



**International Convention on
the Elimination of All Forms
of Racial Discrimination**

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Combined seventeenth to nineteenth periodic
reports submitted by Colombia under article 9 of
the Convention, due in 2018* ****

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** The annexes to the present report are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.



I. Introduction

1. Colombia is a multi-ethnic, multicultural State: its different communities make it one of the most diverse nations in the Americas. Cultural diversity fosters the development of public policies that promote equality of opportunity for all communities and peoples and the survival of ancestral cultures by protecting the right to equality and non-discrimination.
2. The Colombian State is firmly committed to safeguarding equality through a differentiated approach aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination. To that end, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was ratified by the Colombian State through Act No. 22 of 1981.
3. The combined seventeenth to nineteenth periodic reports of Colombia reflect the progress and challenges faced by the State in implementing the Convention from 2014 to 2018.
4. The report is divided into two parts. The first contains general information on individuals and groups requiring protection and the legislative framework for the protection of ethnic groups, cultural diversity and the prohibition of racial discrimination. The second part gives an account of the main measures taken to effectively implement the Convention and the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations on previous reports.
5. Colombia hereby reaffirms its commitment to respect, guarantee and promote fundamental rights and to observe the international instruments ratified by Colombia, specifically the Convention.

II. General framework for the protection and promotion of the right to non-discrimination, equality and effective remedies

A. Demographic composition of the population: communities and ethnic minorities (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 7 and 8)

6. In Colombia, white, mestizo, indigenous, Afrodescendent, black, and Roma communities coexist. Indigenous peoples, the Afro-Colombian community (the Afro-Colombian, black and Raizal communities of San Andrés and Providencia and the Palenquero community of San Basilio de Palenque in Bolívar) and the Roma people are the three largest minority ethnic groups in Colombia.
7. The information in this report draws on the findings of the general census conducted in 2005 by the National Department of Statistics.¹ The information collected in the 2018 national population and housing census is still being processed and consolidated results are not yet available.
8. According to the 2005 census, 14.06 per cent of the population belongs to a minority ethnic group. The Ministry of the Interior² has registered and recognized 392 associations of indigenous councils and/or authorities.
9. The 2005 census indicated that 1,341,628 persons identified themselves as belonging to at least one of 102 indigenous peoples; these persons represented 3.4 per cent of the total Colombian population. The indigenous population is primarily concentrated in towns and isolated rural zones, although, in the Departments of Atlántico, Bogotá, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca and Vaupés, most indigenous persons live in the municipal capitals.

¹ The body responsible for planning, collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating official statistics in Colombia.

² The government body responsible for guiding and coordinating public policy on the strengthening of democracy, social harmony, citizen participation, the enjoyment of public rights and freedoms, and the full exercise of the rule of law.

10. Some 4,311,757 persons, or 10.4 per cent of the total population counted in the census, identified themselves as members of the Afro-Colombian, black, Raizal and Palenquero communities. These communities are mainly located in the municipal capitals.

11. The Roma population, which numbers 4,857 persons, or 0.01 per cent of the total Colombian population, is mainly found in the municipal capitals of the Departments of Atlántico, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca, Bogotá, Santander and Norte de Santander.

B. Self-identification, the ethnically differentiated approach and participation in the 2018 national population and housing census

12. The National Development Plan 2014–2018 provides for a consultative, consensus-based process incorporating an ethnically differentiated approach to the census so that the population is properly characterized.

13. The National Department of Statistics carried out consultations with bodies representing indigenous peoples, the Roma people and Afro-Colombian communities in which the census questionnaire and proposals on census procedures were discussed, with emphasis being placed on the ethnically differentiated approach.

14. As a result, improvements were made to the questions on self-identification and ethnic territoriality and adjustments were made to the questions on language.

C. Legal framework and policies on recognition and protection aimed at giving effect to article 2 (1) and (2) of the Convention

1. Ratification of treaties (recommendation made in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 41 and 42)

15. The Colombian State has ratified the main international human rights instruments and has progressively carried out reforms in order to meet its obligations under these treaties. In 2014, Colombia acceded to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance.

16. The State has carried out a rigorous analysis of the consequences of ratification and its ability to meet the obligations arising from ratification for each of the other instruments whose ratification has been recommended. It is not the policy of the Colombian State to ratify every instrument as a matter of course. Rather, it is committed to advancing towards the real and effective protection of human rights with due regard for national capacities.

17. At present, discussions are taking place among the relevant agencies concerning what action might be taken in relation to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance; the ratification of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and accession to the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

2. Constitutional and legal framework of recognition

18. The Constitution provides for a multidimensional approach to equality (art. 9). It recognizes, protects and guarantees ethnic and cultural diversity (art. 7) and promotes the adoption of measures that benefit groups that suffer from marginalization or discrimination (art. 13). In addition, further to the adoption by Colombia of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the fundamental right of ethnic communities to prior consultation is now legally recognized.

19. The Standing Committee on Consultation with Indigenous Peoples was established through Decree No. 1387 of 1996 in order to guarantee indigenous peoples' fundamental

right to prior consultation and to enable indigenous organizations and the State to reach agreement on administrative and legislative decisions likely to affect indigenous people.

20. The Ministry of the Interior has designed a process to facilitate the recognition and organization of indigenous peoples to enable their participation in such forums. Currently, there are five national indigenous peoples' associations: the Colombian Indigenous Authorities Movement, the Indigenous Organization of Colombia, the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon, the Tayrona Indigenous Confederation and the Traditional Authorities of Colombia – Heritage Government. In addition, there are regional indigenous organizations that bring together various reservations or communities. The Standing Committee on Consultation with Indigenous Peoples ensures that all these associations are able to participate.

21. Other participatory forums in Colombia include the National Commission on Labour and Educational Cooperation for Indigenous Peoples, the Subcommittee on Health of the Standing Committee for Consultation with Indigenous Peoples, the Commission on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Amazon Regional Committee, the Committee for Coordination with the Awa People and the Standing Committee on Dialogue and Coordination with the Wayuu People.

22. Act No. 70 of 1993 provided for the establishment of 34 Afro-Colombian forums, which collectively make up the National Forum for Prior Consultation with Black Communities. The 236 delegates to the Forum sit in specialized committees and meet in plenary sessions to formally record consultations on wide-ranging measures.

23. The National Forum comprises seven standing committees:

- (i) Operative committee on international, public and political relations;
- (ii) Committee on planning, public policy and economic development;
- (iii) Committee on social protection, health, gender and generations;
- (iv) Committee on education, ethno-education, culture, recreation and sports;
- (v) Committee on territoriality, housing and the environment;
- (vi) Committee on legal affairs, human rights and displacement;
- (vii) Committee on communications, censuses and statistics.

24. On 13 July 2018, Decree No. 1211 of 2018 was issued with the aim of recognizing, protecting and promoting the autonomous development of the Raizal people of the San Andrés archipelago. A committee was established under the terms of the Decree to promote dialogue, participation and follow-up action in respect of the Raizal people.

25. To promote political participation, special congressional constituencies for indigenous and Afrodescendent communities have been established, a special legal regime has been created for the Raizal people and an indigenous branch of the legal system whose judicial authorities are empowered to establish their own rules and procedures has been set up.

26. In 2016, the National Planning Department³ drew up guidelines on how to apply a rights-based, differentiated approach in working with ethnic groups in matters concerning the management of their territories. This approach has been incorporated into the technical assistance strategy for new leaders drawing up development plans.

3. Legislative development

27. In accordance with the Convention, Colombia adopted Act No. 1482 of 2011, under which the Criminal Code was amended to safeguard the rights of persons, groups of persons, communities and peoples against violations involving racism or discrimination.

³ The Department is responsible for leading and coordinating medium- and long-term planning measures for the sustainable and inclusive development of the country.

28. In order to promote and protect the rights of the different communities in Colombia, the following regulations were promulgated by the Colombian State between 2014 and 2018:

- Decree No. 1953 of 2014, on the introduction of administrative arrangements for the operation of indigenous peoples' systems of self-government in their territories
- Decree No. 2719 of 2014, establishing the procedure by which indigenous reservations must provide evidence of their experience and/or good practice in order to secure direct authority over the administration of the special allowance provided under the general revenue-sharing system
- Decree No. 2561 of 2014, under which mechanisms for improving access to health services are defined
- Decree No. 2333 of 2014, establishing mechanisms for the effective protection and legal security of land and territories traditionally and/or ancestrally occupied or owned by indigenous peoples in accordance with articles 13 and 14 of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)
- Resolution No. 518 of 2015 of the Ministry of Health and Social Security, relating to the plan on collective action
- Resolution No. 0949 of 20 June 2017 of the Ministry of the Interior, under which changes were made to the Observatory on Discrimination
- Decree Law No. 870 of 2017 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, under which payments for environmental services and other incentives to conservation were introduced
- Decree Law No. 902 of 2017, on measures for implementing the provisions of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace concerning land titling
- Decree No. 1811 of 2017, under which special implementation mechanisms of the Government were established for the Cauca Regional Indigenous Council, changes were made to the Joint Committee for the Comprehensive Implementation of Public Policy on Indigenous Affairs of the Cauca Regional Indigenous Council and measures for obtaining the necessary resources were adopted
- Decree No. 632 of 2018, setting out the fiscal regulations required to set up indigenous territories in areas not governed by the municipal authorities of the Departments of Amazonas, Guainía and Vaupés
- Decree No. 1211 of 2018, establishing a committee to promote dialogue, participation and follow-up to the Government's commitments to the Raizal people
- Decree No. 1372 of 2018, amending previous legislation to include a chapter on the forum for prior consultation on general legislative and administrative measures likely to affect the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities

III. Implementation of articles 1 to 7 of the Convention and the recommendations of the Committee

A. Measures condemning discrimination, racial segregation and hate speech: implementation of articles 1, 3 and 4 of the Convention

1. Implementation of Act No. 1482 of 2011 (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 9 and 10)

29. The purpose of Act No. 1482 is to criminally penalize persons who discriminate on the grounds of, inter alia, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, political or philosophical ideology, sex or sexual orientation or disability. This Act was amended by Act No. 1752 of 2015 to penalize persons who discriminate against persons with disabilities.

30. The Act defines acts of racism or discrimination as those that prevent, obstruct or restrict the full exercise of the rights of persons on the basis of their race, nationality, sex or sexual orientation. It also provides for the punishment of acts of harassment and discrimination aimed at causing physical or psychological harm to a person, group of persons, community or people on account of their race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, political or philosophical ideology, sex or sexual orientation.

31. The Act also defines aggravating circumstances for situations that call for greater social and legal sanction, such as acts carried out in public, in the mass media, by public officials, against children or older persons or in order to restrict labour rights.

32. The Attorney General's Office⁴ keeps a record of the number of cases investigated and the outcomes obtained for offences committed solely on racial grounds. It has devised strategies for improving investigations, for instance by setting up an office of the prosecutor for citizen security, which monitors investigations into acts of racial discrimination on an ongoing basis.

33. The Attorney General's Office has a follow-up chart that is periodically reviewed with a view to supporting investigations, identifying obstacles and developing strategies for successfully concluding criminal investigations.

34. The Attorney General's Office is conducting 368 investigations into acts of racism, discrimination and harassment, including 227 involving acts of racism or discrimination and 141, harassment. Of these, 9 have moved beyond the preliminary investigation stage, 3 are under investigation, 5 are before a court and 1 has resulted in a conviction.

35. The Office is pursuing a strategy to advance, monitor, support and provide training in relation to all investigations into acts of racial discrimination, focusing particularly on:

- The gravity of the case
- The means used to commit the act
- The vulnerability of the victims
- The circumstances surrounding the act of discrimination
- The particular situation of the perpetrators
- The likelihood that the investigation will give rise to good practices

In 2016, the Office hosted the first international meeting on techniques for investigating offences involving racial discrimination. National and foreign speakers participated in the meeting, which was organized for prosecutors representing the 35 district prosecutor's offices across Colombia.

2. Case law relating to persons vulnerable to discrimination

36. The case law of the Constitutional Court⁵ establishes criteria for the prosecution of punishable conduct involving racial discrimination, so as to improve the handling of future cases:

(a) **Judgment C-671 of 2014** recognizes that persons with disabilities were at risk of being victims of discrimination before the amendment of the law;

(b) **Judgment T-462 of 2015** establishes that employers cannot exercise disciplinary authority against an individual because of his or her ethnic identity or beliefs; in this case, the constitutional judge protected the rights to equality and ethnic identity;

⁴ The Office undertakes criminal and forfeiture proceedings within the framework of the constitutional right to due process; participates in the design and execution of the State's criminal policy; guarantees effective access to justice, truth and redress for victims of crimes; and builds trust among citizens.

