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**DECREE 519/2003**  
**5 March**

suppressing, transforming and creating presidential advisory offices and programs

The President of Colombia, in exercise of his powers under Section 189.16 of the Constitution

**DECREES**

**Art. 1** The Economic Advisory Office of the Administrative Department of the Office of the President created by Decree 127 of 2001 is suppressed.

**Art. 2** The Presidential Program for Challenging Drug Consumption *Rumbos* of the Administrative department of the Office of the President created by Decree 127 of 2001, is suppressed.

**Art. 3** The Presidential Advisory Office for Antioquia, of the Administrative Department of the Office of the President, created by Decree 955 of 2001, is suppressed.

**Art. 4** The Presidential Advisory Office for Social Policy of the Administrative Department of the Office of the President is transformed into the Presidential Advisory office for Special programs.

The presidential Advisory Office for Special programs will have the following functions:

1. To cooperate with the strengthening of government legitimacy;
2. To coordinate the processes of policy formulation and social programs with a focus on population and rights which are a priority for the Government, with the competent authorities;
3. To encourage the establishment of strategic alliances with the private sector, NGOs and other non-governmental bodies for the execution of programs;
4. To coordinate and articulate strategies in order to obtain funds from public and private sources and international cooperation for execution in their programs;
5. To develop pilot/demonstration experiences as part of the process of implementation of programs, as considered necessary;
6. To promote strategies and mechanisms at regional and local levels in the design of its actions;
7. To develop systems for monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of actions taken by the Office;
8. To design programs for communication, information and dissemination of matters proper to the Office;
9. To establish strategic alliances with the private sector, international organizations, NGOs, universities and research centers in order to stimulate and strengthen research and analysis of existing knowledge on matters of interest;
10. To provide accompaniment for the institutionalization of Office programs in the agencies responsible for the matter; and
11. Other matters assigned to it by the President of the republic.

**Paragraph 1.** The Presidential, Advisory office for Special Programs will, as of the effective date of this Decree, take over the assets, agreements, contracts and other commitments of the

Presidential Advisory Office for Social Policy; and rights and obligations acquired prior to the effective date of this Decree will not be taken to have been interrupted.

**Art. 5** Amend Art. 6 of Decree 127/2001 to read as follows:

"Art. 6 Presidential Advisory Office for Women's Equity.

The following are functions of the Presidential Advisory Office for Women's Equity:

1. To assist the President and the Government in the design of government policy to promote equity between women and men, following the general guidelines of the president of the Republic;
2. To promote the incorporation of the gender perspective in the formulation, management and follow-up of policies plans and programs in national and regional government agencies;
3. To establish the mechanisms for follow-up of compliance with internal legislation and international treaties and conventions related to women's equity and the gender perspective;
4. To establish strategic alliances with the private sector, NGOs, international organizations, universities and research centers in order to stimulate and strengthen research and analysis of existing knowledge of the condition and situation of women;
5. To support social solidarity, community organizations and social organizations of women at national level and to ensure that they play an active part in State actions and programs.
6. To support the formulation and design of specific programs and projects addressed to improvements in the quality of life of women, especially the poorest and least protected of them;
7. To promote the regulation of existing law designed to obtain equity for women;
8. To channel funds and action from international cooperation into the development of projects designed to secure the inclusion of the gender dimensions and the participation of woman in society, politics and the economy;
9. Other functions as assigned by the President of the Republic.

**Art. 6.** Article 10 of Decree 127/2001 is amended to read as follows:

**Art. 10.** Presidential Program for Modernization, Efficiency, Transparency and the Struggle against Corruption:

The functions of the Presidential Program for Modernization, Efficiency, Transparency and the Struggle against Corruption are the following:

1. To assist the President and the Vice President and the Government in the design of government policy to promote the struggle against corruption;
2. To promote the conducting of studies, evaluations, soundings, statistics, in order to establish the principal causes of corruption or inefficiency in the administration;
3. To develop, participate and collaborate in the design of projects and tools to encourage modernization, ethics, efficiency and transparency in State actions;
4. To cooperate in projects that use technology in order to connect entities and agencies of the State, provide the community with information about public administration, allow on-line processing and encourage mass access to technology;

5. To cooperate in projects that encourage public entities and agencies of all kinds to implement technological developments to modernize their activities and make them more efficient and competitive and to obtain quality certification for processes, including performance indicators and systems for measuring results;
6. To lead and collaborate with projects that use the analysis of accounting and budget information of State agencies and entities to evaluate their performance and the efficiency of administration of public assets;
7. To lead and collaborate in projects that strengthen all orders of State entities and agencies in their internal controls and disciplinary controls and encourage mechanisms that use appropriate evaluations of processes to enable new methods to be introduced in order to improve the performance of State entities and the impact of their actions on society;
8. To develop, jointly with the control agencies, methods and models of investigation that will detect and punish cases of administrative corruption;
9. To establish contact and coordination between society and the Government in relation to the development of mechanisms designed to strengthen civic oversight of different kinds.
10. To draft laws, decrees, resolutions, directives and in general any other instrument relevant to the implementation of government policy in the field of ethics, transparency and administrative efficiency.
11. To design and develop projects for education, awareness, strengthening of values and principles and the promotion of a new culture of social responsibility and defense of public assets addressed to the community in general and public and private sectors.
12. To design and propose instruments that allow an evaluation, follow-up and control to be effected on contractual processes pursued by State agencies of all orders.
13. To receive denunciations against public servants of all orders, and process them before the competent authority and follow them up.
14. To make regular reports to the Vice-President on the progress and results of the program.
15. Others, as appropriate to the nature and objectives of the Office."

