viable alternative to attaining a steadfast and enduring peace (Abella, 2022). Furthermore, an additional factor contributing to the alleviation of conflict consequences is the establishment of peace laboratories. Through these initiatives, the European Union (EU) has effectively reoriented cooperation, engaging citizens within conflict zones such as Colombia (Rueda Fiorentino & Insignares Cera, 2023).
5. Peace The consolidation of peace, facilitated by diverse stakeholders engaged in peacebuilding efforts, is deemed an essential phase for reinforcing the rule of law. This process is executed through a variety of programs that engage state entities, civil society organizations, and international actors. Mechanisms employed in this pursuit include the implementation of agreements and the fortification of institutional frameworks. Furthermore, peace consolidation encompasses the advocacy for the rights of all inhabitants within a given territory, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations.

In this context, it is imperative to acknowledge the verification and monitoring endeavors conducted by the United Nations in the diverse peace missions undertaken by the organization.

Table 2. Categories present in the use and definition of the term cooperation for peace.

Human Security	Elimination or transformation of the roots of the conflict	Consequence Mitigation	Peace consolidation
Maintenance of the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime; Dignified, safe, and peaceful life; Protection for human rights defenders; Prevention of violence and conflict transformation.	Fight against poverty, social inequality, and all forms of discrimination; Public participation; Justice and democratic governance; Human, social, rural, and sustainable development.	Assistance to victims and restoration of their rights under the principles of truth, justice, and reparation; Humanitarian aid; Attention and assistance to vulnerable communities; Promotion of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; Eradication of anti-personnel mines. Dignified, secure, and peaceful life.	Transitional justice; Implementation of the agreements; Strengthening of Civil Society and Democratic Institutions; Promotion of coexistence, culture of peace, and non-repetition; Territorial development and governance; Historical memory. Demobilization, reintegration, and reconciliation. Human, social rural and sustainable development.

Source: own elaboration based on literature review.

Based on the gathered data and the interpretative exercise undertaken, a comprehensive conceptualization of "cooperation for peace" emerges. This concept encompasses a spectrum of initiatives aimed at fostering the establishment of peace in regions that have been, or currently are, affected by conflicts. Diverse international actors spearhead these efforts, characterized by an overarching commitment to the principles of positive peace, as articulated by Galtung in 1969.

The thematic dimensions inherent in cooperation for peace can be classified into four primary categories, namely: the elimination or transformation of conflict roots, the mitigation of consequential impacts, human security, and the consolidation of peace (refer to Table 2). Consequently, cooperation for peace unfolds as an expansive undertaking that encompasses both political and social endeavors. This includes supporting negotiation processes, fortifying civil society, and other similar initiatives. Additionally, tangible expressions of such cooperation are evident through financial disbursements and resource allocations for projects and proposals.

An exemplification of the aforementioned principles is discernible in the collaborative efforts extended to Colombia during the negotiation of the Peace Agreements spanning the years 2012 to 2016, as well as in the ongoing implementation phase. Within this context, bilateral and multilateral actors have proactively provided political backing to peace initiatives championed by the Colombian Government and Civil Society alike. International actors have functioned as guarantors at negotiation forums and have facilitated the execution of programs and initiatives through financial support, which is the case of The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia and the European Trust Fund for Colombia.

It is pertinent to emphasize that, with respect to the actors engaged in peace cooperation, the literature predominantly concentrates on the role of nations and multilateral institutions, excluding specific inquiries such as those conducted by Birlé (2016) and Arias Rodríguez (2020), which respectively address political foundations and business foundations. Another noteworthy participant is the local civil society; nevertheless, Marín Aranguren (2015) posits, in the Colombian context, a scarcity of comprehensive data regarding civil society, its functions, and its value proposition within the cooperative domain (Marín Aranguren, 2015; Marín Aranguren & Millares Abella, 2017).

This study advocates a comprehensive perspective that recognizes the involvement of diverse actors, thereby conceptualizing peace cooperation in a broad framework beyond the confines of official Official Development Assistance (ODA) channels. It is imperative to acknowledge that this form of cooperation, orchestrated or originated by non-state entities such as international non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and business foundations, remains a relatively underexplored domain necessitating further theoretical investigation.

