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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS
FROM THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(Colombia, April 2007 - April 2008)

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
Ministry of Foreign Relations

**FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN THE
DECLARATIONS AND PLANS OF ACTION OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS
APRIL 2007-APRIL 2008**

Executive Summary

Colombia, which is committed to follow-up and implementation of the mandates from the Summits of the Americas process, is pleased to present its National Report for the period April 2007 to April 2008, which describes progress made by the country in the framework of the mandates of the Special Summit of Nuevo Leon and the Summits of Quebec and Mar del Plata.

Colombia attaches particular significance to the progress recorded, *inter alia*, in the areas of poverty reduction, access to education, improvement of security, protection of human rights, and strengthening democracy, which stem from policies implemented in the 2002-2006 National Development Plan "Toward a Community-Oriented State" ("*Hacia un Esrtado Comunitario*") and in the 2006-2010 National Development Plan "Toward a Community-Oriented State: Development for All" ("*Hacia un Esrtado Comunitario: Desarrollo para Todos*"). Those plans are based on the three pillars of government policy: democratic security with respect for human rights, investment with social responsibility, and social cohesion in pursuit of a policy of democratic security.

Growth and development

The Colombian economy grew by 7.52% in 2007: this factor, combined with the government's social policy, meant a reduction in poverty levels and an improvement in equity coefficients.

Poverty levels declined to 45%; the Gini coefficient improved from 0.58 to 0.54; investment flows rose by 39.68%, from US\$6.463 billion to US\$9.028 billion in 2007. Employment policy has succeeded in lowering the unemployment rate from 15.6% in December 2002 to 11.2% in March 2008; this reduction of 4.4 percentage points represents the removal of 815,000 people from the unemployment rolls.

Among the policies that Colombia has introduced for combating poverty, inequality and exclusion, particular note should be made of the *JUNTOS* strategy, involving the "Social safety net for overcoming extreme poverty", a program currently underway in 37 *municipios* in 12 departments of the country, providing services to 62,203 families (56,109 SisBEN families and 5,284 displaced families).

On the social development front, a number of programs are currently underway, including:

- Program of comprehensive assistance for displaced persons: under this program, 70% of the displaced families recorded in the Central Registry of Displaced Persons (RUPD) have received humanitarian assistance. Similarly, 918,200 displaced persons were enrolled in the General Social Security System for Health (SGSSS) in 2007.

With respect to education, assistance was provided to 213,726 displaced students in 2007, compared to 120,651 in 2004.

- "Families in Action" Program (program of food and education grants for juvenile members of families in SisBEN level 1, displaced families, or indigenous families), under which 1,743,802 families (248,546 displaced families, 1,510,474 SisBEN families, and 5,517 indigenous families) were enrolled as of February 2008, in 1,093 *municipios*. Similarly, 3,295,559 children at SisBEN level 1 and 464,110 displaced children received assistance.
- Food Security Network Program (RESA), which has invested \$Col 165,835,000 in food security projects in 1,033 *municipios*, benefiting 573,200 families (2,849,908 individuals).
- Peace and Development Program, designed to assist vulnerable, poor and displaced persons in urban and rural communities of regions affected by violence. Currently, the program is serving 46,842 families through 439 projects in 142 *municipios*, for a total investment of some \$Col 30 million.
- Program of Assistance for Victims of Violence, which is providing economic support and emergency humanitarian assistance to families of persons killed by terrorist acts, and is currently benefiting 60,908 families, with a total investment of 443.5 million pesos. In addition, Decree 1290 on Individual Reparations through Administrative Channels was issued in April 2008, targeted at the victims of illegal armed groups, and designed to speed reparations and care for victims.
- The Forest Ranger [*Guardabosques*] Families Program (PFGB) and the Productive Projects Program (PPP), designed to encourage the return to legality and to generate new alternatives for rural development that will improve the lives of beneficiary communities. These programs have succeeded in keeping some 2.3 million ha free of illicit crops, including 282,588 ha of forest, involving more than 88,488 families, with a total investment estimated at \$Col 452,700,000.