⁵ High judicial body responsible for ruling on the constitutionality of laws. It is also responsible for reviewing judicial decisions relating to the remedy of *amparo* and deciding on the enforceability of treaties.

(c) **Judgment C-091 of 2017**, involving an analysis of the right to freedom of expression and the prohibition of hate speech under Act No. 1482 of 2011;

(d) **Judgment T-141 of 2017**, in which the Court referred to the assessment of the proof of discrimination, including the application of the principle of shifting burden of proof, according to which the burden of proof falls on the party with the greater ability to prove it.

3. Observatory on Discrimination and Racism

37. The Observatory on Discrimination and Racism is an advisory body to the Ministry of the Interior that specializes in the areas of discrimination and racism. It was constituted by Decision No. 1154 of 2012 and modified by Decision No. 0949 of June 2017.

38. The purpose of the Observatory is to design educational strategies aimed at raising awareness of racial discrimination and racism, to advise local bodies and communities on providing comprehensive care based on a differentiated approach, to establish a methodology for handling cases, and to formulate recommendations on public policy to prevent racial discrimination.

39. Support services for victims of racism and racial discrimination include the analysis of cases, referral to the competent authorities, follow-up actions and the generation of statistics on reported cases.

40. Between 2014 and 2018, the Observatory received 104 complaints of racial discrimination. Of these, 49 involved men, 34 involved women, 11 involved children and 8 involved groups. The cities that registered the most cases were Bogotá (65), Medellín (11), Cartagena (9) and San Andrés (7). In total, 42 of the reported cases have been transferred to the Attorney General's Office for investigation while 18 have been transferred to the Counsel General's Office,⁶ 15 to the National Police, 14 to the Ombudsman's Office⁷ and 22 to other institutions.

41. Currently, the main challenges are to increase reliance on the Observatory throughout Colombia and to publicize its work more widely, generate greater trust among citizens, register a higher number of complaints and set up counselling services for alleged victims.

4. Road map for inter-agency action against discrimination

42. In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior began drawing up a road map for inter-agency action, to help agencies develop and carry out initiatives on preventing discrimination and on handling cases of discrimination.

43. The drafting process included five regional meetings with representatives of 28 mayors' offices and of 28 governors' offices, for a total of over 120 public officials. At these meetings, participants defined the notion of discrimination, identified the main grounds for discrimination in the various regions and drew up proposals for action in specific cases. In some cases, participants identified the institutional mechanisms used by local authorities to prevent and deal with cases of discrimination.

44. This exercise made it possible to identify everyday racism in behaviours that are based on routines, expectations and concepts considered to be innate. The Ministry of the Interior is considering carrying out a national survey on discrimination that will inform the development of policies to combat notions, stereotypes, and prejudices that legitimize and normalize discrimination.

45. The road map consists of two parts: (i) prevention and guarantees of non-repetition; and (ii) schemes for coordinated case management.

⁶ The highest body of the Public Legal Service, made up of the Ombudsman's Office and the municipal ombudsman's offices. It oversees the actions of public servants and issues warnings about any act that may violate the rules in force.

⁷ An independent, constitutional body established to ensure the promotion, exercise and dissemination of human rights within Colombia.

B. Measures to provide protection against racial discrimination and to safeguard rights: implementation of article 2 of the Convention

1. Measures to safeguard the rights of Afro-Colombians (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 13 and 14)

46. In taking a differentiated approach to public policy, the Government seeks to foster equal opportunities and comprehensive social development. It takes into account the specific characteristics of communities and regions so as to provide timely, efficient and relevant care.

47. In recent years, in order to further support Afro-Colombian communities, the Government has held 39 training days in 20 departments and conducted 8 consultancy sessions with local authorities, representative bodies and the community in general on issues relating to racial discrimination and racism.

48. The Government, through the “United” strategy of the Department of Social Prosperity,⁸ has devised a system of differentiated support for ethnic communities with the aim overcoming extreme poverty and vulnerability through public policy. One of the four models on which this strategy is based, the ethnic model targets ethnic-community households in areas that, following consultation, have accepted assistance as a means of boosting their communities’ capacity for taking an active role in their own development.

49. In 2016, consultations with the legal representatives of the community councils began with a view to implementing the strategy. Agreements were signed with 108 community councils, representing 29,000 Afro-Colombian households in 789 communities. As a result, community councils have received support for the collection of information and classification of communities.

1.1 Regulations implementing Act No. 70 of 1993

50. Although progress has been slow, the Government has persevered in drafting regulations implementing Act No. 70 – the main legislation for recognizing and safeguarding the rights of Afro-Colombians in Colombia. As of 2018, regulations have been adopted in respect of 29 articles, or 43.28 per cent, of the Act’s 67 articles.

51. Significant progress has been made in creating mechanisms to protect and develop rights and cultural identity through the establishment of the Education Committee. In addition, it regulates the right of Afro-Colombians to participate, as an ethnic group, in departmental and high-level consultation committees and to appoint delegates from Afro-Colombian communities to other participatory bodies, such as the autonomous regional corporations and regional planning councils.

52. With a view to adopting additional regulations, the Government has established an inter-institutional technical committee that has (i) compiled and consolidated initiatives that serve as input for each chapter; (ii) drawn up proposals for regulations; (iii) agreed on road maps for prior consultation processes; and (iv) incorporated more stakeholders.

1.2 Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (recommendation made in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, para. 44; general recommendation No. 34 (2011)).

53. The Colombian State understands the aims of the International Decade for People of African Descent to be promotion of respect for and protection of the fundamental rights of people of African descent; awareness-raising of and respect for the diversity of Afrodescendent heritage and culture; and promotion of the contribution of people of African descent to the development of society.

⁸ A national government institution that seeks to establish policies, general plans, programmes and projects to extend support, care and redress to victims of violence; promote social inclusion; and to support vulnerable groups and foster their social and economic reintegration.

54. To this end, the Ministry of the Interior has developed a virtual course on the topics of recognition, justice and development that has been used to train 1,683 public officials in the application of an ethnically differentiated approach⁹ as a means of preventing discriminatory behaviour when providing support to people of African descent.

55. The Ministry of Culture¹⁰ is also taking steps to strengthen cultural values, by developing cultural policies relevant to the country's Afrodescendent population within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

(a) *The International Decade for People of African Descent in the regions*

56. In 2015, a programme was introduced for the regional application of the International Decade for People of African Descent. The programme was intended to establish a network involving the Ministry of Culture and influential cultural leaders and managers from among various communities in the regions. This initiative opened up opportunities for dialogue on cultural diversity, participation and representation with the aim of recognizing the true value of Afro-Colombian culture.

57. The programme on the International Decade for People of African Descent in the regions consisted of monthly forums led by specialists, including academics, on such topics as:

- What is the International Decade for People of African Descent? (April)
- African heritage month (May)
- Recognition of the literary corpus of persons of African descent (June)
- Commemoration of the Day of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women (July)
- Act No. 70 of 1993 (August)
- "Racism in the public square" (September)
- Early childhood issues for persons of African descent (October)
- Elimination of violence against women (November)

58. The programme has made it possible to further develop the work of grass-roots organizations, establish better channels of communication between the State and local groups, and map alliances for the purposes of carrying out initiatives relating to the International Decade of People of African Descent.

(b) *Festival of Languages at the Bogotá Book Fair*

59. By virtue of Act No. 1381 of 2010 on native languages, the Festival of Languages is celebrated in order to promote multilingualism and the cultural and linguistic diversity of Colombian communities. The event has become one of the main springboards for disseminating and enhancing the visibility of the nation's linguistic heritage.

60. Over the years, the Ministry of Culture has carried out over 200 activities linked to the linguistic diversity of the country at events that promote the recognition and protection of Creole and indigenous languages.

(c) *Symposium on the International Decade of People of African Descent*

61. A symposium on the International Decade of People of African Descent has been set up to promote dialogue on the basis of academic and cultural research, to highlight violations of black peoples' rights and to recognize their contribution to society. Related activities include seminars on the memory and consciousness of persons of African descent,

⁹ The entities involved were the National Prisons Institute, the National Training Service, the Ministry of Defence, the National Protection Unit and the Ministry of Labour.

¹⁰ The Ministry of Culture, as the institution that governs cultural affairs in Colombia, is responsible for formulating, coordinating, implementing and monitoring the State's cultural policies.

ancestral knowledge, music, land, regions, ethnic education, childhood, racism and expressions of Afrodescendent culture.

62. Since 2016, the symposium has been tailored to the ethno-educational guidelines used in mega-schools in various regions of Colombia in order to convey the contributions of people of African descent to large numbers of children and adolescents and to raise all pupils' awareness of the country's rich cultural heritage as a means of preventing racist bullying.

(d) *Plan for the International Decade of People of African Descent*

63. The Ministry of Culture has developed a strategy to promote recognition of the cultural events and identities of Afro-Colombian, black, Raizal and Palenquero communities. Under this plan, activities have been carried out with Afrodescendent leaders, groups, organizations, community councils and members of cultural organizations in the region.

2. Measures for safeguarding and protecting indigenous peoples (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 15, 16, 17 and 18)

64. The Ministry of the Interior has designed and carried out programmes to support indigenous government institutions and their authorities' political and administrative management systems. It has also produced documentation on how to draft and execute community development plans and manage budgetary transfers to reservations.

65. In 2017, in order to help indigenous communities to draft programmes, projects and development plans, the Ministry of the Interior drew up a public policy guide incorporating an ethnically differentiated approach, including guidelines for dealing with persons with disabilities.

2.1 Ethnic protection plans

66. In order to provide a solution to the enforced displacement of certain indigenous peoples, the Constitutional Court issued Judgment No. T-025 of 2004, through which it ordered the execution of ethnic protection plans. The Constitutional Court ordered the development of 34 ethnic protection plans by Order No. 004 of 2009 and 2 plans for the protection of the Hitnú and Makaguan peoples by Orders Nos. 173 and 174 of 2011. In 2017, by Order No. 266, it further ordered the development of plans for the protection of the Tukano, Kisgo and Bari peoples. As a result, a total of 39 plans are in development.

67. The Ministry of the Interior has adopted a participatory and inclusive approach to the drafting of these plans with the aim of strengthening indigenous systems of self-governance and improving relations between them and State institutions. The plans are being implemented in five phases: (i) the description of a workplan; (ii) the joint analysis of the current situation; (iii) the validation of that analysis; (iv) the development of programmes and projects; and (v) definition, assessment and follow-up.

68. Annex 3 contains a table detailing the main strategic actions undertaken with indigenous peoples in accordance with ethnic protection plans. Below are examples of progress made under ethnic protection plans in respect of the Awa, Hitnú and Wayuu peoples, which the Committee has emphasized as a priority.

69. The plan for the Awá people has been drafted and the coordination of related actions (20 per cent complete) and implementation (2 per cent complete) are currently in process. In order for the plan to be formally approved, the indigenous authorities and various government institutions must reach agreements on all its key components.

70. In 2017, three proposals for each of the Awá people's organizations were funded to allow the plan to move into the second phase of implementation. As a result of the plan, organizational and political terms of reference have been drafted and inter-institutional coordination has improved. In May 2018, the Awá people's Standing Committee on Consultation with Indigenous Peoples met with government representatives for their first day of joint technical work in drafting the internal regulations governing the Awá people's own justice system.

71. Significant progress has been made in drafting the plan for the Hitnú people. The plan, which is 90 per cent complete, draws on a diagnostic document that outlines actions to be coordinated and implemented. Over the last four years, a set of rights has been defined, an agreement has been reached with the indigenous authorities to seek a closer working relationship with reservations and settlements, and a diagnostic document for the plan for the protection of the Hitnú people has been drafted.

72. Regarding the plan for the Wayuu people, the Ministry of the Interior has developed a regional coordination system that involved grouping together the relevant regions (Maicao, Sur de la Guajira, Riohacha, Albania Zona Norte, Albania Zona Sur). As a result of this process, the drafting phase is complete and pre-consultation is taking place with the peoples residing in Uribia and Manaure.

2.2 Protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact

73. The Colombian Government has information about 15 indigenous peoples living in isolation in Amazonia and the Orinoco region and 2 peoples in the Río Puré National Park. In 2017 and 2018, the Ministry of the Interior held consultations with the indigenous peoples of Colombia, particularly those whose territories border the territories of peoples in isolation, so that the legislative framework for the protection of these peoples could be issued.

