



February 24th, 2022
DECLARATION BY MARTA LUCÍA RAMÍREZ DE RINCÓN
VICEPRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As expressed by the President of the Republic, the Government of Colombia joins the call of the international community and the Secretary General of the United Nations, so that the occupation of the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk, in Ukraine ceases, favoring strict observance of the principles of international law, absolute respect for the free self-determination of each nation, as well as its territorial integrity and sovereignty, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Promoting the autonomy of the Donetsk and Luhansk territories goes against these principles and the commitments agreed in the Minsk Agreements of 2014, as well as the UN General Assembly Declaration of the same year. Colombia insists on the need to find a diplomatic solution, through dialogue and negotiation, to prevent a confrontation that could reach larger proportions, affecting different regions of the world, as history has already shown.



At a time when all of humanity needs to recover from the devastating effects of a pandemic, in terms of loss of human life, destruction of wealth and jobs, it is necessary to act with a sense of global responsibility and avoid a war, in which all mankind.

The unilateral decision of Russia generates a serious affront to the stability of Europe, which it has taken many years to consolidate, as well as to the world economy, which today is already beginning to suffer the consequences in the capital markets, in the stock markets and in the disproportionate increase in the price of energy inputs such as oil and gas.

This is a moment in which humanity requires not only respect for international law, but adherence to the human principles of solidarity and responsibility, because the actions of anyone have consequences from the economic, political, social and human point of view, in all corners of the world.

During the previous month, the Colombian Foreign Ministry, through its Diplomatic and Consular Mission in Warsaw, (Poland), has established contact with the compatriots in Ukraine and provides guidance, assistance and permanent accompaniment for their departure. Coordination mechanisms have been established with



Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary to facilitate their evacuation, as well as their families, which currently number around 100 people.

Additionally, a protocol has been activated with the Colombian embassies and consulates throughout Europe, for the support required by our nationals residing in Ukraine for their evacuation from that country, taking into account, in any case, the provisions of the Ukrainian authorities, that today they have declared a State of Commotion, which is not allowing the free mobility of citizens by land, but – on the contrary – they have asked them to stay in their homes for security reasons. The Government of Colombia will help them on their way out, as long as the Ukrainian authorities authorize mobility.

Hemos dispuesto un punto de asistencia para los colombianos, en el lado sureste de Polonia (Przemyśl) y se encuentra habilitada una línea de emergencia mediante un canal de mensajería instantánea para atender sus necesidades. También están al servicio redes sociales como Twitter y Facebook, para mantener una comunicación constante y fluida.