

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**44th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Colombia**

*Geneva, 7 November 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia commends the delegation of Colombia for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

* to take additional and effective measure to prevent acts of attacks, threats, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and to hold to account the perpetrators of such acts.

We welcome the endorsement of the Safe Schools declaration in November 2022.

With regard to the OP to the Convection on the against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (OP CAT), we noted that the Government submitted bill no. 273 to Congress in February 2023 in order to initiate the ratification process. We encourage Colombia step up its efforts to complete the process.

While the Government has taken a number of important legislative and policy measures for the protection of human rights defenders, Slovenia remains concerned about the persistent violence, threats and reprisals against human rights defenders and other social and community leaders.

Thank you.