74. The Government carries out prevention and protection measures, including the monitoring of threats, the training of national and regional public officials, and awareness-raising and strengthening initiatives for communities adjacent to towns in isolation. These actions have made it possible to prevent contact from being made by illegal miners and missionaries and have made the national authorities, as well as the authorities of the Departments of Amazonas, Caqueta and Vaupés, aware of the existence of peoples in isolation and the need to ensure their protection through non-contact and protection strategies.

75. As part of a regional cooperation strategy, the Government has signed memorandums of understanding with the Governments of Brazil and Peru for the protection of peoples in isolation and has participated in a project carried out by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank.

76. In November 2017, within the framework of these forums, delegations and indigenous organizations from Peru, Brazil and Colombia visited the indigenous reservation of Curare – Los Ingleses in the Colombian Amazon, where the reservation's strategies for the protection of peoples in isolation in their territory were shared.

2.3 Precautionary measures taken by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the benefit of indigenous peoples

77. As part of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights may request information from States and grant requests for precautionary measures and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights may order provisional measures. These procedures should not be understood as a sanction or punishment imposed on States but as advisory, protective measures aimed at safeguarding fundamental rights.

78. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has granted 12 requests for precautionary measures to protect indigenous communities in 12 departments in Colombia; these measures account for 12.5 per cent of all the precautionary measures in force in the State.

79. All the agencies concerned are involved in implementing the measures adopted. For example, the Ministry of Defence, together with indigenous leaders, has taken steps to assess the security situation of indigenous communities and provide military protection against armed groups.

80. For its part, the National Protection Unit provides these communities with individual and collective protection services, including risk assessment mechanisms.

3. Upholding the right of ethnic groups to prior consultation (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 21 and 22)

81. The fundamental right to prior consultation is enshrined in article 2 of the Constitution. Prior consultation processes take place in accordance with Presidential Directive No. 010 of 2013, with priority being given to political dialogue and the effective participation of the communities concerned and institutions that act as guarantors of rights. The Constitutional Court has delimited the framework for prior consultation and consolidated its recognition as a fundamental right.¹¹

82. In Colombia there are two types of prior consultation processes: those concerning administrative and legislative measures and those concerning a particular project, work or activity. Both relate to measures affecting the structure and way of life of indigenous peoples, including their customs and practices.

83. The Government holds meetings in order to obtain the prior, free and informed consent of minority ethnic communities in keeping with the principle of good faith of parties during each stage of the process. The records of the consultations are recognized as bilateral commitments that are realized in subsequent actions, ensuring the fundamental exercise of ethnic groups' right to participate.

84. From 2013 to April 2018, consultations were held with 6,243 communities and, in 96 per cent of cases, an agreement was formally concluded. The majority (49 per cent) of the consultations related to administrative measures and court orders; the others concerned activities in the hydrocarbon sector (18 per cent), the environment (10 per cent) and infrastructure and telecommunications (9 per cent). Mining, electricity and research projects were the subjects of 7, 6 and 2 per cent of consultations, respectively.

4. Measures taken in respect of Afro-Colombian and indigenous women (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 31 and 32)

4.1 National gender policy

85. In order to improve implementation of the Public Policy on Gender Equality, the Presidential Advisory Office on Gender Equality¹² is providing technical assistance to establish and support the work of gender groups and the development of action plans within 13 of the entities that make up the Intersectoral Committee for Public Policy on Gender Equality.¹³

86. The Presidential Advisory Office provided 32 governors' offices and 32 mayors' offices in capital cities with technical assistance on how to include concrete measures in land development plans and establish conditions of effective equality. Training in five thematic areas was given to around 1,100 public officials responsible for devising and implementing public policies.

87. Since 2017, the Presidential Advisory Office has been assessing the impact capacity of Afro-Colombian and indigenous women who are victims of the armed conflict and reviewing the institutional framework for their participation and leadership and the prevention of gender-based violence. Assessments are being carried out in the municipalities of Totoró, Buenos Aires, Guachené, Suárez, Puerto Tejada, Caloto, Santander and Popayán.

88. This initiative has made it possible to:

- Develop seven impact plans for institutional and organizational outreach to women.

¹¹ See judgments C-030 of 2008, C-461 of 2008, C-175 of 2009, C-615 of 2009, C-941 of 2010, C-366 /2011, C-030 /08, C-253 /13, C-702 of 2010 and C-461 of 2008.

¹² CPEM is a national mechanism for the advancement of rights that seeks to influence decision-making for the purpose of mainstreaming the gender perspective in various sectors of the public administration and of ensuring that the interests of the women living in the various departments of the country are taken into account through the conclusion of inter-institutional agreements.

¹³ This body was established by Decree No. 1930 of 2013 and has a mandate to coordinate, harmonize and promote the implementation of the action plan set out in the Public Policy on Gender Equality.

- Conduct 10 training and awareness-raising initiatives with the participation of 203 women.
- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the violence suffered by women, with input from more than 200 women leaders.
- Strengthen links between women's organizations and local and regional institutions.

89. The Presidential Advisory Office on Gender Equality also oversaw the translation of sections of existing policies and regulations on women into the Tukano, Shikuanai and Emperara Siapidara languages with the aim of making them more widely known. A preparatory dialogue was held with indigenous organizations and three regional councils before the information was disseminated.

90. A 2017 assessment of the gender policy shows the following compliance rates: 92 per cent in the area of participation; 91 per cent in the areas of health and sexual and reproductive rights; 82 per cent in the areas of cultural transformation and peace; 74 per cent for the plan to guarantee a life free of violence; 60 per cent in the area of economic autonomy; and 69 per cent in the area of education.

91. The Presidential Advisory Office on Gender Equality, in coordination with governors' and mayors' offices, is taking steps to disseminate the public policy on Roma women. This has served to strengthen the relationship between local gender mechanisms and Kumpanias and to improve the institutional response to direct requests from gypsy women in the departments in which they live.

92. A participatory process has been initiated for the purpose of defining the objectives, strategies and lines of action of the second action plan related to the Public Policy on Gender Equality.

4.2 Indigenous women

93. The Programme for the Protection of the Fundamental Rights of Indigenous Women in Situations of Displacement or Risk was launched in response to Order No. 092 of 2008, in which the Constitutional Court ruled that measures must be adopted to protect female victims of forced displacement caused by the armed conflict.

94. As part of its efforts to implement the Programme, the Ministry of the Interior has conducted capacity-building activities for indigenous women from different regional organizations, with the aim of increasing their participation in organizational and political processes and in effective decision-making as a means of protecting and ensuring the survival of their practices and customs.

95. In addition, the strategy for the training of female leaders by female leaders makes it possible for indigenous women to receive training on fundamental rights and the prevention of sexual violence that incorporates an ethnic and gender perspective.

4.3 Reparation and assistance for indigenous and Afrodescendent women who are victims of sexual violence and/or the armed conflict

96. Between 2014 and 2018, the Comprehensive Victim Support and Reparation Unit¹⁴ registered 22,363 women victims of sexual violence, 3,532 of whom belong to an ethnic group:

¹⁴ Institution established under the Victims and Land Restitution Act (Act No. 1448 of 2011), which prescribes measures for the care, assistance and comprehensive reparation of victims of the internal armed conflict.

<i>Ethnic group or minority</i>	<i>Number of victims registered</i>
Indigenous	507
Black or Afro-Colombian	2 912
Palenquero	8
Raizal	37
Gypsy or Roma	68

97. On the basis of these data and as a result of the steps taken by the Comprehensive Victim Support and Reparation Unit to provide reparation to these individuals:

- 652,886 women received counselling.
- 577,236 women received a message from the State reaffirming their dignity as a measure of satisfaction.
- 136,623 women began to receive assistance to return home or to relocate.
- 10,745 women received individual psychosocial care through the introduction of an emotional recovery strategy while 102,172 women received such care in a group setting.
- 331,567 women were referred to the Ministry of Health¹⁵ for care.
- 106,576 women took part in financial education workshops.
- 17,875 women took part in service fairs.
- 60,236 women took part in investment workshops.
- 2,077 women took part in the strategy for providing comprehensive reparation to women victims of sexual violence.
- 212,626 women have received compensation thanks to an investment of 735,884,978,031 pesos.

98. Recognizing that women account for 51 per cent of the victims of the armed conflict, the Attorney General's Office has launched an individual reparation strategy for women victims of sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict. The aim of the strategy is to help these women build, engage in dialogue around and enhance their future through a rights-based approach as they seek to obtain full reparation.

99. As to the steps taken to provide collective reparation, 57 per cent of the victims are taking part in the "Interweaving" programme, the purpose of which is to help repair the social fabric, re-establish relations of trust and promote coexistence in the communities that were victims of the armed conflict. Eight groups, representing 5,004 women, have received collective reparation. Pursuant to Act No. 1448 of 2011, 197,496 women victims received psychosocial care through the Programme of Comprehensive Psychosocial and Health Care for Victims between 2014 and 2016.

100. The Ministry of the Interior conducted an analysis of the main factors associated with structural gender-based violence and the discrimination driving sexual violence against women in the context of the armed conflict and forced displacement in Colombia. In 2016, the analysis was presented to relevant entities and local communities in seven cities. The Ministry of the Interior also prepared the Manual for Gender-sensitive Prevention of Sexual Violence, which contains guidelines for preventive action.

101. In view of the need to coordinate the various strategies designed to assist women survivors of sexual violence, a women's rights network, headed by the Presidential

¹⁵ The entity responsible for managing the health-care system and social protection in the health sphere through policies for the promotion of health, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and insurance, as well as intersectoral coordination of policies on health determinants.

Advisory Office for Human Rights¹⁶ and the Ministry of Justice and Law,¹⁷ was created in 2017 for the purpose of promoting women's participation in organizations and enhancing public initiatives in the area of women's human rights.

5. Measures taken in respect of children and adolescents belonging to ethnic groups

5.1 Ethnic Generations and Welfare Programme

102. The Colombian Family Welfare Institute¹⁸ has introduced the Ethnic Generations and Welfare Programme to prevent violations of the rights of children and adolescents belonging to ethnic groups. The Programme focuses on rights-promoting activities, such as cultural reaffirmation, revitalization of languages and recognition of ancestral knowledge. A number of achievements may be highlighted:

- Children and adolescents are assuming an active role as rights holders; families that contribute meaningfully to child-rearing patterns have been identified; and there are fewer instances of aggressive behaviour in children and adolescents and their families.
- Ancestral knowledge is being salvaged through engagement with older people, who, as oral and ancestral teachers, are transmitting their culture, way of thinking, origins and knowledge, and preserving native languages.
- The cultural identity and future prospects of ethnic communities are being enhanced through activities designed to promote the appropriation of rights.

103. A strategy for carrying out large-scale activities with a high social impact has been introduced in partnership with social organizations that work with children and adolescents and that are in a position to reach target areas. Music and cultural expression are used to foster social integration in urban centres, by encouraging children and adolescents to recognize their ethnic or non-ethnic affiliation.

104. The strategy raises awareness and encourages the use of native languages as a basic element in the construction of identity and as a measure for countering racism. Three strategies focus on the revitalization of language:

- Bring together people who speak and/or write in native languages.
- Teach words and phrases in native languages.
- Encourage children and adolescents to value and make use of native languages as a constitutional right and a cultural trait.

105. In 2017, five surveys focusing on participation and social dynamics were piloted with ethnic groups for the purposes of pinpointing identity traits that have a bearing on the participation of children and adolescents and determining how participation can be encouraged. By way of example, this exercise helped children and adolescents belonging to the Nukak people gain recognition as childhood leaders and as key participants in the intercultural dialogue aimed at ensuring the physical and cultural survival of their people.

6. Inclusion and participation of ethnic groups in negotiations and in the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 11 and 12)

106. The conclusion of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Colombian Government and the Fuerzas Armadas

¹⁶ The Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights is responsible for coordinating and undertaking activities to promote, protect and defend human rights alongside the governmental entities competent in this field.

¹⁷ The entity responsible for formulating, managing and implementing national policies, plans, programmes and projects relating to justice and the effective protection of rights.

¹⁸ The entity responsible for the comprehensive protection of infants, children, adolescents and the welfare of families in Colombia, including through preventive action.

Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) is one of the nation's most important historical events, spelling the end of an armed conflict that lasted for more than five decades.

107. The Agreement provided for the establishment of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition,¹⁹ the main purpose of which is the realization of the rights of the victims of the armed conflict. A committee was established for the purpose of selecting the senior officials to oversee the System. Of the officials elected to the different entities of the System through a public procedure, 54 per cent were women, 9 per cent were Afro-Colombians and 6 per cent were indigenous persons.

