



INFORMATION NOTE

2nd Universal Periodic Review of Colombia (23 April 2013)

Previous UPR of Colombia in: 10 December 2008 (3rd session of the UPR)

16th session of the UPR – Human Rights Council

Summary of child related issues

Troika: Gabon, India, Ecuador

I- Issues pertaining to juvenile justice and the rights of the child in general

1. Issue n°1: Prisons & Torture

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Colombia
Costa Rica	Establish national measures to visit places of detention.	Colombia is ranked 8 th in Latin America in terms of prison overcrowding. It plans to increase by 40% the capacity and space in prisons. It does not focus primarily on a retribution system but on a restorative one. A reform of the prison code is ongoing to guarantee better conditions in health and food for detainees. Colombia cannot be an imprisonment society. There is a consistent system to guarantee transitional justice to achieve the rights of victims and combat serious violations of human rights.
Poland, Australia, Canada	Arbitrary and extrajudicial executions continue and progress in investigations remain insufficient. Additional measures should be taken and Colombia should continue to take claims of such executions.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Peru, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Philippines, Guatemala, Mexico, Montenegro	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>

2. Issue n°2 : Children in armed conflict

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Colombia
Paraguay, Romania, Serbia,	Strengthen measures against the involvement of children in armed conflict	The Government is implementing a public policy in the framework of the



Algeria, France, Guatemala, Morocco	and their recruitment by illegal non-state armed groups.	intersectoral commission for the prevention of recruitment of young people and the prevention of sexual violence. 22 organisations are coming together to apply preventive measures to minimize the risk of recruitment, to transform cultural patterns and to contribute to eradicating factors leading to violence, school drop out, poverty etc. Colombia does not recruit minors (it is prohibited) and does not use children in war. It is done by illegal armed groups.
Poland, Austria	Investigate all cases of illegal recruitment of children in armed groups. Bring perpetrators to justice and penalize them	
Poland, Austria, Belgium, Hungary	Provide assistance and reparations to demobilized children and ensure their rehabilitation and social reintegration.	Since 1999, the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare has seen 5000 children under a specialised programme for children leaving armed groups, providing them with care and support to have their rights reestablished.
Uruguay	Prepare a draft to ensure boys, girls and adolescents victims of armed conflict are a priority. Prepare programmes to restore their rights and reparations, taking into account family reunification and social care	
Algeria	Particular attentions should be paid to children victims in landmines	<i>*not mentioned*</i>

3. Issue n°3: Child trafficking & Child labour

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Colombia
Peru, Slovenia, State of Palestine, Trinidad and Tobago, Azerbaidjan, Cambodia, Philippines, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Kirghizistan, Nigeria	Continue its efforts to develop its national strategy to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and continue to pay particular attention to children	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Burundi	Continue its policy to combat child labour	A country which guarantees the human rights of its children will be able to overcome the challenges of transition towards post conflict times to ensure reconciliation and that future generations have decent living conditions to offer their children.

4. Issue n°4: Education & Health

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Colombia
Poland, Senegal, Czech Republic	Provide access of all children to free and compulsory primary education.	There is free universal education since 2012 up until 11 th grade in the public system. 8.5million children benefit from the primary and secondary universal coverage. Colombia ensures vulnerable
Azerbaidjan, Cyprus	Continue prioritizing educational opportunities for vulnerable and poor populations	



Congo	Strengthen measures regarding the education of minority populations	groups and rural zones are reached. It has also managed to cut school drop out and illiteracy rates.
Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Thailand, Venezuela, Gabon	Strengthen efforts to reduce discrimination in education, whether it is discrimination based on ethnicity or between rural and non-rural zones.	
Czech Republic	Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Sri Lanka	Adopt further measures to reduce infant mortality	Colombia managed to cut levels of malnutrition and set up a comprehensive care strategy to guarantee early care for children under the age of five.
New Zealand	Some health providers refuse to perform abortions. They must act in full conformity with the criminal court ruling that decriminalized abortion in certain circumstances	Programmes aim at reducing the risk of early pregnancies.

5. Issue n°5: Violence & Poverty

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Colombia
Senegal, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland	Strengthen efforts to eliminate violence (domestic or sexual) against children and girls in particular	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Finland, France	Guarantee access to justice for all victims of sexual violence	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Uruguay	Redouble its efforts to apply the existing legislation to prevent the separation of boys and girls from their familial environment due to economic circumstances, through training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica	Combat sexual violence in general and by legal armed groups and security forces	<i>*not mentioned*</i>

6. Issue n°6: Convention on the Rights of the Child

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by (name of country under review)
Slovakia, Thailand, Germany, Montenegro	Ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure	The Colombian Institute for Family Welfare provides comprehensive protection for children/adolescents who are the subject of a particular constitutional protection. A public accountability policy guarantees their rights. A single information system on childhood allows for monitoring the gradual progress in this area. Colombia invests in early childhood and adolescents care. Colombia believes that any act of aggression against children are violations of human rights and



	Colombian law does not permit that.
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II- Other relevant issues with positive feedbacks by the States present at the review:

- Colombia has set up a national system for human rights
- Delegations welcomed the peace dialogue with illegal armed groups initiated in 2012
- There is now universal coverage for basic primary and secondary education and a successful national programme for literacy
- A comprehensive national strategy to combat trafficking in persons was adopted
- Colombia has ratified the Convention for the protection of all persons against enforced disappearances
- Colombia ratified the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

III- Adoption of the report : recommendations accepted by Colombia

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