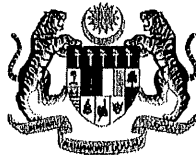


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Mohd Hafiz Md Hamid  
Councillor.

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**  
**Review of Colombia**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council**  
**22 April – 3 May 2013**

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Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Colombia, led by H.E. Mr. Angelino Garzon to the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group and thank them for the presentation of its national report.

2. Despite the many challenges faced by Colombia, my delegation notes that progress has been made for the past few years by Colombia in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly on the strengthening of the rule of law through legislative and public policy initiatives.

3. During Colombia's first review, Malaysia made recommendations for the Government of Colombia to take measures to address the problem of organized crime and drug trafficking, including the linkage between drug trafficking and the trafficking of women and girls, among others. Malaysia notes positively that the Government of Colombia has taken steps to address those issues including, *inter alia*, developing a comprehensive strategy against criminal gangs and illegal armed groups, carrying out investigations on the alleged links between illegal armed groups and State officials or politicians and convicting those who have been proven guilty. My delegation also commends the Government's success in dismantling 29 per cent of the criminal gangs and the adoption of its Comprehensive National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons. We further note that the Government is in the process of drawing up its new National Strategy for 2013 – 2018.

4. While significant efforts and progress have been made by Colombia, my delegation notes that there remain challenges which could hinder the full enjoyment of human rights by its people.

5. In the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation, my delegation would like to make the following two recommendations for the consideration of Colombia:

- 5.1. to continue taking assertive measures in combating organized crime and criminal gangs with a view to protecting the civilian population; and

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- 5.2. to continue its efforts in consolidating peace as well as efforts to achieve social inclusion and reconciliation through the implementation of its National development Plan for 2010 – 2014 “Prosperity for All”.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**GENEVA**  
**23 April 2013**