



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF
[REDACTED] COLOMBIA**

23 APRIL 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS
AGENDA ITEM 6

Mr President,

The South African delegation welcomes the delegation of Colombia to the 16th Session of the UPR Working Group, and thanks the delegation for its report. We commend the inclusive consultation process which was undertaken in its preparation and we recommend that Colombia continue this inclusive consultative process when implementing accepted recommendations for the second cycle.

Colombia has made considerable progress in the enhancement of the practical enjoyment of human rights through the National Development Plan "Prosperity for All" which established human rights goals and points the way towards social inclusion and reconciliation.

Mr President,

South Africa commends Colombia for its efforts to strengthen the rule of law and democracy, achievement of peace and safety of all its citizens so that they can fully exercise their human rights. However, we remain concerned particularly with the increase of sexual violence against women in recent years, mainly related to the internal armed conflict.

In this regard, the **South African delegation recommends that Colombia continue to prioritise policies aimed at promoting the enjoyment of women's rights and prevention of sexual violence.**

Furthermore, while progress has been made in strengthening the protection of those populations that require greater attention through the strategic policy lines of the National Development Plan 2010–2014, South Africa **encourages Colombia to heighten positive efforts in this regard.**

I thank you.