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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Nicaragua

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-third session from 6 to 17 May 2019. The review of Nicaragua was held at the 16th meeting, on 15 May 2019. The delegation of Nicaragua was headed by the Minister Adviser to the President of Nicaragua for International Relations and the Wider Caribbean, Valdrack Ludwing Jaentschke Whitaker. At its 18th meeting, held on 17 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Nicaragua.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Nicaragua: Mexico, Pakistan and Rwanda.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Nicaragua:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/NIC/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/NIC/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/NIC/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Nicaragua through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation pointed out that Nicaragua was a young democracy, born in 1979 after the Sandinista Popular Revolution, which had achieved profound social, economic and political transformations, despite the war of aggression that had been imposed on the country. However, after the first peaceful governmental transition, in 1990, neoliberal policies had been implemented, reversing the rights of the people.
6. Since 2007, the Government had designed successive human development programmes and was currently implementing the 2018–2021 Programme. Between 2014 and 2016, it had reduced the overall poverty rate from 29.6 to 24.9 per cent, and extreme poverty from 8.3 to 6.9 per cent. Between 2014 to April 2018, economic growth had been maintained at more than 5 per cent of gross domestic product per year, making the Nicaraguan economy the third fastest growing economy in Latin America.
7. International organizations had recognized that Nicaragua had met Millennium Development Goal 1 by reducing poverty and hunger by half and lowering the Gini coefficient from 0.38 to 0.33. Nicaragua had also achieved Millennium Development Goal 4 by reducing the infant mortality rate by two thirds by 2015.
8. The right to free, quality education had been restored, and educational enrolment had increased by 22.1 per cent between 2008 and 2018. Some 5,370,168 students had benefited from nutrition and school retention programmes during the reporting period. Some 1,748 schools and 2,132 classrooms had been refurbished and 522 distance learning secondary schools had been established in rural areas.

9. The right to free health care had also been restored. During the reporting period, the number of medical centres had increased from 1,287 to 1,520, the number of doctors from 5,566 to 6,318, the number of health workers from 31,124 to 35,841 and the number of maternity homes from 165 to 178. The maternal mortality rate had decreased from 37 to 34 per 100,000 live births, and 2,820,982 people had received care in mobile clinic units.
10. The proportion of the population with electricity access had increased from 80.4 per cent in 2014 to 95.31 per cent. A total of 767 km of highway had been built, connecting the Pacific and the Caribbean regions for the first time, benefiting 3.5 million people. Some 57,859 homes had been built or improved, benefiting 236,165 people.
11. Moreover, 138,737 individual property titles and 23 territorial titles had been granted to indigenous and Afrodescendent communities, allocating 37,842 km² (some 31 per cent of the national territory) to 39,531 families from 304 communities.
12. The number of workers affiliated to the social security system had increased by 9 per cent, from 690,870 in 2014 to 754,688 in September 2018. At the same time, 83 houses for persons with disabilities had been built, providing for the needs of 138,540 individuals.
13. Nicaragua continued to be the safest country in Central America and the third least violent in Latin America, with only 6.3 per cent of crimes registered as highly dangerous.
14. Some 8,619 prevention activities had been carried out to combat trafficking in persons, in which 467,863 individuals had participated. Some 44,332 public officials had been trained on the prevention of trafficking in persons.
15. Equitable representation of women and men was guaranteed in all positions of elected office and government posts. Nicaragua had been internationally recognized as ranking sixth in the global gender equity index, first in the Americas, fifth with regard to the number of women serving in the parliament and first with regard to the number of women occupying ministerial posts. In 2018, it had risen from sixty-second to fifth place on the Global Gender Gap Index, having reduced gender inequality by 80.9 per cent.
16. Women occupied 59.7 per cent of posts in the judiciary, 56 per cent in the executive branch and 45.7 per cent in the National Assembly, as well as constituting 46 per cent of mayors, 60 per cent of deputy mayors and 50 per cent of councillors. Women held the most important positions in the State and in the Government.
17. In the 2017 municipal elections, the 2016 general election and the 2014 elections to the regional councils of indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples, the free, direct and confidential participation of the Nicaraguan people had been guaranteed through 19 legally registered political parties. Daniel Ortega had been elected President in the 2016 general election, having won 72.44 per cent of the votes. The electoral process had been monitored by the Organization of American States (OAS) and other national and international electoral monitors.
18. The Government had made progress in the adoption of five international instruments on the rights of children and young people, and had submitted seven reports to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies.
19. Between April and June 2018, a group of radical political organizations and factions posing as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had conducted violent street protests. The situation had been exacerbated by manipulation in the media and on social networks in order to destabilize the country with the purpose of overthrowing the Government and disrupting the Constitutional process. The protestors had set up more than 100 roadblocks on the country's main highways, preventing public and emergency services from working, paralyzing national and regional trade and seriously damaging the transport, construction and tourism industries.
20. During the attempted overthrow, 198 people, 22 of whom were police officers, had met a violent death and 1,240, 401 of whom were police officers, had been injured. Some 8,708 companies, 90 per cent of them small and medium-sized enterprises, had been forced to close down, 119,567 jobs had been lost and there had been the equivalent of US\$ 205,000,000 in damages to the public sector and US\$ 277,400,000 to tourism.

