**CANADA’s STATEMENT – COLOMBIA UPR 44**

**November 7, 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes Colombia’s firm commitment to peace, as well as its decision to place gender equality at the centre of its peacebuilding activities.

Concurrently, Canada remains concerned about the high level of impunity for human rights violations and abuses and stresses the need for timely investigations.

Canada recommends that Colombia:

1. Accelerate implementation of the 2016 peace agreement, specifically provisions related to ethnicity, actions supporting gender and women’s rights, and reparations.
2. Establish mechanisms for the active involvement of civil society, including Colombia’s youth, in the design and evaluation of policies related to the protection of human rights defenders.
3. Promote meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombians in decision-making processes related to security, resource management, land rights, and projects that affect them and their communities.
4. Strengthen efforts to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed groups, including by addressing the issue early in new peace negotiations.

**WORDS: 155**

**ALLOCATED TIME: 1 min 25**