International cooperation. Colombia presented its "International Cooperation Strategy 2007-2010", setting out priority lines of action in this area. The strategy was the product of dialogue between the national government, the international community, and civil society. In addition, Colombia adhered to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness on November 13, 2007, as an essential step for improving the effectiveness of the international cooperation that country receives.

Science and technology. The National Plan for Scientific and Technological Development and Innovation 2007-2019 has been prepared, giving concrete shape to be "Vision Colombia 2019—Second Centenary".

Security

Implementation and consolidation of the Democratic Security Policy is continuing to improve security conditions, as can be seen in the decline in homicides from 17,479 in 2006 to 17,198 in 2007; kidnappings dropped from 687 to 521 (a 24% decline from 2006); terrorist acts

declined by 40%, from 646 in 2006 to 387 in 2007; attacks by outlaw groups dropped from 4 in 2006 to 1 in 2007, a 75% decrease.

This progress has been achieved through increased territorial control by the law enforcement services and the elimination of para-militarism as a national phenomenon, together with a substantial reduction in all crime indices, and a consequent increase in confidence levels in the country, as well as greater investment and more effective implementation of social programs.

In response to the new tactics and strategies employed by outlaw groups, the Democratic Security Consolidation Policy (PCSV) has been designed to strengthen territorial control and reinforce the rule of law throughout the country.

In terms of combating terrorism and drug trafficking, terrorist organizations have been broken up and their ringleaders eliminated, and 5,483 members of outlaw groups have been captured; 2,703 have been killed, and 3,025 members of those groups have been demobilized. Progress has also been made in restoring territorial control and in dismantling organizations that previously claimed to control territory.

During 2007, a total of 3,123 drug processing laboratories were destroyed; of these, 2,875 were used to prepare cocaine paste and base, 9% for cocaine hydrochloride, and the remaining 2% for potassium permanganate and heroin. Between January and December 2007, the Colombian authorities seized 131 tons of cocaine hydrochloride, 175 tons of marijuana, and 584 kg of heroin.

On the alternative development front, the Presidential Program against Illicit Crops (PCI) has eliminated a total of 219,949 ha of illicit crops, 2% more than in 2006. Of the 219,950 ha eradicated, 66,816 were eradicated manually, while 153,134 were subjected to aerial spraying. As well, of the total of hectares eradicated, 99.8% were planted in coca, and only 0.2% in poppies and marijuana, demonstrating the sharp decline in poppy crops in Colombia. There was also a 54% increase in the number of hectares of coca eradicated manually.

In terms of regional cooperation, attention should be drawn to Law 1165 of 2007, approving the "Agreement on Cooperation for the Prevention, Control and Suppression of Money Laundering relating to Any Illicit Activity between Colombia and Peru", signed in 2004. As well, Law 1179 of 2007 approved the "Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters between Colombia and Spain, of May 1997", signed in 2005.

Colombia is continuing its support for programs to control chemical substances and illicit drug trafficking, sponsored by various national coordination institutions in the hemisphere, such as the CICAD Group of Experts on Money Laundering.

During 2007 there were 275 extradition requests received relating to drug trafficking and money laundering, of which 4 were denied and 218 approved, a historically high figure for Colombia.

Justice and the rule of law

In the struggle against corruption, Colombia adopted Law 1150 of 2007, amending law 80 of 1993, the General Statute on Government Procurement and Hiring, with a view to strengthening efficiency and transparency. Colombia has also approved the Andean Plan for Combating Corruption,

and will host the second meeting of its Executive Committee, at which the Action Plan for the period 2008-2009 is expected to be approved.

