

**Country:** Colombia

**Committee:** ECOSOC

**TOPIC B: Innovative economic recovery strategies in post-conflict areas**

The moment, after a conflict, when reconstruction comes due is among the most momentous in the history of a nation because the future economic and social well-being of its people depend largely on its capacity to build a sustainable social and technological framework capable of supporting the ensuing growth while avoiding the ever brooding risk of a recrudescence of hostilities. The Republic of Colombia is well aware of this state of affairs, both from the numerous international examples and from its own history. Colombia is currently undergoing a process of peace-making with the FARC armed groups after a bloody half-decade of turmoil, and the policies implemented both on a national level and on the platform of the United Nations are crucial in order to empower our nation to gain the political, economic, and cultural dividends that this prospect of peace has to offer, especially with respect to the welfare of rural citizens.

This is why Colombia supports an active role of the international community in ensuring that troubled countries receive the necessary help in building conflict-robust societies endowed with the capabilities to achieve sustainable development and peace, both externally and internally, through conflict management. With respect to this matter our nation commends the efforts of the ECOSOC in closely monitoring the operations of institutional engineering and peace-keeping after the secession of South Sudan and highlights this as an example of a properly focused intervention, showing that reconstruction is crucial not only for countries torn by open large-scale conflict, but also for nations that lack basic social and infrastructural capacity for numerous other reasons such as natural catastrophes, sustained guerrilla or prolonged violent uprisings.

Colombia hence encourages the international community to embrace a stronger role in operations of post-conflict reconstruction in order not only to help rebuild jeopardised economies but also to supervise and facilitate the process of building efficient and solid institutions, seen as crucial to ensure sustainable peace and prosperity. In order to achieve this goal our nation vouches for the creation of supervising bodies tasked with co-ordinating the efforts of organisations such as the United Nations Development Program, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Trade Organisation, which have all provided so far an invaluable contribution to reconstruction activities.

The Republic of Colombia also calls for the continuation of the extraordinarily active role of the Economic and Social Committee in steering and overseeing post-conflict rebuilding operations, dedicating particular attention to the impact of micro-finance and technical/scientific help. The former has been proven to be effective in tackling the issue of income inequality, usually particularly severe in war-torn countries and capable of hindering growth, whereas the latter is doubtlessly fundamental in order to restore or create capabilities from the standpoints of technology, human capital and institutional architecture, which are priceless assets needed to reap the enormous growth benefits that reconstruction effects can grant to ailing nations.