

Statement by Hungary on Colombia, UPR Session 16, 23 April 2013

60

Mr. President,

Hungary welcomes the distinguished delegation of Colombia lead by H.E. the Vice President of Colombia, and congratulates the Government for engaging in a continuous and transparent follow-up on the 2008 review. We welcome the Victims and Land Restitution Law as an important step towards resolving the conflict that the country has endured for so many years and hope that current peace talks in Havana between the Government and the FARC will lead to stable and lasting peace in Colombia.

We are pleased that the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders was able to visit the country in 2009, as recommended by Hungary. We would welcome to see the Government stepping up its efforts to prevent violent attacks, including murder, acts of intimidation and threats against human rights defenders, trade unionists and women's organizations. We therefore **recommend** that the Government enact legislation recognizing the legitimate work of human rights defenders and ensuring their life, security and integrity, and that it conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigations into allegations of threats, attacks and violence against them.

Hungary welcomes efforts by Colombia to combat forced recruitment of children by non-state armed groups, in particular by having municipal authorities addressing the various risk factors to which children and adolescents are exposed. **We recommend** that the Government intensify its efforts to counter this widespread practice, and ensure that all demobilized children are given protection, reintegration and rehabilitation assistance. **Can the delegation elaborate** on the measures taken to ensure financial sustainability and institutional capacity for initiatives to promote awareness of forced recruitment, in particular among children of indigenous and afro-Colombian origin?

Finally, Hungary positively notes efforts by Colombia to address sexual violence. **We recommend** that Colombia invite the SR on violence against women, and develop, in consultation with civil society, a comprehensive plan of action to address this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President