



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 February 2024
English
Original: Spanish

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Colombia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Office of the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the advanced unedited version of the report containing the observations and recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review of Colombia.

2. In this regard, the Office of the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to point out that the Colombian State recognizes the importance of this mechanism in providing Governments with guidance on how to strengthen efforts to promote, protect and guarantee human rights. It welcomes the report in question and wishes to reiterate the openness of the Government of Colombia to international scrutiny and its desire to work jointly with the United Nations system to address the human rights challenges that persist in Colombia.

3. In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Colombian State, is pleased to receive the report containing the observations and recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review of Colombia, and welcomes the high level of participation in the review held on 7 November 2023.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the Ministry is pleased to report that, of the 231 recommendations received, the Colombian State accepts 223 and, therefore, takes note of the following eight recommendations:

Recommendations

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 116.4 | Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (France); |
| 116.9 | Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius) (Senegal); |
| 116.17 | Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Uruguay); |
| 116.36 | Reform the National Police through a transparent and participatory process with measures to demilitarize the institution, considering the possibility that the National Police be integrated within the Ministry of the Interior (Spain); |
| 116.57 | Abolish compulsory military service (Costa Rica); |
| 116.87 | Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in line with international standards (Estonia); |
| 116.133 | Bolster efforts to ensure that all health personnel are aware of and apply the Constitutional Court judgment decriminalizing the voluntary termination of pregnancy and consider eliminating the offence of abortion from the Criminal Code (South Africa); |
| 116.231 | Continue efforts to strengthen access to the asylum system and prioritize processing applications from victims of sexual violence, regardless of their nationality (Uruguay). |
-

5. As for recommendation No. 116.138, “Continue to implement the National Human Rights Education Plan to strengthen accessibility to schools and increase the quality of education in rural areas (Malaysia)”, it is important to point out that, while Colombia accepts the recommendation, it must also clarify that, although it will continue to implement the National Human Rights Education Plan as mentioned in the recommendation, this plan does not ensure access to schools and, therefore, cannot be interpreted as a legal basis for admission or schooling.

6. The Office of the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes that the report and its contents unquestionably provide valuable input

that will enable the State to identify opportunities for improvement and the positive aspects on which it should continue to build. It also wishes to take the opportunity to reiterate the importance that the State attaches to honouring in full the seven voluntary commitments set forth in paragraph 118 of the report.
