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**16th UN Minority Forum.**

**Geneva, December 1, 2023**

**Item 4**

In this last session, we have been invited to look at institutional frameworks that promote the rights of minorities and their inclusion in society. Provided that the State has the political will in this regard, the technical cooperation offered by the UN represents one of these institutional frameworks. This is the case of the report to be submitted this December by Antonia Urrejola, following a technical cooperation resolution from the Human Rights Council. This report will concern the entrapment of a peace process negotiator in Colombia, with five kilos of cocaine supplied by the DEA.

Afro-Colombian communities are among the victims of drug trafficking in Colombia, due to the fact that one of the cocaine routes passes through the Canal del Dique towards the Gulf of Morrosquillo, and this entire area is home to various different ethnic groups. The former vice-president of Colombia, Martha Lucia Ramírez, who belongs to a family of drug traffickers, supports carrying out infrastructural work in this canal, which would allow corpses left there by narco-paramilitary groups to be hidden, as part of a drug trafficking scheme that also involves former presidents.

We are pleased that Antonia Urrejola's work will begin to highlight the relationship between drug trafficking and politics in Colombia at the UN level. Finally, we encourage the adoption of a drug regularisation policy, because, for as long as these drugs are legal, they will continue to generate violence.

Thank you very much.