REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PRESS RELEASE

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The Government of Colombia welcomes the Application by South Africa instituting proceedings against Israel before the International Court of Justice in The Hague for the latter’s breach of several provisions of the 1948 Genocide Convention.

As President Petro has maintained since the very beginning of this extremely violent phase of the conflict in Palestine, it is quite evident that the actions and measures adopted by the government of Israel constitute acts of genocide.

As a State, Israel is under the duty to prevent and avoid these international crimes at all costs and, consequently, its failure to comply with these commitments engages its responsibility before the whole world.

These are erga omnes obligations being trampled with. All the States parties to the Convention have an interest in their non-compliance being punished.

South Africa’s Application instituting proceedings is a brave step in the right direction. Colombia intends to make the the lofty objectives of the Convention prevail, a Convention to which it is also a State party, and therefore intends to join and support this judicial action through recourse to the procedural mechanisms provided for in the Statute and practice of the International Court of Justice.

Colombia hopes that, after the hearings convened on January 11 and 12, the Court will promptly rule on the request for urgent provisional measures made by South Africa, adopting judicial measures that will allow the bloodshed in Gaza and the occupied territories to cease.

Colombia will continue to carefully monitor this process and, if necessary, will announce the concrete judicial actions it will take as additional steps to South Africa’s Application to the Court in due course.

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