Madam High Commissioner,

IFOR thanks you and your office for the reports.

We are particularly concerned by the situation in Eritrea and in the region and by the lack of collaboration as also highlighted, yesterday, by the new Special Rapporteur¹ and share a deep concern for the risk and danger faced by young people who refuse to serve in the National Service.

We welcome the recommendations which have been listed in your report on Colombia² and highlight the importance to guarantee a comprehensive intervention by the State to reduce the violence and not just an increase in the military presence.

We are alarmed by the increasing cases of criminalization of solidarity³ with individual cases of people being charged with aiding and abetting illegal immigration because they provide first assistance to migrants or rescue them, whether at sea, in the mountains or in the middle of forests.

Western Sahara, the last colony in Africa⁴, continues to be a pending decolonization case. International Law needs to be implemented.

IFOR restate the call made a few months ago “on the governments in the region and around the world to contribute to a peaceful solution of the conflict and the implementation of the fundamental rights of the Saharawi people”⁵.

We would like to conclude with a positive note: nuclear weapons are finally banned!
We welcome the enter into force of the UN Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW)⁶, on January 22nd 2021⁷.

Thank you.

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² A/HRC/46/76.
⁴ It is on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1963.
⁶ Another one was released on December 14th 2020 http://www.ifor.org/news/2020/12/14/smlf3m85b4eq2r7kexpxd76zzgvoi5.
⁷ https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/
⁸ https://www.icanw.org/tpnw_enters_into_force