108. During the peace negotiations, a chapter on ethnic perspectives was incorporated into the Agreement as a means of recognizing the struggle of ethnic groups to defend their rights. The chapter provides for the establishment of a special high-level forum of ethnic peoples, composed of eight delegates from representative communities, to act as an advisory body to the Commission for Monitoring, Promoting and Verifying the Implementation of the Final Agreement; the forum is also responsible for ensuring the inclusion of an ethnic and cultural perspective.

109. The regulatory innovations and institutional reforms to be carried out under the Agreement will have an impact on the 29.6 per cent of the national territory that belongs to indigenous peoples, with the expectation that the 748 established indigenous reserves will be able to exercise and assert their rights in full autonomy.

110. As part of a participatory process, the Government upheld the fundamental right of indigenous peoples and communities to participation and prior consultation, reaching agreement on six legislative initiatives within the framework of the mechanism created by Legislative Act No. 01 of 2016.

111. The Agreement likewise provides for the development of a framework implementation plan, which should include measures to promote policies, plans and projects that take into account the specific needs of women and ethnic peoples. Between 2017 and March 2018, the Government held working sessions with the members of the special high-level forum of ethnic peoples during which agreement was reached on the goals for mainstreaming the approach relating to ethnic peoples and communities in the implementation of the Agreement.

C. Safeguarding the right of all persons to equality before the law, without distinction as to race, colour or national or ethnic origin: implementation of article 5

1. Safeguard and prevention programmes (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 17 and 18)

1.1 Programme of Safeguards for the Fundamental Rights of Indigenous Peoples

112. The Programme of Safeguards for the Fundamental Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior, was designed for indigenous peoples who are not covered by an ethnic protection plan; it addresses categories of rights such as land, health, autonomy and self-government, cultural identity, education and human rights. For each of them, the main rights infringements, together with community proposals and lines of action to restore the rights in question, have been identified in cooperation forums.

113. In 2015, in the Yaigojé-Apaporis reserve, the Ministry of the Interior reached an agreement with the indigenous peoples and organizations of the Departments of Amazonas and Vaupés on an approach to strengthen self-government.

¹⁹ Legislative Act No. 1 of 4 April 2017 establishing a title containing transitional provisions of the Constitution for the cessation of the armed conflict and the building of a stable and lasting peace, as well as other provisions.

114. Moreover, pursuant to Order No. 266 of 2017, issued by the Constitutional Court, the Ministry of the Interior undertook initiatives to support the local authorities mentioned in the Order in developing public policy.

115. Pursuant to Judgment T-466 of 2016, a comprehensive development strategy has been devised by the National Economic and Social Policy Council for the Department of La Guajira and its indigenous peoples with the aim of improving food security and the social, economic, institutional and environmental situation, with a focus on indigenous communities; it is awaiting approval. The strategy will be implemented through 157 measures by 30 national entities, grouped under 14 different lines of action and 4 specific objectives, covering issues such as access to drinking water, health, education, comprehensive care, housing, agriculture, infrastructure and institution-building. The strategy is intended to cover the period 2018–2022 and is estimated to cost 1.8 billion pesos.

1.2 Comprehensive Prevention Plan for the Department of Chocó

116. Comprehensive prevention plans are used to orient and support risk analysis and management, and to develop prevention and protection strategies for communities and social organizations, peoples' organizations, ethnic organizations, women's organizations, gender-related organizations, environmental organizations, community organizations, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex organizations and organizations for rights defenders, leaders, representatives and activists throughout the country.

117. These plans set the criteria for inter-institutional cooperation among national, departmental and municipal entities and establish the framework for action and guidelines on early and urgent prevention and guarantees of non-repetition to be adopted by departmental authorities. The early warnings issued by the Ombudsman's Office are one source of information used to develop the plans.

118. In 2017, the Prevention Plan for the Department of Chocó, which focuses on ethnic issues, was adopted by representatives of civil society, ethnic authorities, departmental authorities and the security forces as a means of setting out measures to prevent rights violations, to mitigate risks and to deal with threats to the community.

119. The following variables have been taken into account for the analysis and identification of risk scenarios:

- Demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of members of FARC-EP
- Negotiations with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army)
- Long-standing social, political and economic conflicts
- New conflicts

120. The Ministry of the Interior has provided support to the municipalities of Alta Baudó, Medio Baudó, Riosucio, Carmen del Darién, El Litoral del San Juan, Quibdó and Istmina. There are plans to continue affording technical assistance to municipalities in respect of which early or urgent warnings are issued by the Ombudsman's Office, to those significantly impacted by the activities of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army) and to those mentioned in the orders of the Constitutional Court.

2. Measures taken in respect of the Afro-Colombian population in Buenaventura (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 29 and 30)

121. On 30 July 2014, the Government declared that achieving equality in the Pacific Region was a priority. As a result, Buenaventura has benefited from several national and local initiatives derived from the National Development Plan. By granting the Pacific Region priority status, the Government seeks to make an effective contribution to the social, economic and environmental development of the Pacific coast, reduce existing gaps, support the development of the region and invest in the departments of the region.

122. One of the largest initiatives undertaken in this connection is the development fund of the "We Are All Pacific" plan. The purpose of this fund is to provide financing to meet the most urgent needs and thus foster the comprehensive development of the Pacific coast.

The first phase of the plan, which is worth 3.8 billion pesos in total, is funded by three government loans with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. The projects to be carried out under the plan focus on three major areas: water supply and basic sanitation, energy supply and transport connectivity.

123. The aim of the New Industrial and Logistics Zone Project, which is currently being rolled out, is to provide the region with specialized infrastructure, logistical services and industrial activities as a means of achieving greater productivity.

124. Various programmes have made it possible to lift 327,000 people living in the Pacific region out of poverty over the last four years:

- 211,000 families benefiting from the “Families in Action” programme
- 160,000 families enrolled in the “Wellness” programme
- 256,000 older persons enrolled in care programmes for older adults
- 12,800 young people benefiting from care programmes
- 530,000 children enrolled in the “From Birth for Life” programme

125. The Government has provided 14,700 free homes and conducted 216 drinking water and basic sanitation projects; in addition, 1.1 million users have been connected to the electricity supply. The reopening of the railway connecting Buenaventura with the municipality of Yumbo facilitates the transport of 19,000 tonnes of cargo per month. The sum of 945 billion pesos has been invested in mass transportation systems.

126. The Ministry of the Interior has conducted training sessions on human rights and international humanitarian law for the members of the Buenaventura District committee on human rights and international humanitarian law, benefiting more than 100 people from different interest groups. It has also provided detailed instructions to departmental authorities on how to draw up workplans; as a result, authorities have successfully identified the major challenges relating to the protection of life, liberty, personal integrity and security, equality and non-discrimination and human rights education and culture.

127. In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior introduced the “Afro-Colombian property tax” programme for municipalities where there are legally established collective lands belonging to black communities, with the aim of allocating resources equivalent to what those communities fail to collect, under a pooled property tax arrangement.

2.1 Comprehensive action and prevention plan for Buenaventura

128. Since 2014, the Ministry of the Interior has been working with national, departmental and local entities to devise a workplan, including provision for investment, for the District of Buenaventura. Under the workplan, social investments will be made to improve housing and to carry out various social and cultural projects. The plan also provides for initiatives to enhance security and combat violence. The plan is the result of 11 work sessions, at which more than 40 entities were represented.

129. The plan has resulted in:

Social investment:

- Creation of employment centres and job training.
- Introduction of social and business projects for young people, women of African descent and community leaders.
- Co-financing of the second Justice House (*Casa de Justicia*).
- Creation of farmers’ forums on production processes.
- Introduction of soft loans with the support of the Agrarian Bank.
- Expansion of coverage of the subsidized health scheme and improvements at Buenaventura Hospital.

- Promotion of business development with the support of Bancoldex in the amount of 316 million pesos.
- Support for the National Training Service entrepreneurship fund, education loans, the opening of megaschools and improvements at the University of the Pacific.
- Survey of waterways and provision of training to transporters and freighters.
- Expansion of the runway and construction of a new passenger terminal at the airport.
- Improvements to 1,000 homes.
- Expansion of the Youth in Action programme to 3,000 places, introduction of psychosocial care programmes for families and construction of two childcare centres attached to the Colombian Family Welfare Institute.
- More than 5,000 transfers of emergency humanitarian aid.

Security:

- Investment of 2.5 billion pesos in security cameras.
- Establishment of the subheadquarters of the National Protection Unit.
- Investment of 767 million pesos in prison maintenance work.
- Recruitment of additional prosecutors by the Attorney General's Office and the creation of a criminal analysis system, a special task force and a subdirectorate of victim services.
- The presence of 1,300 men from the National Navy and 120 coastguards.

Culture, recreation and sports programmes:

- Holding of international sports and cultural exchanges.
- Creation of sporting, musical and cultural training clinics.
- National promotional campaign for Buenaventura (through the Yubarta Whale Festival).
- Construction and endowment of the Public Library of the Grancolombiano neighbourhood.
- Upgrading of the Escuela Taller and the promotion of training initiatives conducted by the Ministry of Culture.
- Development of a photographic archive for social priority sectors.
- Conclusion of a formal agreement on culture.
- Construction of a sports complex in the La Independencia neighbourhood and a recreation area in the Cristóbal Colón neighbourhood.

130. Pursuant to the commitments made by the Government to the leaders of the Buenaventura civil strike movement, the Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommended Measures met in the city of Cali, Valle, in February 2018 and adopted or enhanced protective measures for people in situations of extraordinary risk.²⁰

131. The Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommended Measures met again on 15 March 2018, this time in the District of Buenaventura, in order to deal with the other cases involving the leaders of the strike movement who had not yet been notified of the results of the risk assessment and in respect of whom the National Protection Unit had undertaken to conduct such an assessment by 15 March 2018 so that the Committee might recommend the measures to be taken.

132. In the Department of Valle, workshops have been held in the municipalities of Argelia, Caicedonia, Cerrito, Sevilla, Vijes, Yotoco, Yumbo and Candelaria for the purpose

²⁰ María Miyela Riascos, Javier Torres Caicedo, Danelly Estupiñan Valencia and Víctor Hugo Vidal Piedrahita.

of devising prevention plans; these plans have since been approved and are being implemented. Technical assistance workshops were held for the municipalities of Trujillo, Tuluá, Cali, Cartago, Florida, Pradera and Jamundí so that they could update their prevention plans.

2.2 Criminal prosecution and investigations

133. The Attorney General's Office has made criminal investigations and prosecution in Buenaventura Department a priority since April 2014. It has increased the number of staff in Buenaventura and devised a plan to shed light on cases of homicide and enforced disappearance, forced displacement, gender-based violence and corruption.

134. With a view to facilitating the effective dismantling of criminal organizations, the plan identifies a group of investigators and analysts at the national and departmental levels who will study the dynamics, beneficiaries and support networks of criminal organizations in Buenaventura. The plan also provides for the recruitment of additional prosecutors, prosecutors' assistants and investigators for the Buenaventura prosecutor's office.

135. The plan for Buenaventura has four pillars: (i) the analysis and characterization of criminal activities and criminal organizations; (ii) the analysis of cases of extortion and basic commodity monopolies; (iii) the expedition of investigations into land-related conflicts; and (iv) support for investigations of homicides and threats against human rights defenders.

3. Land rights and land restitution (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 19 and 20)

3.1 Recognition of lands belonging to ethnic groups

136. The legal recognition of land belonging to ethnic groups is defined in articles 63 and 329 of the Constitution as a right that is inalienable, imprescriptible and not subject to seizure.

137. Indigenous peoples' right to the same type of legal recognition is enshrined in Decree No. 2164 of 1995 and Decree No. 1071 of 2015, which regulate land grants and land titling, and the reorganization, expansion and rehabilitation of indigenous reserves throughout the country. The guarantees associated with private property also apply to collective property titles, which grant administrative powers over collective lands to autonomous indigenous authorities with their own judicial and regulatory systems.

138. Similar recognition of rights and guarantees for black communities are enshrined in Act No. 70, Decree No. 1745 and Decree No. 1066 of 2015, which provide for the protection of the cultural identity and rights of Afro-Colombian communities through the titling of collective property.

139. In recent years, the National Land Agency²¹ has issued 14 collective titling decisions benefiting 2,603 families in Bolívar, La Guajira, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Putumayo living in an area of 8,438 hectares. An additional seven decisions are being announced concurrently; these will benefit 1,698 families living in an area of 35,428,389 hectares.

