



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

26 June 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Colombia by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 44<sup>th</sup> session in November 2023. As the final outcome report on the review of Colombia was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session, I have taken note of the efforts of your Government to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by your Government, is available at OHCHR's website (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/co-index>) and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "UPR practical guidance" and the "UN good practices" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main>, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volker Türk

His Excellency  
Mr. Luis Gilberto Murillo Urrutia  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia



## **Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review**

Colombia is commended for the voluntary pledges and commitments made during the UPR review, in particular on the implementation of the public policy and action plan to dismantle criminal organizations, with a view to pursuing the structures behind the most serious violations against human rights defenders and peace signatories, and on the creation of a mechanism to follow up on recommendations, in dialogue with human rights organizations. The reactivation of the standing invitation extended to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the commitment to ratify additional international human rights instruments, are also welcome steps.

Measures taken to advance the gender equality agenda, including the creation of the first Ministry of Equality in the history of the country and the process of formulation of the first national action plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, are positive developments that would require continued support.

While noting progress made in complying with the 2016 Peace Agreement, obstacles and challenges in its implementation remain, particularly in relation to the ethnic chapter, gender provisions and the comprehensive rural reform. Further necessary steps are encouraged to fully implement the Agreement, as well as the Truth Commission recommendations, including by addressing, as a priority, the continued expansion of non-State armed groups and criminal organizations. Acknowledging the commitment to strengthening policies to protect human rights defenders and social leaders, further efforts are needed to effectively protect them from attacks that continue to be documented, including by reforming the current national protection system.

While welcoming the significant steps taken regarding transitional justice, Colombia is encouraged to continue supporting the independent work of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-repetition and ensure victim-centred reparations.

Colombia is also encouraged to commence the implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular members of the Congress, the judiciary, including the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, local and regional governments, the Ombudsman Office (*Defensoría del Pueblo*), and civil society organizations. The matrix may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. The Government is encouraged to explicitly link each UPR recommendation to corresponding recommendations from other international and regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDG and its targets. This will, in turn, facilitate the creation of synergies between UPR implementation and SDG-related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).



The Government is further encouraged to establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/50/64](#)).

Further, an important measure that could positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report in about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Colombia may wish to consider resuming the practice of submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2026, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR  
26 June 2024