The aforementioned insights enable us to underscore the distinctive attributes of peace cooperation, distinguishing it from other conceptual classifications frequently employed in analogous contexts (refer to Table 3).

Table 3. Conceptual categories: international support instruments related to peacebuilding.

	Diplomacy for peace	Peacekeeping Operations	International cooperation	Military Cooperation	Int. development cooperation	Official Development Aid	Cooperation for peace
Agents	State (traditional framework) and non-state (paradiplomacy)	United Nations and Member States, military and civilian forces	State and non-state	States and military forces	State and non-state	Donantes del CAD (fuentes oficiales)	State and non-state
Scope of action	Political-diplomatic	civil and military	Miscellaneous (general)	Military	Economic, social, environmental.		Human Security; Elimination or transformation of the roots of the conflict; Mitigation of consequences; Peacebuilding
Goals	Obtain external support for the resolution of the conflict.	Search, construction and maintenance of an integral peace.	Coordination of policies against an end/objective; Maximize benefits and reach the interests of the stakeholders involved.	Strengthening of military capabilities to achieve or move towards negative peace.	Progress towards the fight against poverty and compliance with the SDGs, including No. 16 on justice, peace and strong institutions.		Peace building (positive peace)
Strategies	Negotiation, lobbying	Deployment of military and civilian bodies	Agreements, protocols, conventions, policies, etc.	Exchange of techniques and technologies, know how, among others	Financing of Programs and projects		Financing of Programs and projects; exchange of experiences; political support; support for the implementation of agreements, among others.

Source: Own elaboration based on the conducted analysis and available data.

The tabulated data furnishes a concise overview of the analytical framework posited within this research, with the overarching objective of contributing valuable conceptual insights for an enhanced comprehension and deeper insight within academic circles concerning collaborative efforts for the promotion of peace. Additionally, it seeks to delineate the practical application of these conceptualizations. Consequently, a discernible observation emerges, highlighting the dynamic nature of the involved actors, strategies, and objectives, contingent upon the utilization of various international instruments of support. Thus, a definitive assertion can be made that the outcomes derived from these endeavors, along with the conceptualizations of peace they espouse or advocate, exhibit notable variation.

5. Conclusions

The present analysis, undertaken in this document, discerns various categories of international support instruments pertaining to the theme of peace, with a particular emphasis on the conceptual delineation of "cooperation for peace." It is evident that the majority of studies addressing this subject furnish a substantial theoretical framework on cooperation for development and underscore the significance of peace as a pivotal facilitator. However, scant attention is given to the explicit conceptualization of cooperation for peace in both scholarly works and practical information derived from experiences. The Colombian context, for instance, exhibits an extensive enumeration of topics and activities that characterize the actions or programs associated with this form of cooperation. These enumerations provide initial insights that can significantly contribute to broadening the discourse on its theoretical foundations.

Delving further into the exploration of the "cooperation for peace" concept is pertinent not only in theoretical dimensions within the realm of international relations but also for its practical application by stakeholders in the pursuit of peace. Such exploration equips them with insights that facilitate the identification of the scope, objectives, and strategies to enhance the efficiency of their programs and projects, thereby ensuring the realization of the anticipated impact.

The contexts affected by conflicts, exemplified by the Colombian case, present intricate realities wherein the demarcation between actors, causative factors, and potential resolutions remains obscured. A comprehensive grasp of the meaning of collaboration for peace, the entities involved, the various modalities it encompasses, and its distinctions from other international support mechanisms holds the potential to enhance efficacy not only within the initiatives undertaken by partners and benefactors but also in their influence and the outcomes anticipated by the recipients.

This comprehension could, for instance, facilitate a more profound awareness among local actors regarding the arenas and possibilities available for direct involvement with collaborating entities. Additionally, it could shed light on the allocation of resources based on thematic areas and priorities germane to peacebuilding. Consequently, this article endeavors to contribute to the development of theoretical content that can serve as a conceptual framework, inspiring subsequent scholarly investigations into the matter.

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