140. The National Land Agency has concluded 32 agreements intended to benefit 5,124 indigenous families through the establishment and expansion of indigenous reserves in Valle del Cauca, Meta, Quindío, Tolima, Antioquia, Nariño, Cauca, La Guajira, Cundinamarca, Putumayo, Risaralda, Caldas, Caquetá and Huila in an area of 602,704,671 hectares.

141. As to protective measures, pursuant to Decree No. 2333 of 2014, the Government set up a task force that is working with indigenous organizations to oversee the

²¹ The highest authority in the country for land affairs with a mandate to implement the policy on the structure of rural land ownership developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

determination of land tenure. Particularly noteworthy is the process involving the Yukpa²² people to create a local transition zone for normalization.²³

142. Under Decree No. 1953 of 2014 and Decree No. 632 of 2018, it is currently possible for indigenous reserves and territories to administer directly the special budgetary allocation assigned to them, thereby strengthening their autonomy and guaranteeing the exercise of the rights recognized in the Constitution. Currently, seven indigenous reserves manage their resources directly.

3.2 Land restitution

(a) *Community spaces for raising awareness about and identifying violations of land rights within ethnic communities*

143. The Special Administrative Unit for Managing the Restitution of Expropriated Lands²⁴ is responsible for implementing the public policy for the protection and restoration of ethnic land rights, which was developed together with the communities concerned. In addition, efforts are under way to document the land right violations committed during the armed conflict and after 1991. This initiative has been carried out directly with the communities concerned in the areas where they are currently established.

144. Through its awareness-raising efforts, the Special Administrative Unit has acquired valuable information, which has proved useful in drafting, together with ethnic communities, documents to substantiate administrative decisions, and in taking decisions in relation to claims, context analysis documents, timelines and social mapping procedures.

145. Since 2014, a total of 429 dialogue-focused meetings have been held, bringing together more than 22,000 representatives of authorities, leaders and members of black and indigenous communities, public officials and non-ethnic land occupants from various parts of the country.

146. In creating a space for dialogue, the Special Administrative Unit has sought to disseminate the policy for the protection and restoration of ethnic land rights, on the basis of a differential approach, with respect for customs, practices and norms and for the vision and world view of communities. It has provided support for translation into native languages, consistently applied the principle of partnership throughout the process, and avoided setting formal requirements that ethnic communities would struggle to meet. Methodology-related agreements have also been concluded to ensure respect for the timing and pace of social and participatory processes in communities.

147. The Special Administrative Unit for Managing the Restitution of Expropriated Lands has decided, in order to disseminate information on land restitution case rulings more widely, to have the rulings interpreted in the native language of the target communities and to facilitate the participation of those communities in giving effect to the rulings.

(b) *Participation, partnership and consultation*

148. Consultations were held during the process of designing and approving the public policy for the protection and restoration of ethnic land rights. The Special Administrative Unit for Managing the Restitution of Expropriated Lands works with local authorities to ensure compliance with court orders and other commitments, such as placing a priority on community-related cases; establishing violations of land rights; and precautionary measures for the protection of indigenous peoples living in isolation or with whom initial contact has already been made.

²² Judgment T-713 of 2017, which ordered the Government to expedite the establishment of so-called local training and reintegration areas in La Paz, Cesar, in order to protect the Yukpa indigenous community in light of the potential negative impact on their land, self-government and self-determination rights.

²³ The local transitional zone for normalization is a secure area set up in support of the ceasefire to ensure the surrender of weapons and to lay the groundwork for the reintegration of members of FARC-EP into civilian life and their transition to legality.

²⁴ Entity responsible for managing the public policy on the restitution of lands and territories.

149. Before undertaking such initiatives, the Special Administrative Unit seeks to reach agreement with communities on the current state of affairs and expectations, within the legal framework afforded by treaties, the Constitution and legislation.

150. As a result of increased participation by ethnic communities, the scope of decisions to restore ethnic land rights now extends beyond land restitution to include measures for comprehensive reparation, such as a resources for the effective enjoyment of ethnic land rights.

151. Attention should likewise be drawn to the appointment of community representatives to the board of directors of the Special Administrative Unit for Managing the Restitution of Expropriated Lands and their active participation in the board's activities. Two members of the indigenous communities and two members of the black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquero and Raizal communities sit on the board to ensure the representation of those communities in policymaking, budget approval, the development of plans and programmes and the inclusion of a differential approach.

(c) *Advances in land restitution for indigenous peoples, persons of African descent and the Roma between 2014 and 2018*

152. The Special Administrative Unit for Managing the Restitution of Expropriated Lands conducts preliminary studies on lands belonging to the Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities and uses them to determine whether or not to apply (i) restitution measures or (ii) prevention and protection measures, be they administrative or judicial in nature.

153. The Special Administrative Unit has begun reviewing potential rights violations caused by the armed conflict in 54 ethnic territories and the circumstances of such violations. Of those territories, 14 belong to black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquero and Raizal communities and 40 belong to indigenous communities. The review entails exhaustive field research with affected communities and institutional and community representatives.

154. During the reporting period, the Special Administrative Unit made a total of 41 restitution claims in response to the land right violations suffered by 11 community councils and 30 indigenous groups. A decision ordering the restoration of land rights has been handed down in 12 of these cases, 10 of which concern indigenous peoples and 2 of which concern black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquero and Raizal communities. Annex 4 includes a detailed table on this process.

155. The Special Administrative Unit has requested the application of precautionary measures in respect of 105 territories, 75 of which belong to indigenous peoples and 30 of which belong to black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquero and Raizal communities. The precautionary measures are intended to protect a total of 5,293,414 hectares and 38,090 families belonging to ethnic communities.

156. Between 2014 and 2018, a total of 823,407 hectares of collective lands belonging to registered ethnic communities, including 25,748 families, were inscribed in the Registry of Expropriated or Forcibly Abandoned Land.

157. The claims referred to the judges relate to the safeguarding of land rights, for example through the formal recognition of and legal certainty over land ownership; the cessation of illegal exploitation of non-renewable resources; the protection of communities and their authorities, the protection of ancestral practices and sacred ancestral places; food security; and participation in the development and coordination of the comprehensive plans for collective reparation provided for in the Victims and Land Restitution Act.

4. Security forces: training, awareness-raising and inclusion

158. Issues relating specifically to the National Police and the military are regulated by Directive No. 16 of 2006 and Directive No. 07 of 2007, which govern the application of the differential approach in all the activities of the security forces. This ensures that, in carrying out their duties, the security forces uphold the right to autonomy, traditional structures, languages and customs, territorial integrity, respect for sacred places and form of government, while applying a differential approach both internally and in the field.

159. A basic pillar of the national human rights policy is continuous training on human rights, during which the security forces are taught how to apply a differential approach in upholding all human rights and constitutional norms, in accordance with the international commitments and obligations of the State.

160. The military and the National Police currently employ 156 liaison officers, who advise their commander on how to apply a differential approach and who serve as a conduit between the security forces and communities, addressing any concerns and complaints raised by these groups.

161. Within the security forces, the first female sea captain of African descent is currently serving with the National Navy and the National Police currently employs 8,751 officers who belong to an ethnic minority²⁵ and who exercise their functions in keeping with their identity while preserving their culture. In the Departments of Cauca and La Guajira, National Police uniforms have been modified to reflect traditional indigenous dress in order to curb discrimination and exclusion and to recognize the different cultural identities that exist within the National Police.

162. As part of a strategy designed to protect groups in vulnerable situations, the National Police has conducted more than 2,000 awareness-raising initiatives and set up more than 6,000 forums for dialogue and inter-agency coordination. It is hoped this will lead to the adoption of preventive measures and measures to protect the right to life, physical integrity, freedom, security and the coexistence of individuals, groups and communities based on a differential approach.

163. In the light of the major challenges involved in protecting vulnerable minority groups, the National Police has brought 85 human rights groups under the authority of the Office of the Inspector General for the Army, which is staffed by officials qualified to carry out the activities necessary to guarantee, promote and protect the rights of ethnic minorities throughout the national territory.

5. Safeguarding access to employment for indigenous peoples and persons of African descent

164. The Colombian State has set up regulatory frameworks for different sectors of the population so as to encourage differential employment policies. By way of example, the Victims and Land Restitution Act provided a means of income generation for victims of the armed conflict by establishing the National System for Comprehensive Victim Support and Reparation. The Colombian agency for the reintegration of armed insurgents and insurgent groups likewise seeks to achieve this goal through its programmes for demobilized and reintegrated persons.

165. In addition, the Public Employment Service provides assistance to the different sectors of the population based on a differential approach as a means of promoting gainful participation in the labour market without discrimination. In order to strengthen the Service, the Ministry of Labour²⁶ is rolling out an inclusive model of employment that incorporates more effectively specialized services and job management and placement services.

166. The results of the 2017 survey on quality of life conducted by the National Department of Statistics show that the Raizal people living in the Archipelago of San Andrés have a labour participation rate that is 7.3 percentage points above the overall rate of participation in their region, which is an achievement in terms of the occupation level of ethnic groups.

167. The Ministry of Labour has begun the process of identifying the barriers to the labour market for ethnic groups and has determined the following:

- Ethnic peoples have skills and knowledge that do not translate into soft or hard skills for the purposes of the Western labour market.

²⁵ 7,665 persons of African descent, 837 indigenous persons, 238 Raizales and 11 Palenqueros.

²⁶ Entity responsible for devising, adopting and guiding public employment policy.

- There continues to be an excessive number of intermediaries involved in marketing indigenous peoples' products.
- New avenues or procedures are needed to enhance the ability of communities to organize themselves for commercial purposes.
- There is a lack of knowledge on the part of indigenous authorities regarding State services for managing employment in urban settings.
- The education and training received by the communities is different from that provided within the mainstream education system.
- Language barriers persist.

168. In the light of these challenges, the Ministry of Labour is taking steps to strengthen the Public Employment Service by applying an inclusive model of employment that better integrates specialized services for each sector of the population, and the barriers that they face, into management and job placement services.

6. Right to water, housing and basic sanitation (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 35 and 36)

6.1 Free Housing Scheme

169. The Ministry of Housing and Urban and Rural Planning,²⁷ through the Free Housing Scheme provided for in Act No. 1537 of 2012, allocates family housing subsidies to victims of forced displacement and to households affected by natural disasters, public disasters or emergencies.

170. Potential beneficiaries of the Free Housing Scheme are identified through the application of prioritization criteria and a differential approach to ensure that vulnerable populations can benefit from it. Since 2014, 1,929 Afro-Colombian households and 271 indigenous households have received housing subsidies.

6.2 Departmental plans for the management of water and sanitation services by businesses in Chocó

171. The Ministry of Housing and Urban and Rural Planning is taking steps to improve or optimize the various water-supply and sewerage systems in 16 of the 30 municipalities in the Department of Chocó. Several projects for the construction, optimization or renovation of sanitary landfills and plans to close open-air dumps are being rolled out. The Government has invested more than 28.8 billion pesos in these initiatives.

172. The Ministry of Housing and Urban and Rural Planning has introduced an insurance plan regarding the provision of drinking water and basic sanitation services. The plan will be key to guaranteeing the efficiency and sustainability of public-private companies and partnerships providing public services, including the roll-out and maintenance of short-, medium- and long-term projects. The insurance plan for 2017–2018 covers insurance-related needs in the provision of domestic utilities up to a value of 2,241,550,000 pesos.

173. The aim of the current environment plan, which covers the period 2017–2019, is to ensure that consideration is given to environmental issues in the planning and implementation of projects to provide public services such as water supply, sewerage and sanitation. The plan includes works and investments worth 2,850,034,696 pesos.

6.3 “Everyone for Pacific-Chocó” programme

174. The Government has developed a programme for the Pacific Region with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation called the “Everyone for Pacific-Chocó” investment plan, worth 102,737,000,000 pesos, of which 30,000,000,000 pesos are allocated from the general national budget and 72,737,000,000 pesos are allocated from the cooperation fund for water and sanitation.

²⁷ The Ministry responsible for promoting land and urban development and for alleviating shortages in urban housing, drinking water and basic sanitation.

175. This programme has given the inhabitants of 13 towns in Chocó access to a water supply and to sewerage services. The Government is funding strategic infrastructure projects, through the corporation FINDETER S.A., to provide drinking water and basic sanitation to municipalities that have been traditionally known for their high poverty rate. This programme also offers the possibility of technical and financial support.

