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Human Rights Council  
Item 6. UPR of Colombia  
Geneva, 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2018

Mister (Vice-)President,  
Dear Human Beings,  
Excellency's,  
Dear delegation of Colombia,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear webcasters,  
Good Afternoon,

This Statement is delivered by Conscience and Peace Tax International and by the Center for Global Nonkilling.

Rising out of times of war, to flourish into times of peace is a formidable opportunity. However, building peaceful societies requires new practices, including prevention. The constitution of Colombia recognizes a human right to peace. It is time to implement it.

Peaceful settlement of disputes can also be largely used internally, to forward and create dialogue spaces, to provide resources for conciliation, to implement mediation mechanisms available for each and all and for many, if not for all disputes; said simply mediation should be used more systematically to avoid violence escalation and to alleviate sufferings.

Peace promoters are human rights defenders. As such they need protection but also professional opportunities, in example as mediators.

Among them, recognizing conscientious objectors and giving them an alternative status will give them new opportunities to express and efficiently use their love of peace. It will also give to the State a peaceful and dedicated workforce to promote, forward and implement peace in all the country.

Building peace requires skills, means and dedicated funds. As supporters of taxes for peace and deeply convinced, in our conscience, that no one should be obliged to pay for war and war preparation, we suggest to the authorities of Colombia the establishment, in its tax system, of the possibility to pay taxes for peace only, instead as for the military budget.

Dear delegation of Colombia,  
Your people and many countries in the world are waiting for your achievements on the road to peace.  
We wish you full success in such highly important endeavors.

Thank you Mister (Vice-)President.