



## **Resolution on the Case of the Former President Alvaro Uribe Velez**

The Centrist Democrat International (CDI) hereby expresses its concern about the arrest of former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Vélez, ordered by the Colombian Supreme Court, in the context of a trial being held against him for alleged witness tampering. The former President's defence has highlighted the differences he has had with said high court since 2005, which have unjustly caused persecution and serious harm to relatives and former employees of his government. They have also denounced a long list of irregularities in the current proceedings, such as a judge's manoeuvre to shift him from accuser to accused, the illegal tapping of his phone for more than a month "by mistake" and without a court order, the omission of evidence requested by his lawyers that would corroborate his innocence, the impossibility of disputing prosecution evidence, and the selective and partial leaking of secret procedural documents to journalists and media, in a move to influence public opinion, among other things. Some media have also publicly denounced multiple facts that cast doubt on the impartiality of some of the judges in charge of the case, such as economic and contractual links with the government of Juan Manuel Santos, a fierce political opponent of former President Uribe. The judicial persecution and media harassment to which he is subjected is part of a carefully orchestrated strategy by Colombia's radical left, which seeks to de-institutionalise the country and criminalise some of its leaders, in the same fashion as the events that unrolled in 1998 in Venezuela. With this resolution, the Centrist Democrat International:

1. Conveys its solidarity and support to former President Alvaro Uribe Velez, and urges the Colombian judicial authorities to guarantee his right to defend himself freely.
2. Calls on international organisations to monitor the case and to pronounce their position in accordance with its findings. Similarly, it invites them to denounce the attempts of certain stakeholders to weaken the country's democratic institutions.
3. Invites academics to provide analysis and context to Colombians about the evident strategy being promoted from social networks, based on disinformation, false news and the promotion of a culture of hate, to sow disorder and anarchy in the country. The dramatic self-destruction that has been imposed on Venezuelans since the arrival in power of the radical left is a powerful and close testimony about a path that Colombia has to avoid at all costs.
4. Expresses its solidarity and support to the Colombian political parties, committed to studying in depth the problems of the administration of justice and to promoting the necessary reforms so that the Colombian people have an organised and respectable justice system, which acts with impartiality, transparency, efficiency and speed, free of corruption and political pressure.
5. Encourages the government and the people of Colombia to build consensus to overcome the current difficulties, to facilitate economic recovery and implement the solutions required to overcome the serious social crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and thus get the country back on the path towards security and growth.