Law 1142 of 2007 increased the minimum and maximum penalties for the crime of manufacturing, trafficking and bearing firearms or munitions, from four to eight years, and it prohibits the replacement of preventive detention by house arrest for the crimes of manufacturing, trafficking and bearing firearms or munitions for personal use, when these are involved in the crime of criminal conspiracy, or the accused have a record of convictions for the same offenses.

Amendments have been made to Law 906 of 2004 to improve the "Accusatory Penal System", in terms of combating crime as well as resolving proceedings promptly and effectively. As well, Law 1153 of 2007 was issued, governing the treatment of minor criminal cases.

Institutional strengthening. Decree 122 of January 2008 added more than 2,000 officers to the staff of the Prosecutor General's Office; of this group, 383 are assigned to the Human Rights and International Law Unit. As well, funding for this entity, and for the entire jurisdictional branch, was increased to US\$1,200,000 (10.47% more than in 2006).

Labor and employment

In 2007, the "informality" ratio declined to 56.6% (versus 61.7% in 2002). In this way, the number of persons contributing to the health system rose to 7,746,692, representing 95% of formal workers and 78% of informal workers and demonstrating a rising trend in terms of achieving universal coverage goals.

Attention should also be drawn to the National Framework Plan for Disabilities 2007-2010, which seeks to restore, guarantee and promote the human rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Rules.

Child labor. The National Strategy to Prevent and Eradicate the Worst Forms of Child Labor and to Protect Young Workers 2008-2015 is intended to move towards the millennium goals in this respect.

Support for SMEs. The "Productive Mini-Chains" program has been extended to still more regions of the country, with 329 projects under way, benefiting more than 101,400 families in 28 departments.

Human rights

On September 9, 2007, Colombia renewed the agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, retaining the main aspects of the agreement in terms of its scope and its advisory, observation and cooperation activities. Signature of the renewed agreement was preceded by consultations among 15 government entities and the Office of the High Commissioner, reviewing the UN agency's work over the last 10 years with a view to reinforcing cooperation, with greater emphasis on institutional strengthening.

A comprehensive policy for human rights and international humanitarian law in the armed forces was also adopted, setting out guidelines, objectives and programs that the armed forces are to observe and pursue in these areas.

Protection and guarantee of human rights. The number of massacres in 2007 was 30% lower than in 2006 (26 versus 37); murders of labor unionists declined by 57%, from 60 in 2006 to 26 in 2007; killings of indigenous people declined by 11%, from 45 in 2006 to 40 in 2007; presumed cases of homicide by members of the law enforcement agencies against protected persons declined by 40%, from 230 in 2006 to 138 in 2007; and forced displacements fell by 23%, from 238,851 persons to 184,343.

Recognizing the situation of union members who have been the victims of aggression in recent years, the Colombian government, under the Tripartite Agreement signed with support of the ILO in 2006, created a Sub-Unit of Prosecutors for clarifying incidents, increased the budget of the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office, and provided funding for the appointment of three judges to clear up the backlog of cases involving labor union members. As a result, judgments were handed down in 44 cases assigned to the Sub-Unit in 2007, for a total of 105 judgments since 2001 (until April 2008).

Further legal steps have also been taken to prevent the recruitment and exploitation of juveniles by unlawful armed groups, and to provide care, support and coaching for persons who have left those groups (Decreets 395 and 4690 of 2007). This latter decree created the Intersectoral Commission for the prevention of juvenile recruitment by outlaw organizations.

As part of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Juveniles, Law 1146 was approved in 2007, establishing rules to prevent sexual violence and to provide comprehensive care to sexually abused juveniles. Specialized care units for juvenile victims of such crimes were also created.

Under the National Action Plan on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, progress has been made in instituting cooperation through the Plan's coordination body.

Agriculture and rural development

Highlights in this area include the Assured Farm Incomes Program (AIS) which dispensed \$Col 149 billion in 2007 to subsidize interest rates on loans amounting to \$Col 374 billion, for a total investment of \$Col 521 billion.

