Read by: James Kihwago

KENYAN STATEMENT ON THE UPR OF COLOMBIA

AT THE

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP

23RD APRIL 2013

Mr. President,

Kenya has noted Colombia's efforts to strengthen democracy, and the rule of law as well as measures taken to introduce the observance of zero tolerance for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

We take this opportunity to commend the Government of Colombia for the progressive efforts made to improve the human rights conditions including measures to tackle poverty; steps to provide free, decent housing; measures to ensure the provision of free basic and secondary education; and efforts to provide a wider coverage of health services.

We recognize that Colombia continues to face diverse challenges, including on issues related to the resolution of the internal armed situation and the attendant challenges of restoring and rehabilitating normalcy for those segments of society most affected.

We encourage the Government of Colombia to continue her efforts in addressing these challenges with the view of ensuring that holistic, lasting solutions are comprehensively realized for the benefit of all Colombians, and particularly, those belonging to the most vulnerable segments of society.

I thank you.