21. Since 15 July 2018, the date on which the last roadblock had been removed, no one had died violently for political reasons in Nicaragua.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 90 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

23. Qatar appreciated efforts to implement the National Human Development Plan and welcomed the ongoing consultations to promote a culture of peace and reconciliation.

24. Fiji congratulated Nicaragua for the progress it had made in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

25. Finland urged Nicaragua to welcome OHCHR back to the country.

26. France expressed concern about the human rights situation in the country, which had worsened since April 2018.

27. Georgia was concerned at the lack of investigations and trials that had been conducted in response to reports from victims of violence in the 2018 protests, except in the cases of those who had been arrested for participating in the protests.

28. Germany commended Nicaragua for its engagement in negotiations with the opposition. It remained concerned about the human rights situation in the country.

29. Ghana commended the progress made in promoting and reinforcing economic, social and cultural rights since the previous review.

30. Greece commended efforts to eradicate poverty, increase access to water, sanitation and electricity, and incorporate a gender perspective in national policies.

31. The Holy See encouraged continued efforts to find a peaceful, negotiated solution to the current situation as rapidly as possible.

32. Honduras welcomed the adoption of the law on combating trafficking in persons and measures to support victims of trafficking.

33. Iceland noted the ongoing expulsion of international human rights mechanisms and the persecution of human rights defenders and journalists.

34. India welcomed initiatives to train teachers to deal with pupils with disabilities, and encouraged the continued efforts to guarantee the right to health.

35. Indonesia welcomed the efforts of Nicaragua to ensure economic and social progress and its commitment to improving the right to education.

36. The Islamic Republic of Iran congratulated Nicaragua for the reduction in poverty and extreme poverty.

37. Iraq welcomed the measures taken under the National Human Development Plan and the efforts to eradicate poverty.

38. Ireland was deeply concerned by the ongoing reports of repression, arbitrary detention and intimidation of civil society leaders in Nicaragua.

39. Italy noted efforts to combat poverty and extreme poverty and welcomed the enactment of a law on combating trafficking in persons.

40. Japan highly appreciated the promotion of the status of women in Nicaragua, particularly in the area of public decision-making.

41. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights through the implementation of the National Development Plan.

42. Lithuania echoed the concerns of the international community with regard to the dynamics of the human rights situation in Nicaragua.