The National System of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures was strengthened and expanded with construction of a Biosecurity Level 3 laboratory, the first of its kind in the region, which will be able to handle infectious pathogenic agents.

Biofuels production is expanding in Colombia. In 2003, 3 biodiesel plants will come on stream, using African palm oil, and giving the country the capacity to produce more than 900,000 liters a day. As part of technical cooperation in biofuels under the Puebla Panama Plan, plants using 100% Colombian technology were constructed in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Law 1152 of 2007 on rural development seeks to bring greater transparency to the mechanism for delivering land title, and includes greater and better protection for the displaced population.

Finally, further steps were taken to strengthen rural businesses through the Support Project for Productive Partnerships, which provided incentives amounting to \$Col 11,799,000 to 2,689 families. As well, the Rural Social Housing Program provided grants of \$ Col 81,076,000 to 12,499 families, 70% of which were displaced families.

Environment

Under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), Colombia accepted amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention, and named the Natural Sciences Institute of the National University of Colombia as the CITES Scientific Authority for Colombia.

At the conference of parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in September 2007, the Ozone Technical Unit of MAVDT was awarded recognition for its efforts to apply the Montreal Protocol in the country: as of 2007, 85% of CFC consumption had been eliminated.

In March 2008, CENPES policy document 3510 was approved, establishing guidelines for promoting sustainable biofuels production in Colombia, as part of the strategy to prevent air pollution through the use of cleaner fuels.

At the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 13) and the Third Session of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 3), held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, an achievement of great importance for Colombia was implementation of the Adaptation Fund and the inclusion of subnational projects as an option within the range of deforestation avoidance activities.

Trade

In April 2008, the National Congress approved the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Chile, negotiation of which culminated in late 2006. Negotiations to conclude an FTA with Canada were also launched in 2007, while in August the Colombia-Northern Triangle FTA was signed, and is expected to come into force at the beginning of next year.

Infrastructure

Through Decree 2870 of 2007, Colombia adopted measures to facilitate convergence in telecommunications services and networks, to guarantee access and use of networks and services for all inhabitants of the national territory, and to promote competition among the various telecommunications service providers.

Colombia has also adopted a National Information and Communication Technologies Plan 2008-2019 (PNTIC), to ensure that by the end of that time all Colombians will be making efficient

and productive use of ICTs for communicating and informing themselves, so as to improve social cohesion and enhance competitiveness.

Energy

Regional infrastructure projects are being pursued to consolidate an integrated energy market. Examples include the Colombia-Panama Electric Interconnection Project, the Colombia-Ecuador Electric Interconnection Reinforcement Project, the Venezuela-Colombia-Panama Gas Pipeline Interconnection Project, and in the Balleria-Maracaibo Project.

Education

Colombia is pursuing a combination of strategies to meet the needs for broadened coverage, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable population groups. The intent is to improve the quality and relevance of education by focusing the entire education system on developing basic skills and on delivering services more efficiently.

Official enrollment in preschool, basic and intermediate education rose by 147, 614 pupils, of whom 74,355 were of vulnerable status. Enrollment in higher education in 2007 represented an increase of 58,100 students. Between April 2007 and March 2008, 75,820 students received credits through ICETEX, representing 17% of students in higher education.

With respect to new information and communication technologies, the "Tutors Network" has been created, along with the Network of Principals of Higher Education Institutions. The National High-Speed Academic Network (RENATA) has been strengthened, and the education website "*Portal Educativo Colombia Aprende*" has been consolidated. In terms of disseminating science and technology, the Colombian Network of Social Studies and Social Appropriation of S&T (*RedCESACyT*) was created, and there was further progress with the project for strengthening the International Network of Information and Knowledge Sources for the Management of Science, Technology and Innovation ("*Red SCienTT*") in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through ICONTEC, the Ministry of National Education has obtained ISO 9001:2000 Certification, Code SC 4006-1, for six services and, through NTCGP, Certification 1000:2004 Code GP 001-1, and these certifications were maintained following an audit in October 2007.

