

16<sup>th</sup> UPR Working Group session,  
Geneva, 23 April 2013  
Mr. President,

Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Delegation of Colombia to the UPR and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We congratulate Colombia for its sustained high-level dialogue within the United Nations system of entities and inter-American human rights institutions. The frequent visits by the heads and high-level executives of various UN organizations to the country are the exemplary evidence of Colombia's long-term commitment towards its engagement within the broader UN system.

We highly commend the efforts of the Government in order to combat poverty in the country. The targeted policies and comprehensive strategies of the Government have resulted in decreasing the rate of extreme poverty to 10%. We recommend Colombia to continue its measures for the overall alleviation of poverty in the country.

We are encouraged by the endeavors of the Government for the universal advancement of education in Colombia. The achievement of universal coverage at the basic primary and secondary levels and squeezing the gap between urban and rural coverage should be especially emphasized in that regard. We recommend Colombia to continue prioritizing education opportunities for the largest possible proportions of rural inhabitants and vulnerable populations.

We commend Colombia for its effective measures for combating trafficking in persons and cases of sexual violence, including the adoption of the Comprehensive National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the steps taken by the Office of the Attorney General. We recommend Colombia to continue undertaking effective actions for the protection and promotion of the rights of women in the country.

Considering our own experience as a victim of international armed conflict, we fully understand the ensuing complexities and difficulties faced by Colombia in a context of armed conflict with a view of promotion and protection of human rights in the country. However, we are fully convinced in commitment of the Government to overcome these challenges by all necessary means, including also through its fruitful and constrictive engagement with the international community.

Finally, the Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to assure once again the Delegation of Colombia of our full support and cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.