43. Luxembourg stated that the events of 2018 showed that non-respect for human rights could jeopardize the consolidation of socioeconomic progress.
44. Madagascar welcomed efforts to promote respect for human rights, such as the adoption of Act No. 896 on combating human trafficking.
45. Maldives appreciated the efforts to resume talks with the Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy to bring peace and stability to the nation.
46. Slovenia was concerned about the level of repression and called for thorough investigations into reports of harassment, intimidation, criminalization and reprisals and for perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses to be held accountable.
47. Mexico was following the situation in the country closely, especially with regard to the demonstrations in 2018.
48. Montenegro was concerned by domestic violence and sexual abuse of girls. It also noted the very high level of child pregnancy in Nicaragua.
49. Mozambique took note of the significant strides made by the Government, which had clearly promoted peace.
50. Myanmar commended Nicaragua on its ratification in 2018 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
51. The delegation of Nicaragua reaffirmed the progress made in the areas of gender equity and access to justice.
52. The Netherlands expressed concern about the lack of freedom of expression in Nicaragua, especially for journalists and human rights defenders.
53. New Zealand welcomed the participation of Nicaragua in the current cycle of the universal periodic review.
54. Nigeria noted efforts aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and commended efforts to combat human trafficking.
55. Norway remained deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Nicaragua.
56. Oman appreciated efforts to promote and protect human rights and the National Human Development Plan for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.
57. Pakistan appreciated progress on social and economic development and noted efforts to combat poverty and realize the rights to health and education.
58. Paraguay expressed serious concern at reports of grave human rights violations, including the disproportionate use of force during demonstrations, arbitrary detentions and sexual violence in detention centres.
59. Peru expressed concern about the repression of peaceful protests and urged the Government to honour the commitments it had made during the negotiations to re-establish Constitutional order and democratic freedoms.
60. The Philippines welcomed the progress made in reducing poverty and extreme poverty and in inclusive education. It acknowledged the implementation of programmes to promote economic, social and cultural rights.
61. Poland remained alarmed by the restrictions on the enjoyment of all human rights, particularly freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the lack of due process.
62. Portugal was concerned about the continued violence and arrest of political opponents, the reports of violent repression and the arbitrary use of force.
63. Eritrea welcomed steps to combat poverty and improve the health and education sectors, and appreciated efforts for the realization of law and order.
64. The Republic of Korea appreciated efforts to improve living standards, poverty eradication, food, health and safety. It was concerned at reports of human rights violations.

65. The Russian Federation condemned the attempts by some countries to destabilize the situation in Nicaragua by encouraging demonstrations and stimulating internal unrest.
66. Senegal appreciated the efforts made in terms of access to health services, clean water, energy, property and decent housing. It welcomed measures to promote the right to work, the rights of older persons and the progress achieved concerning the rights of women and children.
67. Serbia welcomed the achievements made in implementing the recommendations from the previous review cycle and supported efforts in the fields of education, health care and social policy, particularly given the obstacles faced by Nicaragua.
68. Slovakia condemned the repression against civil society, the media and journalists, and the use of antiterrorist laws to suppress opposing views.
69. South Africa acknowledged the efforts made by Nicaragua to eradicate poverty, promote economic and social rights and protect domestic and women workers.
70. Spain expressed deep concern at the current situation in Nicaragua, particularly with regard to the negotiation process, and stressed the need to guarantee human rights.
71. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts of Nicaragua to combat extreme poverty and prioritize access to justice, particularly for women and children.
72. Sweden acknowledged the agreements signed on 29 March 2019, in which the Government had made commitments concerning political prisoners and freedom of association, but remained concerned about the implementation of those commitments and the deteriorating human rights situation.
73. Switzerland regretted that Nicaragua had not upheld the commitments it had made at the previous universal periodic review to guarantee freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the protection of journalists and human rights defenders.
74. The Syrian Arab Republic congratulated Nicaragua on its achievements in the field of social and economic development, its National Human Development Plan and related policies.
75. Turkey welcomed the steps Nicaragua had taken towards economic and social progress and noted its ranking in terms of gender equality.
76. Ukraine encouraged Nicaragua to redouble its efforts to prevent violations of women's and children's human rights.
77. The United Kingdom regretted the suspension of the political dialogue. It urged Nicaragua to allow OHCHR access to the country.
78. The United States was concerned that human rights violations were continuing, including violent responses to peaceful protests.
79. Uruguay welcomed the achievements Nicaragua had made with its National Human Development Plan and encouraged it to continue implementing the development agenda, taking a human rights-based approach.
80. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that Nicaragua had re-established peace and reduced poverty and social inequality.
81. Cuba noted that the socioeconomic indicators achieved by Nicaragua reflected its commitment to human rights.
82. The delegation of Nicaragua recalled the brutal war of aggression that had been imposed on Nicaragua in the 1980s, accompanied by economic sanctions against the Nicaraguan people, for which the International Court of Justice had found the perpetrators guilty and had imposed reparations.
83. Those who had financed that war were those who were currently imposing immoral and unjust economic sanctions on the country, aimed at impeding the Nicaraguan people's access to finance for development and welfare projects.

