

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO COLOMBIA

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What measures are being taken to ensure and protect the independence of the judiciary?
- What specific measures are available to protect the rights of children of detainees/prisoners?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- How did Colombia involve civil society organisations (including human rights groups) in the development of its country report?
- What progress is Colombia making towards implementing the recommendations of the latest Annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/7/39), in particular:

Recommendation 94(d) The High Commissioner urges the Ministry of Defense and the Attorney General's Office to implement effective means of dismantling all forms of illegal armed groups that have emerged after the demobilization process began, and to take all measures required to dismantle the political and economic structures of the demobilized paramilitary groups. The High Commissioner urges the judiciary to continue in its investigations of public servants and political leaders who have links to paramilitary groups.

Recommendation 94(e) The High Commissioner calls on the Government, Congress and international cooperation agencies to strengthen and increase resources for the Attorney General's Office, the Procurator General, the Ombudsman's Office and the Judiciary. The High Commissioner further urges these institutions to adopt all measures necessary to respond to the challenges of the implementation of Law 975/2005, and in general, the fight against impunity.

Recommendation 94(g) The High Commissioner calls on the Government, the control agencies and the senior officers of the Armed Forces to strengthen their efforts to eliminate extrajudicial executions, to adopt measures designed to prevent, investigate, punish and publicize those situations in which such violations may have occurred, and to apply and extend the instructions issued by the Ministry of Defense, as a priority. The High Commissioner urges the Attorney General's Office to clarify all the accusations of alleged extrajudicial executions at the earliest opportunity.

- The UK has received expressions of concern from civil society organisations of the increase in threats aimed at their Colombian partners, that they consider are encouraged by public statements by government officials linking human rights defenders to illegal armed groups. What is the Colombian Government's assessment of this issue?
- The UK notes the on-going presence of at least 3 million internally displaced persons in Colombia, the second largest number after Sudan. What measures are in place to address this issue? What steps are in place to ensure assistance to displaced persons is efficient and appropriately delivered?
- How is the Colombian Government tackling poverty and inequality in its country, as outlined in A/HRC/7/39 recommendation 94(h)? How is the Colombian Government at central and local levels engaging with local community and civil society groups in the development of integral and progressive approaches to poverty alleviation?
- Civil society organisations assess there is a system of arbitrary detention prevalent in Colombia, whereby individuals are arrested, held without charge, and released due to lack of evidence. What is the Colombian Government's response to these concerns?
- How is the Colombian Government at central and local level promoting and enforcing the rule of law in rural areas, in particular in those areas where there is reported illegal activity by non-state actors, including the FARC, ELN and paramilitary organisations? What measures are in place to prevent collusion between these actors and state officials, and what sanctions are in place for those that do so?
- What measures is the Colombian Government taking, in partnership with the international community, to ensure freedom of expression for all in Colombia, particularly journalists?
- What progress is being made in the clearing of landmines used by illegal actors? Could the Colombian Government provide an update on how it is meeting its commitments under the Ottawa Convention? What support is being offering to the victims of landmines?
- What measures is the Colombian Government taking, in partnership with multinational corporations, foreign investors and civil society, to ensure that the legal rights of rural communities, indigenous groups and small farmers are respected and protected when considering new and existing investments, including in the extractive industries and energy sectors? How are the OECD Voluntary Principles implemented in Colombia?

- Could the Colombian Government offer an update on the implementation of the Law of Justice and Peace.