

New Version



## PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

16th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
Geneva, 23 April 2013

Statement by Norway:

### UPR on Colombia

Thank you Mr. President,

Norway welcomes the efforts made by the Colombian Government to improve the human rights situation. The establishment of the National System for Human Rights, the protection schemes of the National Protection Unit and the innovative strategies with regard to investigation of serious human rights violations, are all examples of consistent actions to implement recommendations accepted during the previous UPR.

Norway fully concurs with the High Commissioner for Human rights when she commends the Government by stating: "More so than any other development, the current peace process has the potential to transform Colombia in terms of its level of respect for and enjoyment of human rights". "The State and society should take advantage of all the agenda points in the peace process to initiate and deepen the broader transformative agenda on the conditions that underlie and sustain the conflict."

Norway welcomes the commitment to extend the mandate of the OHCHR Colombia Office. We encourage the Government to ensure that all aspects of the current mandate of the Office are extended.

The national report reflects that the scope of protection of trade unionists has been extended, along with the opening of numerous investigations into homicides of trade unionists. The security situation of this group, however, continues to be of deep concern. Norway recommends that Colombia further strengthens its protection measures to remediate this situation.

Furthermore, Norway joins the OHCHR in recommending the National Protection Unit to improve its access to and impact in rural areas, and to take new measures to protect human rights defenders, journalists, indigenous leaders and people involved in land restitution processes.

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Postal address:  
Post Office Box 264  
CH-1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland

Office address:  
35 bis, Avenue de Budé  
CH-1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

Telephone:  
+41 (0)22 918 0400  
Telefax:  
+41 (0)22 918 0410

Enquiries to:  
[mission.geneva@mfa.no](mailto:mission.geneva@mfa.no)  
[www.norway-geneva.org](http://www.norway-geneva.org)