



Public Services International
Internationale des Services Publics
Internacional de Servicios Públicos
Internationale der Öffentlichen Dienste
Internationell Facklig Organisation för Offentliga Tjänster
国際公務労連

**Mr.
Gustavo Petro Urrego
President
Republic of Colombia
At your office. –**

Contact person: susana.barria@world-psi.org

Geneva, March 30, 2026

Mr. President,

Please receive our respectful greetings. On behalf of Public Services International (PSI), a global trade union federation founded in 1907 and bringing together more than 700 trade unions representing 30 million workers in 154 countries, including [16 unions in Colombia](#), we welcome your government's decision to initiate the process of withdrawing Colombia from the international arbitration regime.

We consider this decision to be an important step towards strengthening States' public policy space and promoting equitable development models. In this regard, we remain at your disposal to contribute to building the next steps of your government in advancing this agenda.

We consider it important not only for Colombia to withdraw from the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), but also to denounce the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that include provisions harmful to workers and quality public services, in addition to Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses.

PSI has consistently upheld the importance of protecting public services from privatization processes and from undue and disproportionate corporate influence in public policymaking. We also reaffirm our commitment to building a more just and sustainable future for countries in the Global South. In this context, we are concerned about the weight of ISDS mechanisms, which limit States' regulatory capacity and its space for development policies, and generate adverse impacts on labour and trade union rights. The recent case brought against Colombia by the Grupo Keraltly for seeking to defend public health shows the importance for public services of disengaging from these unequal international mechanisms.

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Public Services International is a Global Union Federation of more than 700 trade unions representing 30 million workers in 154 countries. We bring their voices to the UN, ILO, WHO and other regional and global organisations. We defend trade union and workers' rights and fight for universal access to quality public services. PSI complies with European Union privacy legislation (GDPR). Please refer to our [privacy policy](#) or contact privacy@world-psi.org, if you want to view, update or delete any of your contact details. [Subscribe](#) to our mailing lists.

In the current context of energy transition and digitalization, it is particularly important to strengthen public leadership, social participation and the common good in guiding these processes. Evidence shows that investment protection mechanisms have been used to challenge measures aimed at the public interest, including those related to a just energy transition and the strengthening of social policies.

We value the role your government has been playing in promoting international discussions on these issues. The First Conference on Transitioning Beyond Fossil Fuels, to be held in Santa Marta from April 24 to 29, represents a significant opportunity to deepen these dialogues and explore alternatives that contribute to more just and cooperative international relations.

From the global public services trade union movement, we reaffirm our willingness to contribute to the construction of economic models that strengthen quality public services, guarantee decent work, and promote social justice, ecological justice, the sovereignty of peoples, and peace.

We thank you for your attention and your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Bertossa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Bertossa
General Secretary