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GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Government of Canada thanks the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Committee on Human Rights and International Development for its May 2012 report entitled "Conflict, Human Rights and Democracy in Colombia: A Canadian Agenda". The report, based on 11 months of public consultations, makes an important contribution to the ongoing discussion of Canada's role in Colombia and provides valuable direction and guidance for policy decisions of the future.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE 1

We appreciate the effort made by the Sub-Committee to call witnesses with a range of views in order to get as complete a picture as possible of the Colombian situation. We also commended the Sub-Committee for its report, released in February 2012, to gain further insight by hearing first-hand from Colombians themselves. We believe the fair and balanced view reflected in the report is the result of exposure to the views of a wide range of stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2

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As the report rightly points out, Colombia is home to the only significant armed conflict in the world after Sudan and Angola, approximately two million people have been displaced since 2001, more than 3,000 people were kidnapped in 2011, and the country has the highest number of kidnappings in the world. The report also notes that the conflict has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people, including children, and the displacement of millions of people.

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"CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN COLOMBIA: A CANADIAN AGENDA"