

**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**44TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of COLOMBIA**

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**(85 Seconds)**

**speaker no: 58**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Colombia to this UPR Session and wishes the country a successful review.

South Africa welcomes Colombia’s total peace policy, including its commitment to fully implement the 2016 Peace Agreement, together with the resumption of talks with the National Liberation Army (ELN). We wish to commend Colombia’s commitment to implement the recommendations of the Truth Commission, which will go a long way to tackle the root causes of violence and conflict, serving to advance the healing process.

South Africa wishes to make the following recommendations:

* Include gender and ethnic indicators to assess progress on all measures envisaged under the Framework Plan for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement;
* Increase awareness of and provide training on the guidelines for the criminal prosecution of domestic violence, and the approach to be adopted in cases of femicides and offences of human trafficking for sexual exploitation;
* Bolster efforts to ensure that all health personnel are aware of and apply the Constitutional Court judgement decriminalising the voluntary termination of pregnancy and consider eliminating the offence of abortion from the Criminal Code; and
* Consider ratifying the international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified.

I thank you.