84. The Constitution provided for a presidential term of five years. Any change in that period would violate the Constitutional order and would set a poor precedent.
85. Magistrates and judges were independent in their judicial activity. The National Council on Judicial Administration and the Legal Profession, which had been created pursuant to the provisions of the 2014 Constitution, had helped to strengthen their independence.
86. The defence of human rights and freedom of expression continued to be respected in the country. No one had been investigated, accused or punished in his or her capacity as a human rights defender or for being a journalist. In Nicaragua, private press and radio and television channels communicated without any kind of restriction. Nicaragua respected the right to demonstrate and to peaceful assembly.
87. All the arrests made in the context of the attempted coup d'état had fulfilled the guarantees established in the law. Violent groups had used firearms, committing serious crimes to the detriment of the population and the security forces. The National Police had acted in accordance with international standards; it had never had para-police forces, "shock forces" (grupos de choque) or "mobs" (turbas), nor would it in the future.
88. There were no persecuted, accused or political prisoners in the country. Those who faced justice had committed crimes. Detainees enjoyed decent conditions and all their human rights and the due process of law were respected.
89. The Government continued to be committed to promoting a culture of peace, maintaining citizen security indexes and quickly resuming economic growth.
90. The President had convened a negotiation process that had begun on 27 February 2019 in the presence of the representative of the Holy See and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in their capacity as witnesses and international companions. The negotiations had already produced significant results and concrete commitments.
91. Yemen commended efforts to implement the National Human Development Programme to achieve growth, economic sustainability, poverty reduction, job creation and improved living standards.
92. Afghanistan acknowledged the drop in the illiteracy and poverty rates and the achievements related to gender parity.
93. Algeria welcomed the measures taken by Nicaragua to protect human rights, its efforts to combat poverty and inequality and the National Human Development Plan.
94. Angola encouraged Nicaragua to take further steps to respect its human rights commitments. It commended the reduction in the levels of poverty and hunger.
95. Argentina condemned the repression against civil society, the media, journalists and human rights defenders. It called for a prompt resolution to the conflict.
96. Armenia noted measures to promote human development and children's rights and to combat human trafficking.
97. Australia was gravely concerned about the reported violence, widespread human rights violations and the Government's repression of protests.
98. Austria was concerned about human rights violations and sexual violence against women. It urged Nicaragua to protect media freedom and the right to peaceful assembly.
99. The Bahamas commended Nicaragua for its implementation of the National Human Development Programme 2018–2021 and its strategic objectives to sustain economic growth.
100. Bangladesh congratulated Nicaragua on its efforts to re-establish peace and stability in the wake of the 2018 political unrest. It welcomed the voluntary return programme.
101. Belarus noted measures to combat human trafficking, reduce illiteracy, poverty and hunger, and promote development and sustainable economic growth.

102. Belgium was concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation since the 2018 political crisis.
103. Bhutan commended the progress made in poverty and inequality reduction and measures to guarantee women's participation in decision-making.
104. The Plurinational State of Bolivia stressed the measures taken to eradicate poverty through a model of participatory democracy, and progress towards gender equality.
105. Brazil was concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation, but noted the release of political prisoners and the return programme. It urged the Government to allow international bodies to return to Nicaragua.
106. Bulgaria deplored the excessive force used in the 2018 protests. It noted the establishment of negotiations and called for the release of all political detainees.
107. Canada acknowledged the national dialogue and the liberation of prisoners. It called for a genuine and inclusive dialogue and electoral reforms.
108. Chile hoped for an improvement in the human rights situation and the re-establishment of cooperation with the international human rights system.
109. Colombia was concerned about the political and social crisis, triggered by persistent violations of fundamental freedoms.
110. Costa Rica noted that OHCHR had reported a number of human rights violations in Nicaragua between April and August 2018.
111. Croatia was concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Nicaragua since the protests had begun in April 2018.
112. Viet Nam welcomed the achievements of Nicaragua in term of gender equality, health, poverty reduction and climate change.
113. Cyprus acknowledged the efforts of Nicaragua to eradicate extreme poverty and promote inclusive education.
114. Czechia welcomed the agreement between Nicaragua and the International Committee of the Red Cross on access to prisons, but remained concerned at the disproportionate use of force by the police.
115. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted with appreciation the sustained State policies, international commitments and significant achievements in various areas.
116. Denmark noted the systematic restriction of press freedom since 2018 through acts of violence and intimidation of journalists.
117. The Dominican Republic welcomed the delegation of Nicaragua and thanked it for its national report.
118. Ecuador reiterated its concern regarding the acts of violence that had resulted in numerous fatalities, including of minors, and hundreds of injuries.
119. Egypt welcomed the efforts of Nicaragua to promote economic, social and cultural rights by improving economic performance, reducing poverty and achieving food security.
120. El Salvador recognized the achievement of Nicaragua in terms of mainstreaming a gender perspective, which had resulted in more women taking on decision-making roles.
121. Haiti urged all relevant parties to end the sociopolitical crisis and bring the country back to the path to prosperity.
122. Malta was concerned at violent acts committed against students and civilians and the legal status of civil society and journalists' organizations.
123. The delegation of Nicaragua stressed the Government's commitment to the universal periodic review for the improvement and respect of human rights and thanked the countries that had participated in the interactive dialogue.