176. Tables illustrating the progress of these projects may be found in Annex 5.

6.4 Alliance for Water and Life in La Guajira Programme

177. In 2015, the Office of the President of the Republic launched the Alliance for Water and Life in La Guajira Programme to double water coverage in the rural area of Alta Guajira, increase the number of food security programmes and provide immediate assistance to 100 per cent of children and adolescents identified as suffering from acute malnutrition. The commitments made under the programme are the result of joint visits conducted by 14 government entities, together with local entities, to priority communities.

178. The Alliance conducts visits to the traditional authorities of Wayúu communities to agree on the activities to be carried out around sensitive issues and the most pressing needs of the population. Those activities are then coordinated by three technical committees: (i) the technical committee on water and food security; (ii) the technical committee on health and nutrition; and (iii) the technical committee on information.

179. The Government has conducted 249 water solutions projects, which include the construction or renovation of wells, the installation of devices for air-based desalination, the repair of mills, the installation of solar photovoltaic pumping systems and the installation of storage systems. Twelve of the projects are in the analysis phase, 35 are under implementation and 202 have been completed.

180. Under the programme, 561 million litres of water have been supplied throughout the Department and 457 tanks with a storage capacity of 3 million litres of water, 45 devices for air-based desalination and 23 pieces of equipment for the local machinery depot have been delivered. Moreover, a 200-m³ desalination plant for treating water from a 465-m well has been set up in Siapana and preparations are being made to deliver water to the municipality of Uribia.

181. According to recently updated information, these solutions have so far benefited 52,351 people and 64,625 additional people are expected to benefit once the programme is completed.

7. Right to health (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 33 and 34)

7.1 Indigenous and Intercultural Health System

182. According to the Ministry of Health's single beneficiary database, the ethnic population with active beneficiary status is composed of 1,521,620 indigenous persons, 3,248 Roma and 232,452 persons from the black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquero or Raizal communities.

183. Included in the National Development Plan 2010–2014 is the Ministry of Health's commitment to build, develop and roll out the Indigenous and Intercultural Health System, in coordination with indigenous authorities and organizations. This task is being carried out in three phases:

- (i) Dissemination of and gathering of feedback on the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Health, which was taken forward in the fourth quarter of 2013;
- (ii) Drafting of a core document detailing the structure and contents of the Indigenous and Intercultural Health System; input on the System's structure, main pillars and lines of operation by component has been collated at the national level;
- (iii) Formal acknowledgment within the Standing Committee on Consultation with Indigenous Peoples.

184. Between 2014 and 2017, the Ministry of Health invested 3,345,000,000 pesos in projects focused on devising health-care models for indigenous peoples, including general context, development of content and an action plan for implementing the Indigenous and Intercultural Health System and the provisions of the agreements for coordinating and rolling out the System. Measures were also taken to strengthen the public health-care policy for indigenous persons with disabilities.

185. In 2014 and 2015, 15 agreements were concluded, accompanied by an investment of 1,410,000,000 pesos. In 2016, 12 agreements were concluded, accompanied by an investment of 1,050,000,000 pesos. In 2017, 7 agreements were concluded, accompanied by an investment of 885,000,000 pesos.

186. In 2018, Circular No. 011 was issued with the aim of ensuring that the public officials responsible for the management and delivery of health care take steps to expedite the development and roll-out of the Indigenous and Intercultural Health System at the department level.

7.2 Measures taken in respect of malnourished children and adolescents in La Guajira

187. In order to combat acute malnutrition in the rural area of Alta Guajira, the Government launched a field-based action plan, in which outreach teams helped to coordinate the activities of departmental entities with those of entities providing health-care services. The plan focused on 10 areas: (i) research, innovation and acquisition of knowledge; (ii) population analysis; (iii) comprehensive health-care support services; (iv) comprehensive health risk management; (v) areas of departmental competence; (vi) comprehensive service provider networks; (vii) the role of the insurer; (viii) incentive schemes; (ix) information systems; and (x) human resources in health. Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 11,722,622,800 pesos were invested in this programme.

188. In 2017, 17 teams assisted 28,715 families, 24,140 children under 5 years of age, 763 children suffering from acute, moderate or severe malnutrition and 2,090 pregnant women by performing prenatal check-ups and providing them with micronutrients. They also performed 9,862 growth and development check-ups for children under 10 years of age, provided deworming treatment and micronutrients to 6,685 children under 5 years of age, trained 853 professionals in the integrated management of acute malnutrition and set up vaccination schemes for 1,633 children.

189. A free acute malnutrition helpline, which provides interpretation into Wayuunaiki for the benefit of the Wayúu population, has been operational since December 2015. To date, 1,100 cases have been recorded and referred to the relevant insurers and social institutions. The sum of 72,560,388 pesos has been earmarked to keep the helpline running effectively.

7.3 Sexual and reproductive health for victims of sexual violence

190. Pursuant to Act No. 1751 of 2015, the Ministry of Health formally adopted the Comprehensive Care Approach for Persons at Risk or Victims of Assault, Accident or Trauma. The approach comprehensively addresses conflict-related and gender-based violence, as well as violence attributable to social conflict. In 2015 and 2016, the Ministry of Health worked towards the adoption of models for providing shelter, food and transportation services to women victims of violence and their children.

191. Pursuant to Act No. 1448 of 2011, 4,420 health-care professionals caring for victims of sexual violence were accredited under the Programme for Psychosocial and Comprehensive Health Care for Victims between 2013 and 2016. As a result, between 2014 and 2016, 314,921 victims, including 197,496 women, received psychosocial care.

192. In 2016, an ethnic component was developed within the same programme, for the benefit of black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquero and Raizal communities. The Ministry of Health is working with the community of San Basilio de Palenque to ensure the provision of health-care services based on a differential approach.

8. The right to education and vocational training (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 37 and 38)

8.1 Education guarantee for ethnic groups

193. The Ministry of Education²⁸ has taken steps to provide education services to ethnic groups as a strategic, cross-cutting initiative with a view to protecting their linguistic traditions and promoting bilingual education. It is institutionalizing the participation of these groups in the management and administration of education in a manner that respects and develops their cultural identity.

194. The Ministry has focused on three areas:

- The improvement of the quality and relevance of education through the formulation, design and implementation of Community Education Projects for 97 of 102 indigenous peoples, benefiting 75,520 children and adolescents, or 21 per cent of indigenous students nationwide.
- Consultations on the education policy with the representative authorities of ethnic groups as part of the transition from ethno-education to the recognition of these groups' own community and intercultural education systems.
- The incorporation of an ethnic focus into the services provided by the certified regional entities through workshops that are designed to promote a differentiated approach and give rise to mechanisms for knowledge exchange and the inclusion of indigenous ways of thinking in Colombian education.

8.2 Ethno-education

195. Ethno-education is a policy that recognizes diversity, identity and the need for respect and inclusiveness in a pluriethnic and multicultural country; its aim is to achieve recognition for ethnic peoples' own community-based intercultural education systems. The Ministry of Education coordinates the formulation, design and implementation of education initiatives with the authorities and representative organizations of these communities.

196. Many Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities have achieved a degree of ownership of education initiatives through Community Education Projects, with particular emphasis on native languages.

197. The National Education Committee is the advisory body responsible for adapting ethno-education policies to the needs, interests and expectations of the communities.

198. The Ministry has been training ethno-educators and has organized public recruitment competitions; it is also producing teaching materials with an ethnic focus.

8.3 Ethnic education system

199. The ethnic education system is an initiative being rolled out through consultation and cooperation with the authorities and representative organizations of ethnic groups to ensure that their members receive an education that puts them on an equal footing with the rest of Colombian society and enables them to fully participate in both community and country affairs.

200. In 2007, in an effort to promote dialogue and consultation, a national consultation committee was set up as the forum for policymaking on indigenous education policy. The Ministry is carrying out the third phase of the established consultation procedure through the Standing Committee on Consultation with Indigenous Peoples.

201. The consultation process between the indigenous delegates and the Ministry has led to initiatives to ensure that indigenous children and adolescents will receive high-quality education. The hope is that this exercise will quickly yield an education system that reflects the uses, customs and cultural identity of indigenous peoples, thus ensuring their survival.

²⁸ The Ministry is the lead entity for the national education policy.

202. For the communities of African descent, the Ministry is taking the necessary steps to submit educational proposals that are in line with the ethnic development plans and general aspirations that underpin the cultural and linguistic survival of these communities. The roll-out of the agreed proposals has benefited 124,904 students, 5,734 teachers and 692 schools.

8.4 Special Fund for Education Loans for Afrodescendants

203. The Government, through policy guidelines on inclusive higher education, has guided funding efforts to support access to higher education for black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities through the Special Fund for Education Loans for Black Communities. Between 2011 and 2015, the Special Fund has been allocated 82,251,000,000 pesos.

204. Special Fund loans are available for students from Afro-Colombian communities who are enrolled in, have been admitted to or are pursuing a course at an institution of higher learning registered with the National System for Information on Higher Education. The Ministry of the Interior has issued more than 14,000 certificates to students from the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities.

205. At the Master's level, the Ministry of Education runs the Fulbright programme whose purpose is to provide educational opportunities to Afro-Colombians so that they can contribute to the development of their home regions. The Ministry has the necessary resources to cover the enrolment, moving, living, school supplies and ticket costs of three students per year. From 2014 to 2018, the programme received external funding in the amount of 1,787,470,565 pesos.

9. Impact of projects involving natural resource exploitation (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 23 and 24)

9.1 Environmental impact assessments and licensing

206. The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development,²⁹ together with the National Environmental Licensing Authority,³⁰ strives to improve respect for human rights in the environmental impact assessments of businesses and in plans on social risk management and human rights.

207. In July 2018, the Ministry of Mining and Energy³¹ launched a human rights policy for the mining and energy sector (Decree No. 40796 of 2018), the result of internal efforts to mainstream the focus on human rights throughout mining and energy activities.

208. Environmental impact assessments must include a risk management plan such that whoever executes public works projects or engages in industrial activities or other activities that pose a risk of disaster for a community are required to carry out specific analyses and prepare mandatory contingency plans. The terms of reference for the design of environmental impact assessments are the main decision-making tool for projects, works or other activities requiring an environmental licence pursuant to Decree No. 1076 of 2015.

209. Good practices in the sector during the period from 2016 to 2017 include the development by the Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Sectoral Plan on the Comprehensive Management of Water Resources and the Sectoral Action Plan on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, whose aim is to ensure the planning and comprehensive management of natural resources in mining and energy activities.

²⁹ The Ministry is the public body responsible for setting national environmental policy and promoting the recycling, conservation, protection, organization, management, use and approval of renewable natural resources with the aim of achieving sustainable development and ensuring the right of the entire population to enjoy and inherit a sound environment.

³⁰ The Authority is the body responsible for ensuring that projects, works and activities subject to environmental licensing, permits or processing meet environmental standards so that they may contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

³¹ The Ministry is responsible for managing the country's non-renewable resources, including through guidelines on their use and regulation, as well as for conservation, restoration and sustainable development.

210. The Sectoral Plan on the Comprehensive Management of Water Resources is a planning and self-management tool for the period up to 2030 that sets out the steps to be taken towards the appropriate management of water.

211. The Sectoral Action Plan on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services sets out the main actions to be taken by the sector as it seeks to achieve a balance between ecosystem dynamics and development needs. To this end, the Plan identifies actors, information, needs and opportunities to promote harmonious coexistence between the sector's productive chains and biodiversity.

9.2 Policy on human rights and business

212. The National Action Plan on Human Rights and Business is a three-year public policy tool designed to ensure respect for human rights in the conduct of business in line with the National Human Rights Strategy 2014–2034.

213. The National Action Plan, as a tool for the management of social conflicts arising from the exploitation of natural resources, has spurred the design and implementation of sectoral human rights policies. In addition, a follow-up and evaluation mechanism has been established under the Plan, in the form of two governance bodies that coordinate actions to further effective implementation.

214. The governance bodies are the Inter-institutional Working Group, together with the technical secretariat of the Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights, and the Advisory Commission, consisting of representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, oversight bodies and the international community. Stakeholders actively participate in the Commission's activities in keeping with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework. Members of the Commission include representatives of indigenous peoples and communities of African descent.

215. Since its inception in 2017, the Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights has identified the following next steps: (i) establish better guarantees for social participation and representation; (ii) increase ownership of the National Action Plan by communities and organizations; and (iii) promote decentralization and ownership by territorial entities.

10. Environmental projects involving communities (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 23 and 24)

10.1 Vision for a Sustainable Pacific

216. The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development has developed a portfolio of 13 projects in the Pacific region, which are carried out strategically with international cooperation, business and environmental agency partners. The projects also enjoy the support of communities, thereby helping to promote a model of sustainable development that harmonizes the conservation, use and management of biodiversity in coordination with ethnic organizations and entities.