Human capital in S&T. During 2007, 95 masters' and doctoral candidates were awarded forgivable loans for postgraduate studies abroad, as were 50 candidates for doctoral studies in Colombia. In addition, the Young Researchers and Innovators Program selected 373 beneficiaries during the year. The "*Programa Ondas*" continued its sponsorship of research as an essential strategy for encouraging a culture of science, technology and innovation among Colombian youth.

Health

The National Public Health Plan was adopted by means of Law 1122 of 2007, Decree 3039 of 2007, and Resolution 425 of 2008, to guide activities and policies of subnational entities in developing priority areas of work in public health.

The Integrated Strategy for Prevalent Childhood Diseases (AIEPI) expanded its coverage, with a view to implementing the childhood health and well-being management model.

Finally, Colombia deposited with the United Nations its instrument of ratification for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Children and youth

Under the National Plan for Children and Adolescents, the final version of the document entitled "Colombia: Happy Boys and Girls with Equal Opportunities: National Plan for Children and Adolescents 2007-2017" was recently issued.

In March 2007, CONPES 113 approved the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy, as a cornerstone of the country's social and economic development. A national policy on early childhood was also approved by CONPES 109 of 2007, as a tool for implementing the Childhood and Adolescence Code, Law 1098/06, to promote integral development of young children nationwide, with priority to the most vulnerable groups.

Gender equity

An affirmative action policy, "Women Building Peace and Development" (*Mujeres Constructoras de paz y Desarrollo*), was prepared and implemented, focused in particular on employment and business development, education and culture, violence against women, political participation, and institutional strengthening.

Under the employment and business development strategy, programs for female heads of family micro-enterprises awarded 2,706 micro-credits totaling \$Col 5,176,000 between August 2006 and October 2007 and provided training for 12,402 female heads of family micro-enterprises in areas dealing with business management, economic activities and lines of credit.

Steps are being taken to incorporate the gender perspective into public policies, with priority to strategies such as the "Opportunities Banking Policy" (*Banca de las Oportunidades*), the "Strategic Plan for the Defense of Women's Rights before the Courts", the "National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking", the "Policy of Care for Displaced Persons", and the "Economic Reintegration Policy".

Finally, a women's parliamentary committee has been established within the National Congress to debate, prepare and promote legislative proposals for the advancement of women's rights.

Migrants

Pursuant to the Association Agreement with the ILO signed in December 2005, Colombia has adopted a regional and local migrations policy and has strengthened the "*Portal Redes Colombia*" website as a tool of communication for Colombians living abroad.

Remittances flowing into the country have increased substantially, and amounted to 3% of GNP in 2007, representing the third-largest source of foreign exchange earnings after FDI and

exports of oil and derivatives. In 2007, Colombia was the third-largest recipient of remittances in Latin America, with a total of US\$4.5 billion, exceeded only by Mexico and Brazil.

The Convention on Social Security between Colombia and Spain came into force on March 1, 2008. Under that agreement, workers will be able to count service in either country as pensionable time. As well, there is an agreement between the Social Insurance Institute (ISS) and the legal representative of Western Union in Colombia, Giros y Finanzas SA, which allows Colombians working in the United States to contribute to their ISS pensions through Western Union offices in the USA: that agreement came into force in the USA in May 2007.

Minorities and indigenous peoples

Under its policies to counter discrimination, the government has adopted a special policy for the Colombian Pacific, approved through CONPES 3491 of 2007, designed to boost the prospects of the Afro population in Colombia by integrating the Pacific region into national and international development as part of a strategic program for social and economic revival that seeks to improve living conditions and take into account the region's natural ecosystems and ethnic characteristics.

Decree 4181 of October 2007 created the Intersectoral Commission for the Advancement of the Afro Colombian Palenquera and Raizal Population, as part of Colombia's efforts to improve the Afro Colombian community's access to social and economic development.