124. The delegation confirmed the political will of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity to working on the promotion, protection and restitution of human rights and a return to the path of welfare, development and rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

125. The following recommendations will be examined by Nicaragua, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-second session of the Human Rights Council:

125.1 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Slovakia); Consider acceding to and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and recognize the competence of its Committee (Uruguay); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);**

125.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia); Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (El Salvador);**

125.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Senegal); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cyprus); Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Georgia); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Armenia);**

125.4 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (El Salvador);**

125.5 **Consider ratification of the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Plurinational State of Bolivia); Consider ratification of the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Greece);**

125.6 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Sweden); Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria); Consider acceding to and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Georgia);**

125.7 **Ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (Honduras);**

125.8 **Submit reports to the human rights treaty bodies to which it is a party (Peru); Fulfil its obligation to submit periodic reports to the treaty bodies (Honduras); Collaborate effectively with relevant human rights bodies (Senegal); Fully comply with States' obligations under the international human rights instruments to which Nicaragua is a party, including the timely submission of periodic reports to the respective treaty bodies (Ukraine); Take the necessary steps to submit periodic reports, in accordance with the international legal instruments already ratified (Angola);**

- 125.9 Cooperate with the High Commissioner for Human Rights to comply with the mandate under resolution 40/2 of the Human Rights Council, and meet its obligation to submit reports to the human rights treaty bodies to which it is a party (Paraguay);
- 125.10 Allow access to the country by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with the open invitation extended by the State in 2006 (Honduras);
- 125.11 Allow the return of international and regional bodies, including the OHCHR country team, the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua, and the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and grant them full, unhindered access to all parts of the country, including detention centres (Ireland);
- 125.12 Provide access to international bodies investigating human rights violations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and provide them with the necessary assistance for the fulfilment of their mandate (Luxembourg);
- 125.13 Accept international scrutiny, facilitating visits by human rights mechanisms and resuming cooperation with the Inter-American system and the United Nations system (Mexico);
- 125.14 Resume its cooperation with OHCHR, the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, as well as OAS and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Norway);
- 125.15 Grant international mechanisms full and unhindered access to all parts of the country, including to detention facilities, as well as access to all official documentation (Poland);
- 125.16 Allow the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that have requested an official visit access to the country, in accordance with the standing invitation extended by the State in 2006 (Portugal);
- 125.17 Guarantee access to regional and international human rights mechanisms (France);
- 125.18 Cooperate with international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms and allow them access to the country and monitor the human rights situation on the ground (Republic of Korea);
- 125.19 Allow the return of the OHCHR country team and grant it full and unhindered access to all parts of the country and the information requested by it (Slovakia);
- 125.20 Accept the return to Nicaragua of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, taking into account the criticisms contained in the report of the United Nations and the allegations about the lack of independence of the national human rights mechanisms (Spain);
- 125.21 Allow access to OHCHR and all relevant international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms (Georgia);
- 125.22 Ensure effective access, without restrictions, to international and regional human rights mechanisms to the whole country, including to victims and human rights defenders (Switzerland);
- 125.23 Cooperate closely with OHCHR and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, allowing them access to the country in accordance with the standing invitation extended by the State in 2006, especially taking into account that the last such visit took place 10 years ago (Ukraine);

125.24 **Resume cooperation with OHCHR and allow access to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that had requested an official visit (Afghanistan);**

125.25 **Resume its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and relevant treaty bodies, as well as the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including by facilitating visits and allowing unfettered access throughout the country, including to detention centres (Argentina);**

125.26 **Resume cooperation with international human rights observers and impartially investigate, without impunity, all alleged human rights abuses and violations, and hold those responsible to account (Australia);**

125.27 **Fully cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms with a view to ensuring full compliance with its human rights obligations (Austria);**

125.28 **Give consideration to allowing independent human rights bodies access to the country, as previously extended by the Government of Nicaragua (Bahamas);**

