



por los derechos humanos
frente al poder empresarial

Request for insistence on an official visit to the Republic of Colombia of the United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and business by the CSOs Human Rights Roundtable to address corporate power

March 27, 2023

On the occasion of the academic visit to Bogotá, D.C. of Mrs. Fernanda Hopenhaym, member for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, held in March 2023, the organizations of the [CSOs Human Rights Roundtable to address corporate power](#) we have met with her and have expressed to the Working Group the main concerns and risks regarding business and human rights in Colombia.

It is worth remembering that, according to Amnesty International, Colombia is the most lethal country in the world for the defense of human rights, and according to *Global Witness*, it is one of the most dangerous countries for the defense of the environment. In addition, according to the Business and Human Rights Resource Center, in Colombia, there have been [268 cases of attacks on human rights defenders in business contexts since 2015](#).

We consider that in the context of the transformative proposals put forward by the current government, the Working Group can formulate proposals for the incorporation of human rights in the Total Peace initiative and the National Development Plan, allowing the responsibility of companies in the conflict, as well as the effects on nature, People and communities related to business projects are explicitly addressed and incorporated into public policies and the various reforms proposed to overcome inequalities, injustices and lack of access to justice for victims.

Therefore, due to the seriousness and continuity of human rights violations in business contexts in the country, and considering that resolution A/HRC/17/4 establishes that the Working Group has the mandate to carry out country visits, **we formally request the Working Group to insist on an official visit to the Republic of Colombia**, reiterating the request for a visit made to the Colombian State in July 2019, which has not received a response despite the reminder established by the Working Group in March 2022. It is necessary for the UN to officially evaluate the human rights situation regarding the negative impacts of economic actors in the country, and to pronounce on the specific institutional, legal, judicial, administrative, and de facto situation that allows these human rights violations to continue, that the affected communities are not fully repaired, while companies operate normally, failing in its responsibility to prevent and remedy damage to the environment and human rights.

Likewise, **we formally request the Colombian State**, in particular the Presidency of the Republic, and the responsible bodies (Presidential Advisory Office for Human Rights and International Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), **to respond to the request of the Working Group and accept the official visit to the country** of this Special Procedure of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

CSOs Human Rights Roundtable to address corporate power