10 November 1999 English Original: Spanish

Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court Working Group on Elements of Crimes New York 16-26 February 1999 26 July-13 August 1999 29 November-17 December 1999

Comments by Colombia on document PCNICC/1999/WGEC/RT.9 proposed by the Coordinator

Article 8 (2) (b) (i): War crime of attacking civilians

We feel that it would be worthwhile to reflect further on the phrase "and was associated with" in point 1, for the reasons given in the general section of our comments on document PCNICC/1999/WGEC/RT.5/Rev.1.

Article 8 (2) (b) (ii): War crime of attacking civilian objects

We likewise draw attention here to the unnecessary repetition of the phrase "and was associated with", as pointed out in our earlier comments.

Article 8 (2) (b) (iii): War crime of attacking personnel, installations, material, units or vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission

We reiterate our statement concerning point 1, to the effect that the phrase "and was associated with" is unnecessary, since, as noted previously, it states the obvious.

It also seems unnecessary to require awareness of the circumstances, as provided in point 3, since that would make the subjective aspect an element of the crime. When that is required in the description, the Statute so states explicitly, as in the case of the elements we are studying. However, according to the Statute, intent to commit the crime is a requirement, but awareness of the circumstances is not.