

DPR
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COLOMBIA

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus welcomes Colombia's participation in the second cycle of the UPR Working Group and its informative National Report. We take this opportunity to commend the Colombian Government for having implemented a significant number of recommendations of the first UPR-cycle.

Cyprus is encouraged by the continued expression by the Government of Colombia of its commitment to human rights, as well as its pledge to end impunity for human rights abuses. My delegation would also like to welcome the overall improvement on an array of human rights issues in Colombia, including the strengthening of the relationship between the Government and civil society and human rights defenders.

We also acknowledge Colombia's becoming a party to international human rights agreements such as, for instance, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We urge closer attention be paid to children's rights. We are, of course, encouraged by Colombia's commitment to the promotion and protection of children's rights and the adoption of measures for the improvement of the health and education of vulnerable children under the age of 18, as well as the prevention of the forced recruitment of children and of sexual violence against children. But, there is still reporting that children in Colombia are subjected to different kinds of violence - be it domestic, street or sexual violence. Moreover, the internal conflict in Colombia has, amongst others, affected children and youth who, in turn, have trouble in building a stable future. In this vein, we urge that Colombia adopts further positive measures aimed at guaranteeing the fulfillment of all human rights of children and their protection from all forms of violence.

We would like to make the following recommendation:

Enhance the protection for children, including by improving the investigation, prosecution and prevention of violence against children.

I thank you Mister President.