

UPR 16 COLOMBIA

IRELAND'S INTERVENTION

Ireland thanks Colombia for its presentation today. Ireland welcomes the positive developments taken to achieve peace since Colombia's first UPR in particular the peace negotiations now underway. Ireland strongly supports this process and commends the efforts of the parties to these talks. Ireland urges all parties to ensure adequate space for civil society in the peace process, paying special attention to the participation of women and indigenous communities.

Ireland recognizes the progress that has been achieved through the reform of the State Protection Program. Serious concerns remain however about the situation for human rights defenders as well as trade unionists and journalists. We note in particular the risks faced by leaders on land restitution procedures, displaced women and lawyers defending victims of human rights violations.

Ireland recommends that Colombia take all necessary steps to enhance the effectiveness of the Protection Programme, including through speedy risk assessment studies and implementation of approved schemes, clear criteria for defining risk, collective protection measures and the inclusion of family members in the scheme.

Ireland urges the Government of Colombia to address urgently the reported high levels of impunity and lack of access to justice for victims of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence.

Ireland recommends that Colombia ensure the effective implementation of Order 092 (2008) of the Constitutional Court, which referred 183 cases of sexual violence against women to the Attorney-General's office, the incorporation of Law 1257 (2008) on violence against women into the Criminal Code, and the implementation of resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council, granting a sufficient budget and creating an integrated inter-institutional system for implementation and monitoring.