**Art. 7** Article 12 of Decree 127/2001 shall be amended to read:

"Art. 12 Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

" The functions of the Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, acting under the immediate supervision of the Vice-President, are as follows:

1. To assist the Vice President in the promotion and coordination of actions designed to give proper protection to human rights and to apply international humanitarian law.
2. To suggest to the government the measures which could be taken to secure respect and due protection for human rights and the application of international humanitarian law in Colombia, after making an analysis and evaluation of the general situation in this field.
3. To conduct studies and analyses of the situation of Human Rights and the application of international humanitarian law.
4. To coordinate the preparation of an annual report on human rights.
5. To act as the Secretariat of the National Authority for the Struggle against Anti-personnel Mines and of the Inter-sectorial Commission of Human Rights.

6. To promote such action as may be required by the authorities to resolve situations that may lead to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
7. To coordinate, promote, encourage, participate in an follow up tasks in the field of human rights and the application of international humanitarian law which government agencies should be conducting or engaging in as required by government policy.
8. To coordinate its activities with State agencies involved in the protection of human rights and the application of international humanitarian law.
9. To request reports (if not restricted documents) of the denunciations made against any public or private organization in connections with violations of human rights and to take measures and actions within its competency top combat impunity in this type of case.
10. To receive. refer and follow up citizens' complaints in relation to the observance, protection, guarantee and effectiveness of basic human rights by the organs of public administration.
11. To establish contacts in coordination with the Foreign Ministry, with the Human Rights agencies of the United Nations and the OAS and other organizations of international public law interested in the situation of Colombia in this field and with local and foreign NGOs involved in Human Rights.
12. To publish and promote the analysis and encouragement of the application of recommendations in the field of human rights made by international public organizations and to coordinate the preparation of reports for them ensuring that the reports give an account of the human rights situation in Colombia and the actions taken by the Government and the State to change the situation.
13. To take part in the meetings and tasks of the Standing Intersectorial Committee for the Coordination and Follow-up of the National policy for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and to follow up the related Action Plan.
14. To promote cooperation between the State and Government, regional administration and civil society for the promotion of respect for human rights and the application of International Humanitarian Law.
15. To produce reports on matters in its ambit to the Vice-President.
16. Others as assigned by the President or Vice-President."

**Art. 8** The Presidential Program against Extortion and Kidnap is created within the Administrative Department of the Office of the President.

The functions of the Program , which will act in coordination with other central government agencies responsible for this area and under the immediate supervision of the Voce-President, are as follows:

1. To support the Vice-President in the joint preparation with the Defense Minister, of policies and strategies to combat extortion and kidnap.
2. To support State agencies in planning processes related to the struggle against extortion and kidnap.
3. To cooperate with State agencies responsible for the execution of policies and strategies for the struggle against extortion and kidnap for the implementation of mechanisms and instruments for the evaluation and follow-up of objectives, processes and results related to this matter.

4. To analyze and propose adjustments to the legal regime for the struggle against extortion and kidnap in order to achieve a coherent, deterrent and stable institutional, organizational and procedural framework
5. To implement programs for research and analysis of matters related to extortion and kidnap to support the preparation and presentation of policies and strategies to combat it.
6. To promote and support the implementation of campaigns, systems, programs and projects for training, instruction, dissemination and attention to the victims and their families, designed to strengthen the prevention of extortion and kidnap and the effective and prompt reaction against them.
7. To participate with the State agencies responsible for the execution of policies and strategies against extortion and kidnap, in coordination with the Foreign Ministry, in the negotiation and development of bilateral and multilateral agreements related to this matter.
8. To make recommendations to the State agencies responsible for the execution of policies and strategies to combat extortion and kidnap, in relation to the priorities for the use of new sources of funds and international cooperation in cash and in kind, especially grants representing cash and technical assistance designed to strengthen the struggle against kidnap and extortion.
9. To produce reports on the progress of the program as requested by the President and Vice-President and to make recommendations regarding its execution.
10. Others as relevant to the nature and objectives of the Office.

**Art. 9** is effective as of the date of publication and repeals Arts. 3 and 7 of Decree 127/2001 and Decree 955/2001, and amends Arts. 5, 6, 10 and 12 of Decree 127/2001

*Be this published and obeyed*

**Bogota, 5 March 2003**

**Alvaro Uribe**, President

**Roberto Junguito**, Minister of Finance

**Alberto Velasquez**, Director, Administrative Department, Office of the President

**Fernando Antonio Grillo**, Director, Administration Department of the Public Service