**Statement by Romania**

**The 44th session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Colombia**

**November 7th, 2023**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Colombia’s delegation and its engagement with the UPR process.

We have taken note of the significant contribution of the OHCHR field presence to the cause of peace, protection of the civic space and accountability for crimes committed during the armed conflict and we appreciate the signing of the new host country agreement extending the Office’s presence in Colombia until 2032.

We welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace and the adoption of comprehensive legislation to implement its various components. However, Colombia’s challenges in the effective implementation of its human rights obligations persist.

Romania would like to constructively address the following **recommendations**:

1. Strengthen the judicial system, including through additional financial, technical and specialized human resources, particularly in rural areas and adopt policies for improving the access to justice for all;
2. Implement effective actions to prevent, address, investigate and prosecute cases of violence and trafficking in persons, especially children and women;
3. Take additional measures to prevent and combat hate speech, incitement to racial discrimination and expressions of racism and ensure the necessary accountability mechanisms for racially motivated violence.

We wish Colombia a successful outcome of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President!