



Trade Union
Advisory Committee
to the OECD
*Commission
syndicale consultative
auprès de l'OCDE*

Labour and Human Rights in Colombia – the Evidence

A TUAC conversation, 18 October 2019 | 13.00 – 14.30
Room CC.07, OECD Conference Centre

Please register at tuac@tuac.org

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Colombia was invited to join the OECD as a member at the MCM in May 2018, following a long and complicated accession process lasting over 7 years. The process was marked by serious controversies regarding rule of law, labour rights and human rights. And yet, at the time of writing, ratification of membership is not completed.

Meanwhile, there remain serious concerns regarding the rule of law, and access and efficiency of the judiciary. Hope for a revised Peace Agreement has dissipated and human rights activists and trade unionists still have no security to promote OECD and UN human rights objectives.

Thirty-four trade unionists were murdered in 2018, including 13 teachers killed amid the nationwide strike action over working conditions and pay.

Violence against union leaders continued in 2019, with 10 members of the Fensuagro agricultural union killed as recently as July.

Everything points to continued friction in Colombia unless there is an improved social partnership with trade unions.

The OECD aims to be “evidence-based”. It is the role of the TUAC to contribute to that goal with informed discussions on current and future accession countries.

In that context, the TUAC is holding a round-table discussion on 18 October with Colombian trade union leaders who will share experiences and offer solutions to what continues to be a dire labour situation in Colombia.

Held in partnership with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), this conversation with Colombian trade union leaders will help address the implications of OECD accession in the context of extreme union struggle and the social impacts from structural reforms.

SPEAKERS

Rosa Elena Flérez, General Secretary, Confederación de Trabajadores

Jorge Enrique Cortez, Deputy President, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia

Victor Baez, Deputy Secretary General, International Trade Union Confederation

Hosted by **Blake Harwell** and **Rasmus Nielsen**, Senior Policy Advisors, TUAC