217. The Ministry is implementing nine Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) projects in the Pacific region, involving 20 ethnic communities, 19 community councils and 1 indigenous reserve. A further four projects are in the development phase. Both completed projects and project outlines were developed together with communities and territorial and national authorities, on the basis of operational models with a human rights focus.

10.2 Vision for the Amazon

218. The government initiative Vision for the Amazon seeks to promote agreements with territorial authorities, campesino associations, indigenous communities and other actors to reduce deforestation in the Colombian Amazon. Efforts are under way in priority areas with high rates of deforestation, such as Caquetá, Guaviare, Putumayo, southern Meta Department and the Amazon biome.

219. One of the pillars of the programme is the promotion of environmental governance by indigenous peoples in respect of traditional practices. The programme also seeks to maintain a cultural perspective in dealing with such varied topics as ethnic governance systems, territory and the environment, the economy and production, mothers and families, health and traditional medicine, the ethnic education system and support for language strengthening.

220. The programme is part of the pioneers for the REDD+ initiative, whose donor countries have pledged up to 120 million dollars. To date, three disbursements totalling 39,387,767 euros have been received; 29,370,204 dollars have been allocated.

221. The main achievements thus far include coordination with and support from the Attorney General's Office, the Armed Forces, the Governor's Office, the municipal authorities and the Regional Autonomous Corporations to create so-called Forest Bubbles with a view to curbing wood smuggling and putting an end to the illegal activities that accelerate deforestation in the departments concerned.

D. Jurisdiction, protection and effective remedies: implementation of article 6

1. Access to justice (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 39 and 40)

1.1 Local strategies to boost access to justice with an ethnically differentiated approach

222. The National Justice Houses and Civic Harmony Programme, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, is designed to facilitate the population's access to justice, primarily in marginal areas, major towns and corregimientos with over 2,500 inhabitants. The Programme centres are multi-agency institutions that provide information, guidance, referral and conflict resolution services, in application of formal and informal justice mechanisms, with a focus on alternative modes of conflict resolution.

223. There are currently 108 justice houses (*casas de justicia*) and 38 civic harmony centres. The Programme has been rolled out in 33 municipalities; there are plans for 2 more.

224. In keeping with the differentiated focus on ethnicity in the administration of justice, the Ministry of Justice has published a document containing recommendations for the strengthening of the ethnic component in court cases. The document has been disseminated to training facilities, which have provided training to 380 public servants from 89 municipalities in recent years.

225. The Local Justice Systems Strategy is based on collaboration between the State and local communities to identify justice needs and provide appropriate responses. This collaboration fosters intercultural dialogue and knowledge-sharing between the various authorities, in particular between the national judicial system and the special indigenous courts. Between 2014 and 2018, Local Justice Systems were established in 113 municipalities.

226. Regarding ethnicity issues in the prison system, the Ministry of Justice has conducted studies on the prison conditions of indigenous persons being held in State institutions and in indigenous institutions and on the adoption and application of an ethnically differentiated approach, with a view to preserving ethnic identity.

1.2 Strengthening of indigenous courts

227. The design and implementation of coordination mechanisms between the special indigenous courts and the ordinary courts has been a huge challenge for the State, which recognizes indigenous authorities as having judicial powers.

228. Decree No. 1953 was adopted in 2014, reaffirming the duty to respect, support and work with State entities in order to protect the indigenous courts, to which end, agreements have been reached with priority indigenous territories. The Ministry of Justice supports the adoption of internal regulations on indigenous justice systems and the implementation of

ethnic protection plans. Progress has been made in this regard among the Kamëntsá, Nasa, Arhuaco, Awá and Barí peoples.

229. In addition, the High Council of the Judiciary³² set up the National Commission for the Coordination of the Judicial System and the Special Indigenous Courts, which includes representatives of indigenous peoples, the executive branch, the judiciary and various oversight bodies. The Commission examines cases in order to develop technical guidelines on inter-court coordination. Furthermore, the Council has established inter-court coordination committees at the departmental level, which bring together all justice officials to discuss how to overcome the barriers to access to justice facing the indigenous population.

230. In 2016, the Attorney General's Office issued directive No. 012, containing guidelines on the jurisdiction of the special indigenous courts. According to the guidelines, prosecutors should take into account objective criteria to determine whether a case falls under the jurisdiction of the special indigenous courts. The instrument is considered as a tool to streamline procedures involving indigenous persons.

2. Assistance for victims of the armed conflict (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 11 and 12)

2.1 Plan to strengthen the Early Warning System

231. The Government, through a working group made up of representatives of the Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry of the Interior and the Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights, has made progress on strengthening the Early Warning System as a model for prevention, rapid response and effective protection procedures. The expected outcome is better coordination of the State's rapid response to early warnings issued by the Ombudsman's Office through the Inter-Agency Early Warning Committee.

232. Changes have been made to the system and a new system has been set up pursuant to Decree-Law No. 895 of 2017 with the aim of carrying out preventive activities and issuing warnings to ensure a rapid response to the presence, operations and/or activities of criminal organizations or acts that jeopardize the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace.

233. Changes have been made to the system and Decree No. 2124 of 2017 was adopted in order to establish a new rapid response prevention and warning system, to allow the Ombudsman's Office independently to issue early warnings and to strengthen the Government's rapid response capabilities in terms of ensuring security and comprehensive post-event support in the form of social programmes.

234. In those territories having adopted a development plan, the Government will be setting up immediate response warning committees, which will meet to coordinate rapid government response to early warnings issued by the Ombudsman's Office in a given area.

2.2 Reparation for victims of the armed conflict

(a) Reparation and compensation for victims of the armed conflict belonging to ethnic minorities

235. The National System for Comprehensive Victim Support and Reparation represents 39 national entities and 1,133 territorial entities with specific responsibilities in the provision of services to the population, including to victims.

236. According to data from the Central Register of Victims, between 2014 and 1 April 2018, 24.6 per cent of victims belonged to an ethnic group, as per the following breakdown: 19.1 per cent black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero; 5.4 per cent indigenous; and 0.1 per cent Roma or gypsy.

³² The High Council is the judicial entity responsible for the governing and overall management of the judiciary.

237. Collective reparation is awarded after consultations are conducted to assess the harm and impact and to develop comprehensive collective reparation plans. In March 2018, 48 collective reparation processes were under way; of these, 22 cases involved indigenous communities and 26 involved black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities.

238. As of April 2018, the Comprehensive Victim Support and Reparation Unit has paid the following compensation:

- 303,355,848,338 pesos to 49,033 Afro-Colombians
- 71,009,475,798 pesos to indigenous persons
- 17,834,904,185 pesos to 2,873 gypsies
- 810,414,103 pesos to members of Palenquero communities
- 8,324,347,431 pesos to members of Raizal communities

239. The Unit has paid out eight collective compensation awards, totalling 1,761,668,196 pesos. The awards are intended to enhance the ethnic development plans and general prospects of the groups concerned and, in the case of Roma or gypsies, to sustain long-term plans to improve their situation.

240. In order to ensure comprehensive reparation, the Unit is rolling out the Intertwining Strategy (*Estrategia Entrelazando*), composed of four protocols (adults; children and adolescents; dignity and remembrance for adolescents and young people; and persons of African descent from Chocó Department) depending on the life course and differentiated focus of the victim population. Thus far, 154 recipients of reparation have benefited from the Strategy in the form of community-based psychosocial support.

(b) *Humanitarian support and assistance*

241. Act No. 1448 of 2011 sets forth humanitarian support and assistance as emergency measures to mitigate the impact of offences. Regarding forced displacement, humanitarian support takes the shape of temporary housing and basic foodstuffs.

242. In the 2014–2018 period, the Unit disbursed the following amounts for humanitarian action:

- 595,811,731,970 pesos for Afro-Colombians
- 123,199,239,332 pesos for indigenous persons
- 15,970,516,425 pesos for gypsies
- 945,610,576 pesos for members of Palenquero communities
- 6,064,641,321 for members of Raizal communities

(c) *Cultural actions as collective reparation*

243. The Ministry of Culture supports the reconstruction of historical memory by victims and the rebuilding of the social fabric in communities that have suffered from the armed conflict. The programmes include a 2015 project with women and young people from the municipality of Carmen del Darién y Bojayá, as well as efforts to develop strategies for the recovery and preservation of ancestral Afro-Colombian practices for the Community Councils of Nueva Esperanza (Barbacoas) and Alto Mira y Frontera (Tumaco).

244. The following community councils have rolled out recovery programmes with support from the Ministry of Culture: the community councils of the Río Curvadó basin (Chocó), Justice and Peace Court decision No. 055 of 2014; the community councils of the Río Jiguamiandó basin (Chocó), Justice and Peace Court decision No. 055 of 2014; and the Community Council of Renacer Negro (Cauca), land restitution decision No. 071 of 2015.

2.3 Prevention of the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by non-State armed groups

(a) *Reduction of cases and situations of risk*

245. The number of cases of recruitment or sexual abuse or violence against children and adolescents in connection with the armed conflict has diminished steadily in recent years. The database of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute shows an 82 per cent drop in cases of children and adolescents receiving assistance, compared to the figures for the period from 1999 to 2012. Since 2012, 840 children and adolescents have received assistance, with an annual average of 168 cases. Compared with the 2010–2012 period, there has been a 57 per cent reduction in recruitment.

246. The Adolescent Criminal Responsibility System reports considerable reductions in the registration of individuals 14 to 17 years old at the national level, the number of which have fallen from 30,834 in 2013 to 11,507 in 2017.

(b) *Intersectoral Commission for the Prevention of Forced Recruitment, Sexual Abuse and Violence against Children and Adolescents by Illegal Armed Groups and Criminal Organizations*

247. The Intersectoral Commission for the Prevention of Forced Recruitment, Sexual Abuse and Violence against Children and Adolescents by Illegal Armed Groups and Criminal Organizations represents 23 national entities and, pursuant to Decree No. 1569 of 2016, its technical secretariat is the Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights.

248. The Intersectoral Commission's salient achievements in recent years include:

- Between 2014 and 2018, it ensured the continuity of most of the activities of its constituent entities related to the prevention of forced recruitment, sexual abuse and violence against children and adolescents. The Intersectoral Commission achieved 96 per cent coverage, with at least one strategy, programme or project implemented in 1,056 municipalities across the 32 departments.
- Its constituent entities invested over 75 per cent of the initial projection contained in National Economic and Social Policy Council document No. 3673 of 2010.
- Efforts to disseminate and promote the rights of children and adolescents; training on the Emergency Prevention and Protection Road Map; the monitoring of and issuance of warnings regarding potential emergencies stemming from a threat or risk; the provision of differentiated assistance to children and adolescents in areas of reported risk; guidance and support for education secretariats regarding the implementation of safe environment programmes; and better security in risky areas.
- In July 2018, the Intersectoral Commission adopted a policy on the prevention of recruitment, sexual abuse and violence against children and adolescents by illegal armed groups and criminal organizations. Its main goals include creating safe environments for children and adolescents, progressively reducing all forms of violence and exploitation against children and adolescents, guaranteeing the enjoyment of their rights and establishing intersectoral coordination mechanisms.

(c) *The "My Future is Now" project*

249. "My Future is Now: Creating Peaceful Environments for Children" is a project that was developed under the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. It aims to strengthen the abilities of nearly 27,000 children between the ages of 12 and 18, as well as their families and communities, in order to build protective environments.

250. The project is under way in 500 parishes across 166 municipalities that have been designated as priority post-conflict areas and takes the shape of periodic gatherings of young people, their relatives and communities. On the basis of what they learn, each group of young people sets up peace initiatives in their area.

251. As of June 2018, the project has involved 26,500 children, adolescents and young people, 8,000 families, 1,938 community leaders and 1,857 teachers in 21 departments nationwide. Furthermore, 547 local peace initiatives have been launched by child and adolescent participants on such themes as culture, music, art, communication, the environment, sports and the reclaiming of community spaces.

3. Human rights defenders and leaders of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples (recommendations contained in CERD/C/COL/CO/15-16, paras. 27 and 28)

252. The State remains attached to its commitment to protect the work of human rights defenders and continues to pursue a joint agenda so that the lives and the work of human rights defenders and civic, trade union and political leaders are respected.

