STATEMENT OF COLOMBIA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR ADVANCING PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE 2018-2020 TO MARK THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DISPLACEMENT

PANEL 1

INTERSESSIONAL SEMINAR

Thursday, 29 October 2020

Thank you, Madam Special Rapporteur,

I would like to start by thanking the panellist for their statements and recommendations for preventing and addressing internal displacement.

Colombia supports the work that the GP20 Initiative has been developing since 2018 in the implementation of the Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People.

We recognize that internal displacement is one of the most critical factors in the context of humanitarian crises and must be addressed with specific actions primarily at the national level, from short-term assistance to durable solutions that preserve people's dignity and rights and with the active participation of displaced people in the design and implementation of national policies.

My country is fully committed politically, legally and financially to address the challenges of displacement and has significant experience in providing humanitarian assistance and recognizing the rights of the displaced population. In this regard, in recent years Colombia has concentrated its efforts on implementing a policy of comprehensive assistance and reparation for victims in the framework of our national law, Law 1448 of 2011. We will renew the law for ten more years, with the support of our legislative branch.

Additionally, through the National Table of Victims we continue to ensure the fully participation of IDP's in decisions that affect them, especially in decisions about the implementation of the law and the national policy. Since 2012, the National Government has invested more than \$1.4 billion dollars in humanitarian assistance, to provide minimum living conditions for 1 million households.

We continue providing administrative and judicial compensation to collective and individual victims of violence in Colombia. This integral reparation process also includes actions to restore the victims' dignity, their physical and emotional health, and to create conditions that prevent the repetition of the events.

We have implemented a land restitution program under which 384 thousand hectares of land have been returned to despoiled victims by our judicial system and 280 thousand displaced households have been supported by our National Government in the process of return and relocation.

The health emergency generated by the Covid-19 pandemic has put more pressure on our communities, especially those who present a greater degree of vulnerability as internally displaced people. In that context, we continue to implement our national policy, assisting internally displaced people; providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households, recognizing, compensating and restoring their rights. Our national competent authority has provided more than 450 thousand humanitarian assistance orders with an investment of 68 million dollars.

Colombia renews its commitment with the prevention, protection and durable solutions for internally displaced people and to respect and protect their human rights.

Thank you very much.