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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Sixteenth Session**

Review of Colombia

**Statement by
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Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
and other international organizations in Geneva**

Counselor Bassel Ahmed

(Geneva, 23rd of April 2013)

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Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of Colombia and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today. We wish to thank the delegation for the informative and comprehensive report that the delegation has presented, which demonstrates its desire to interact with the international human rights system. We have examined with great interest what was mentioned in the report since the 1st UPR cycle and we welcome the acceleration by the government of Colombia to implement effectively the existing legislation and programmes and the several interventions introduced lately, particularly that adoption of the victims and land restitution act for 2011, which constitutes the government's most ambitious attempt to provide assistance and reparation to victims of violence.

The improvements in the human rights situation in Colombia demonstrate the Government's commitment to complying with the highest standard of safeguarding human rights. Although difficult tasks and challenges still lie ahead, the Government's will to overcome them is evident. We welcome the current reforms by Colombia to promote and protect human rights including strengthening of the areas and entities responsible for protecting the rights of minorities and strengthening of judicial functions, social protection, security, housing and environment. In that regard, and in a positive spirit of cooperation and dialogue, Egypt would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1- To continue to develop and expand programmes for the protection of indigenous peoples.
- 2- To strengthen the trafficking prevention programmes under the national strategy to combat human trafficking 2007–2012, with particular attention to children from disadvantaged groups.
- 3- To continue to incorporate economic, social and cultural rights in the national strategy to combat drug trafficking.

I thank you.