



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL GENEVA

Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Graça Andresen Guimarães Permanent Representative of Portugal

16th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Colombia

Mr. President,

Let me start by extending a very warm welcome to the delegation of Colombia and by thanking HE the Vice President of the Republic, Mr. Angelino Garzón, for the presentation of the National Report elaborated through a participatory and inclusive process that reflects the Colombian commitment to the UPR mechanism and to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Mr. President,

During the first cycle Colombia accepted both recommendations made by Portugal, a development that we appreciate. However the Human Rights Committee, Special Procedures and the OHCHR Office in Bogota and the EU HR Ashton have expressed serious concern over the possible implications of the new Constitutional reform that would extend the power of military or police tribunals. Therefore we would like to reiterate one of our recommendations: that Colombia takes further measures to ensure that the military justice system does not claim jurisdiction in human rights cases involving members of security forces.

Mr. President,

Women's participation is crucial to secure a comprehensive peace process, in this regard we would like to recommend that Colombia includes women and gender advisors as part of the team of main negotiators and develops a National Plan of Action for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

Finally we would like to recommend that Colombia signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

I thank you