

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO NICARAGUA (SECOND BATCH)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- We are concerned about the government's decision to suspend the presence of independent international human rights monitoring mechanisms, which are needed in Nicaragua now more than ever. What is the government doing to reinstate respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and create a safe operating environment for civil society organizations and the press?
- We remain deeply concerned about executive branch control over all levers of government, including the judiciary and legislative branches, electoral system, and all public services such as emergency health care. In particular, the government has used the judiciary to target peaceful activists with little to no access to legal representation, no credible evidence presented against the accused, and long sentences. What is the government doing to ensure fair trial guarantees and adherence to constitutional requirements? What actions will the government take in the coming year to rebuild separation of powers and create the democracy the Nicaraguan people desire?
- We are alarmed at the brutal government crackdown on peaceful protest over the past year. In the face of widely documented human rights abuses, President Ortega actively strengthened impunity for those same human rights abusers who are loyal to and/or afraid of him. What actions has the government taken to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses committed by government officials and government-controlled parapolice forces? Has it ceased the arbitrary and politically-motivated firings of public sector employees and reinstated those wrongfully terminated?
- We continue to note a lack of substantial progress to counter trafficking in persons. What concrete steps is the government taking this year to investigate, prosecute, and convict human traffickers? What concrete steps is the government taking to create and improve the systems needed to address victim services, train government officials in victim identification and assistance, and strengthen law enforcement's ability to recognize and reduce human trafficking?
- Religious freedom includes the freedom of members of religious groups to practice their religion or belief in community with others. What is the government doing to prevent attacks against the credibility, independence, financial status, and physical safety of religious leaders and stop the harassment of religious groups?
- Conditions in Nicaraguan prisons are harsh and life-threatening—physically decrepit and infested with vermin, with inadequate ventilation, electricity, sewage systems or potable water. Prisoners of conscience have reportedly been subjected to torture and rape. We urge the government to give access to local human rights organizations to visit prison facilities. What has the government done to improve poor prison conditions and abuse?

- We remain deeply concerned by widespread government corruption. Executive branch officials continue to be involved in businesses financed by economic and developmental assistance funds lent by the Venezuelan-led Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), all of it outside the normal budgetary process controlled by the legislature. What has the government done to create more transparency in budgeting and eliminate public-sector corruption?
- We are troubled by increased violence against women; continued attacks against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons; and discrimination against persons with disabilities and members of ethnic minority groups and indigenous communities. What has the government done to prevent such attacks, improve access to justice, and fight discrimination against these groups?
- We are concerned by the inadequate attention that has been paid to resolving labor disputes in the established labor court arbitration process. Wait times and complicated procedure lead to a system where stalling tactics cause many disputes to be settled out of court. What is your government prepared to do to make sure that this labor court arbitration process is fair, open, and capable of settling labor disputes independently and impartially?

SLOVENIA

- Given the fact that abortion is outlawed under all circumstances, even for medical reasons or in case of rape, we would be interested to learn whether there are any discussions underway to decriminalize abortion.
- In your national report, you mention that progress was made through the adoption of Act No. 870 (The Family Code), which strengthened special protection measures for women victims of violence and introduced an obligation to report domestic violence. Could you tell us more about the special protection measures for women victims of violence?

GERMANY

- What measures is the government of Nicaragua taking to restore impartiality and independence of its judiciary?
- How will Nicaragua ensure an impartial investigation regarding alleged human rights violations by police and parapolice forces since April 2018? What measures are being taken to prevent such violence in future?
- What concrete measures are being taken to reduce the high rates of femicide, domestic violence and child abuse? Why have legislative amendments that undermine the purpose of Act No. 779 been adopted? What measures are being taken to reduce the high rates of teen pregnancy?

- What measures is Nicaragua taking to protect vulnerable groups, including indigenous and LGBTI people, from oppression and discrimination?

SWITZERLAND

- **Women's rights:** Switzerland is very worried about the discrimination against women in Nicaragua and made several recommendations in this field during the last UPR, including one on improving the access of women to justice, which was accepted by Nicaragua. Which concrete measures have been and will be taken by the government in order to prevent all forms of discrimination against women and to stop violence against them?

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

- To share best practices and experiences related to the measures adopted in the framework of the Sovereign Security and Citizenship Strategy and its articulation (integration) with society, with a view to solving community security problems.
- Requests to share the progress of the "State Policy for Strengthening the Nicaraguan Family and Prevention of Violence", whose objective is promoting, protecting and restituting the human rights of families, women, children and adolescents, while guaranteeing a life that is free of violence.