

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 30 – Colombia**

**10 May 2018**

**Delivered by Mr. Massimo Baldassarre, First Secretary**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished members of the delegation of Colombia and we thank them for their national report and today’s presentation.

Italy welcomes Colombia’s commitment to the UPR and its effort to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Particularly, we appreciate the inclusion in the National Development Plan for 2014 – 2018, “United for a new Country”, of guidelines and strategies with a view to consolidating peace, equity and better quality education.

We also commend Colombian Authorities for adopting a National Plan on Business and Human Rights and for promoting the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and collaboration between State, business and civil society organizations within that process.

Mr. President,

Italy would like to seize this opportunity to offer Colombia the following recommendations:

* *Intensify the Government presence in the rural areas whose communities are victims of abuses, such as forced displacement, as well as target of violence perpetrated by criminal organizations;*
* *Take steps to ensure effective protection of human rights defenders as well as of persons belonging to minorities and indigenous people;*
* *Step up efforts to prevent sexual violence against women and children and strengthen measures for the rehabilitation of boys and girls affected by armed conflict;*
* *Intensify efforts to counter the practice of forced recruitment of children.*

We wish Colombia a successful review.

I thank you.