**44th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Colombia**

07 November 2023

**Statement by Austria**

Austria warmly welcomes the Delegation of Colombia. We thank them for their presentation and welcome the progress achieved by the government during the 3rd cycle.

We welcome the efforts undertaken by Colombia to achieve Peace. The government’s policy of “Paz Total” represents an important opportunity to ensure sustainable peace. Nevertheless, we are concerned about failures to fully protect the signatories of the peace agreement of 2016.

While we commend Colombia’s efforts to guarantee the right to truth, reparation and non-repetition for all victims of the armed conflict, we are concerned about people in rural areas, especially Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities, as they are most effected by the armed conflict.

Austria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that perpetrators of threats and attacks against human rights defenders are brought to justice.

2. Ensure safe access to education, including vocational training, for children and adolescents in areas where children are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups.

3. Take effective measures to improve investigation, prosecution and prevention of sexual, gender-based and domestic violence against women.

4. Ratify the OPCAT.

We wish Colombia a successful UPR-Review.

Thank you.

*max 1min25*