3.1 National initiative on safeguards for human rights defenders and civic and community leaders

253. The Government is implementing a national initiative on safeguards for human rights defenders and civic and community leaders, which involves action by the national committee on safeguards for human rights defenders and civic and community leaders and by the technical subgroups on protection and investigation; acts of recognition of the work of human rights defenders; and a communication strategy. The initiative is expected to lead to the adoption of measures to ensure the safety of defenders and civic leaders and the protection of their rights.

254. Also involved in the initiative is a departmental committee comprising civic organizations that work on issues of concern to campesinos, indigenous peoples, persons of African descent women, workers and urban dwellers, as well as departmental institutions (civilian entities, the police, the military, investigative and oversight bodies) and national institutions. In 2017 and 2018, it was agreed that priority should be given to the establishment of committees in the Departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Chocó, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Valle del Cauca.

255. The Ministry of the Interior has carried out acts of recognition in various regions of the country for the work of at least 248 human rights, community, ecclesiastic and trade union organizations and associations and groups of victims' relatives.

256. A thematic committee was set up in April 2018 to examine events in connection with groups known as "successors of paramilitarism". The purpose is to collect input for the development of public policies aimed at ensuring respect for the human rights of defenders and civic leaders. Sixty representatives of organizations of human rights defenders, the Ministry of Defence, the Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights, the National Protection Unit, the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney General's Office and the National Reintegration Agency took part in the establishment of the committee.

257. In 2017, the National Protection Unit had a total of 3,580 registered human rights defenders and civic leaders subject to protection and 3,665 with protection measures. The annual amount invested in protection exceeds 350 billion pesos.

3.2 Unified command post

258. As a key component of the effective implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, a unified command post was set up in December 2016 to monitor and assess attacks against human rights defenders and social leaders. The command post is headed by the Ministry of Defence, with the participation of the Office of the President of the Republic, the Ministry of the Interior, the Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights, the National Police, the Attorney General's Office and the National Protection Unit.

259. Since the establishment of the unified command post, 160 municipalities, accounting for 28 per cent of recorded murders of human rights defenders, have been declared priorities for targeted military and police operations.

3.3 The National Security Guarantees Commission in the framework of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace

260. Pursuant to Decree No. 154 of 3 February 2017, the Government established the National Security Guarantees Commission in response to point 3, on protecting human rights defenders, of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) on 24 November 2016.

261. The Commission holds monthly meetings, attended by all State entities, as well as non-governmental organizations and representatives, to receive valuable input on the implementation of a comprehensive system that guarantees the enforcement of the policy across the country.

3.4 Comprehensive programme for the safety and protection of communities and organizations in the territories

262. The programme was established and regulated through Decree No. 660 of 17 April 2018 in fulfilment of point 3.4.8 of the Final Agreement, in order to define and adopt comprehensive safety and protection measures, with a focus on preventing violations of the right to life, integrity, freedom and security.

263. The programme's target group includes leaders, managers, representatives and activists from grass-roots organizations and other organizations working on social, ethnic, women's, gender, environmental, community and LGBTI issues and human rights defenders in the various territories.

264. The programme is intended to re-establish and foster the general conditions for the respect of human dignity, the promotion of human rights and the defence of democratic values and to complement various existing programmes.

3.5 Subcommittee on safeguards and human rights of the People's Association of Farmers, Campesinos and Ethnic Groups

265. In recognition of social movements and the need to establish direct dialogue in order to develop the agricultural and rural sector, the Government adopted Decree No. 870 of 2014, establishing a forum, called the Unified National Committee, for the constituents of the People's Association of Farmers, Campesinos and Ethnic Groups.

266. The Unified National Committee is a forum for dialogue and consultation between the Association³³ and the Government on matters related to land, territory and rural development, the effective enjoyment of rights and the inclusion of farmers in the constitutional framework and in decision-making.

267. A subcommittee on safeguards and human rights was established under the Unified National Committee to conduct verification missions in the field and to document, analyse and follow-up on alleged violations of human rights against members of the Association. Since 2016, more than 25 such missions have been carried out.

3.6 Progress on investigations

268. One of the objectives of the 2016–2020 strategic plan of the Attorney General's Office is to combat violence as a matter of top importance. To this end, a strategy to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of murders and threats against human rights defenders and civic, political or community leaders has been launched with a view to improving the response to such attacks.

³³ Some of the organizations who first came together under the Association include: the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, the Congress of the Peoples, the political and social movement *Marcha Patriótica*, the National Agriculture Coordinator, the National Committee for Dialogue and Agreement, the Coalition of Social Movements and Organizations of Colombia, the Black Communities Initiative, the Unitary Farming Trade-Union Federation, the Agricultural Unity Committee, the National Association of Campesino Reserves and the People's Constituency Movement.

269. The strategy defines the following areas of action:

- Changing institutional culture in order to recognize “human rights defender” as a status
- Establishing as the first working hypothesis that there is a link between an event and engagement in human rights advocacy
- Defining a case-linking methodology, i.e. identifying commonalities between cases, analysing the victims’ social and political circumstances, describing criminal organizations and financing and support rings
- Deploying mobile units, comprising prosecutors, investigators, National Police officers and officials of the Forensic Institute, which can move rapidly throughout the country
- Adopting intervention protocols
- Adopting guidelines to standardize the investigation of homicides

270. Directive No. 011 of 2016 lists the criteria for determining whether a person qualifies as a human rights defender. These criteria are based on the case law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court of Colombia.

271. In addition, the Government, with guidance from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, developed guidelines on the investigation of offences committed against human rights defenders in Colombia, which it adopted through Directive No. 002 of 2017.

272. Decree No. 898 of 2017 provides for the establishment of a special investigation unit on the disbanding of criminal organizations responsible for the murder and massacre of human rights defenders and members of social or political movements, or which threaten or attack individuals involved in the implementation of peace agreements and peacebuilding.

273. In order to discharge its mandate, the unit has:

- 35 branches with more than 3,500 prosecutors countrywide, whose presence at the departmental level facilitates access to the location of incidents
- A national prosecutor’s office specialized in organized crime, with 103 prosecutors at the national level and 16 at the department level
- A national prosecutor’s office specializing in human rights, with 52 prosecutors at the national level and 57 at the department level

E. Education, information and cultural measures to counteract the preconceived notions behind racial discrimination: implementation of article 7

1. Education and instruction

1.1 Afro-Colombian studies

274. The Ministry of Education has introduced the Afro-Colombian studies programme as a means of shedding light on the historical and cultural contributions of the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities in Colombia. Under the programme, the Ministry has conducted implementation workshops, held national forums and developed didactic materials and guidelines.

275. The programme is referred to in the implementing regulations of Act No. 70 of 1993 and Act No. 115 of 1994 (Education Act) and is mandatory in all educational establishments nationwide.

276. Implementation workshops have taken place in the Departments of Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Cauca, Guajira, Córdoba and Atlántico, benefiting 203,985 students and 3,323 teachers in 1,216 official educational establishments. The Ministry has promoted programme-related municipal policies in education secretariats with the aim of eliciting curriculum proposals.

1.2 “More Equality, Less Discrimination” campaign

277. In 2016, the Ministry of the Interior designed the “More Equality, Less Discrimination” campaign to promote the community’s commitment to respecting equality as a means of achieving peace. The campaign consisted in the dissemination of flyers through workshops, in public places, on social networking sites and in the media.

278. The Ministry has rolled out activities with the local authorities to implement anti-discrimination policies. As a result, a human rights focus was incorporated into local development plans.

1.3 Diversity training

279. The Government runs cultural activities designed to recognize, respect and maximize the benefits of the diversity of the Colombian nation through training courses and forums. In this connection, the Ministry of Culture holds cultural dialogue and train-the-trainer fairs for cultural managers, organizations, groups and institutions working in the area of symbolic reparations.

280. The main cultural events feature dance, music, film, literature, theatre, the visual arts and remembrance sites. Government officials and local administrators of collective reparations for the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities are invited to the events.

281. Since 2014, the Ministry of Culture has been running a virtual course on the linguistic diversity of Colombia whose purpose is to recognize the country’s linguistic diversity and raise awareness of languages. The course covers three themes: (i) native languages policy; (ii) vitality of native languages; and (iii) social and linguistic subjects related to diversity in language. In addition, a translation and interpretation course in native languages has been introduced to promote the country’s ethnolinguistic diversity.

2. Culture

2.1 Recognition of African heritage

282. The Ministry of Culture has engaged in efforts to stimulate awareness and recognition of Afro-Colombian cultures in order to eliminate the preconceived notions that lead to cultural misunderstanding and racial discrimination.

(a) *May is African Heritage Month*

283. The goal of this commemoration is to increase the visibility and recognition of the contributions of the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities and improve access by these communities and academia to the achievements of the Slave Route project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

284. Over the past four years, African Heritage Month has been celebrated in various cities across the country with activities such as workshops, seminars and conferences on Afrodescendent memory, presentations on cultural heritage, cultural exhibitions, bibliographic material and training sessions on a variety of topics, including ethnic legislation, racial discrimination and ethno-education.

(b) *Training initiatives and publication of bibliographic material*

285. In an effort to recover the collective memory of Afro-Colombian peoples, the Ministry of Culture has spearheaded the publication of books, such as *El incómodo color de la memoria* (The Inconvenient Colour of Memory) by historian Javier Ortiz Cassiani, in order to highlight the need to remember the legacies of slavery and the relevance of the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities, and to promote discussion about racism and discrimination.

286. Colombia has hosted the Congress of Black Culture in the Americas as a forum for reflection and dialogue on issues and progress in the areas of discrimination and racism, participation, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

(c) Declaration of Afro-Colombian cultural events as intangible national cultural heritage

287. The Ministry of Culture has recognized two customs connected with Afro-Colombian peoples as part of the country's cultural heritage:

- Funeral rituals (*gualíes*, *alabaos* and *levantamientos de tumba*) of the Afro-Colombian communities of the municipality of Medio San Juan for their cultural representativeness in the area of languages and oral tradition in the Department of Chocó (Decision No. 3094/2014).
- Knowledge associated with Afro midwifery practices in the Department of Pacífico was recognized as part of intangible national cultural heritage (Decision No. 1077/2017). These practices involve traditional medicine and know-how relating to the nature and world view of Afro-Colombian communities in the Departments of Cauca, Chocó, Nariño and Valle del Cauca.

2.2 Regional good practices networks, recognition and anti-discrimination efforts*(a) Ibero-American Network of Agencies and Organizations against Discrimination*

288. The Ibero-American Network of Agencies and Organizations against Discrimination is an inter-institutional organization made up of anti-discrimination entities from 19 States. Colombia hosted the sixth ordinary meeting, which was held in Cartagena on 15 and 16 May 2018.

289. The sixth ordinary meeting consisted of round-table discussions with national and international experts to enable the exchange of experiences and knowledge about the activities and tools designed and used by the organizations and entities of Ibero-American governments to fight discrimination. The round tables were also intended to stimulate a broad-based, participatory dialogue on Afrodescendent identity, its legacy of diversity for the world, non-discrimination in art and culture, and the link between diversity and peace in Colombia.

290. The Network is an opportunity to exchange good practices, thereby contributing to the elimination of discriminatory practices in the region.

(b) Multilingual Intercultural Cooperation Network

291. The Multilingual Intercultural Cooperation Network is an educational and cultural entity, consisting of representatives of the ministries of education of the countries in the region. Its purpose is to develop cooperation programmes designed to lessen the significant risks facing indigenous people that results from disconnection from their communities of origin, crumbling identities and impoverishment.

292. The seventeenth meeting of the Network took place in Bogotá from 5 to 7 June 2018, with the active involvement of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and the Colombia office of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture.

293. At the seventeenth meeting, for the first time in the Network's history, participants were given the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the main Creole languages, including Palenquero.

294. The agenda also included topics such as: languages and cultures at risk of extinction, and knowledge and contribution of indigenous peoples to the development of intercultural curricula in formal education and their impact on the training of teachers.

(c) Mexico, Argentina and Peru Alliance

295. The Mexico, Argentina and Peru Alliance has fostered the adoption of information exchange agreements and work strategies for the promotion of equal conditions for groups that are discriminated against.

2.3 National Incentives Programme and National Consultation Programme

296. These Programmes provides funding in order to drive, stimulate, support and raise the profile of cultural initiatives and activities of public interest. Recipient projects address topics such as creation, remembrance, training, recovery processes, transmission of cultural practices and know-how, and artistic and cultural production and dissemination; they are designed for indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombian communities and Roma.

297. Over the past four years, incentive packages have been granted to 20 older persons for enriching ancestral Afro-Colombian culture and to 262 cultural projects on the strengthening of cultural identity.
