**Universal Periodic Review, 44th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Colombia, 7 November 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Colombia.

We congratulate Colombia with the progress observed in implementation of the Peace Accord with former guerrilla group FARC-EP and remain hopeful that new negotiation processes underway could help consolidate a comprehensive and durable peace, guided by principles of truth, justice, reparation and non-recurrence and fully aligned to international law, including international humanitarian law.

Denmark, however, also notes with concern that the reported killings of Human Rights Defenders in 2022 was the highest figure since 2016.

Denmark *recommends* Colombia to:

1. Enhance protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and environmental defenders, by advancing the necessary budget allocation to carry out the reform process of the National Protection Unit, while ensuring the participation of civil society.
2. Update the legislative framework for “the right to a life free of violence against women” (Law 1257/2008) by including and broadening invisible forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and accompanying the transitional justice mechanisms to develop tailored investigation and prosecution protocols to sexual and gender-based violence crimes committed within the armed conflict.
3. Ratify OPCAT.

Denmark wishes Colombia a successful review. I thank you.