

Gentlemen:

8<sup>th</sup> Forum on Minority Issues

Afro-Christian Corporation for Research and Human Development

Respected members of the forum, my name is Estefanel Gutierrez Perez and on behalf of the Afro-Christian Corporation for Research and Human Development (Coorposur), in the next three minutes I will:

1. Refer to the excessive use of force against the Afro-Colombian population.
2. Second, I will touch upon the use of racial and ethnic profiling by the institutions entrusted with enforcing the law.

As far as the first situation is concerned, Article 3 of the Code of Conduct, adopted by the United Nations in its resolution 34/169 in December 1979, establishes that: "The officials in charge of enforcing the law can use force when it is strictly necessary and to the measure required to carry out their tasks." The CIDH in its resolution of provisional measures in the case of the regional capital penitentiary center Yare I and II established that the use of force can only be used when all others forms of control have been exhausted and failed, and that such use of force be exceptional, necessary, and proportional, as it was clearly established by the Constitutional Court of Colombia. However, the community of Afro-descendants remains worried because in August 2013 four farm workers died at the hands of police forces. We are worried because in cities like Barranquilla, Medellin, Cartagena, Bogota and Cali the social, economic, and cultural rights of young Afro-Colombians are diminished by the hands of public forces without an object and reasonable justification. We are worried about the systematic humiliation of the principle of equality and nondiscrimination at the moment young Afro-Colombians are stopped and searched, at the moment they enter a club or university, or when they are seated in the corner of their homes; these are horrible events linked to racial profiling. The young Afro-Colombian is idealized as a criminal.

We recommend the following to the national government:

1. The capacitating and training of agents in the principles of employing the use of force.
2. And the creation of a program for the conciliation of agents with minorities.