**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 44th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Colombia**

**7 November 2023**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Colombia’s commitment to improving human rights and pursuing ‘total peace’. We welcome Colombia’s commitment to advancing gender equality and the rights of First Nations and LGBTQIA+ persons.

Australia is concerned by increased assassinations of activists since the 2016 Peace Agreement was signed, and continued gender-based violence, which disproportionately impacts Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombians.

Australia recommends **Colombia:**

1. **Commit the necessary legal, institutional and financial resources to fulfill the 2016 Peace Agreement by the intended implementation deadline.**
2. **Protect human rights defenders, including by investigating alleged human rights violations and abuses against them.**
3. **Continue efforts to achieve justice for victims of the conflict through the Special Jurisdiction of Peace’s investigation into past crimes.**

[119 words]