125.29 **Re-establish full cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including by granting them once again unrestricted access to the country and facilitating their work in the discharge of their mandate (Belgium);**

125.30 **Resume cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other human rights bodies, and consider the implementation of their recommendations (Canada);**

125.31 **Re-establish the conditions for the return of the human rights mechanisms of the Inter-American system and of the Human Rights Council to monitor and document the human rights situation in situ (Chile);**

125.32 **Restore the presence in situ of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Organization of American States (Colombia);**

125.33 **Resume the cooperation of Nicaragua with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and their mechanisms, and give them all the guarantees necessary for the fulfilment of their mandates (Costa Rica);**

125.34 **Allow international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms unrestricted access to the country to monitor and document the human rights situation (Croatia);**

125.35 **Continue dialogue and take concrete steps towards increased collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedure mandate holders (Greece);**

125.36 **Promptly allow OHCHR to return to the country, and resume its cooperation with OHCHR, the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and the relevant treaty bodies (Denmark);**

125.37 **Provide further support to the Office of the Human Rights Advocate to enable it to fulfil its mandate in the best manner and in accordance with the Paris Principles (Qatar);**

125.38 **Strengthen the work of the Nicaraguan Office of the Human Rights Advocate (Indonesia);**

- 125.39 **Guarantee the independence and autonomy of the legislative, the judiciary and the electoral bodies of the country in terms of their personnel and management (Republic of Korea);**
- 125.40 **Strengthen the national human rights institution (Senegal);**
- 125.41 **Continue to support the work of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate (South Africa);**
- 125.42 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);**
- 125.43 **Increase efforts to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights (Belarus);**
- 125.44 **Restore the autonomy of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to it (Bulgaria);**
- 125.45 **Strengthen the mandate of independent human rights institutions, providing them with capacities and resources (Colombia);**
- 125.46 **Improve the census methodology to have quantitative and qualitative data on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex population, as an essential basis for inclusive and human rights-based public policies (Malta);**
- 125.47 **Continue to intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks to address the cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change adaptation and mitigation (Fiji);**
- 125.48 **Ensure that existing legislative frameworks are reinforced by integrating climate change adaptation in planning and budgeting at the national and local levels (Fiji);**
- 125.49 **Continue to build institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate environmental and climate change considerations more fully into the national regulatory frameworks (Fiji);**
- 125.50 **Continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations bodies and other relevant international organizations to remedy all the effects of natural disasters for the benefit of all citizens, especially children and displaced persons (Serbia);**
- 125.51 **Continue to strengthen the humanist vocation of the country, for peace and international solidarity towards the sustainable development of our peoples (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 125.52 **Maintain active participation and commitment in the climate change negotiations (Bangladesh);**
- 125.53 **Continue its efforts to address the impacts of climate change and promote international cooperation in this regard, particularly in technology development and transfer, financial support and capacity-building (Viet Nam);**
- 125.54 **Implement effective policies to better promote and protect access to information, including through collaboration with other States (Indonesia);**
- 125.55 **Ensure that all security forces act in accordance with the principles of legitimate, proportionate and necessary use of force in the context of protests (New Zealand);**
- 125.56 **Ensure that the National Police refrain from carrying out acts that constitute torture or other ill-treatment against detainees and demonstrators (New Zealand);**
- 125.57 **Redouble its efforts to strengthen measures to protect vulnerable groups, including women and children, against all forms of violence (Philippines);**

- 125.58 Continue the work to ensure the safety of citizens, which is a guarantee for reducing the level of violence on the streets (Russian Federation);
- 125.59 Take effective, primarily legislative, steps to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (Ukraine);
- 125.60 Cease the excessive use of force by the police against the exercise of peaceful protest, and guarantee the immediate disarmament of civilians close to the Government (Argentina);
- 125.61 Pursue the State sovereignty and public safety strategy, in light of the low levels of violence, and its coordination with the social fabric in resolving community security problems (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 125.62 Eradicate the practice of sexual violence against women deprived of their liberty (Costa Rica);
- 125.63 Take immediate steps to prevent the excessive use of force against peaceful protestors (Cyprus);
- 125.64 Redouble efforts and increase investments in community-based organizations, innovative community policing and social protection programmes that have contributed to making Nicaragua one of the safest countries in the Americas, to further promote a culture of non-violence (Haiti);
- 125.65 Ensure that the police, the army and the judicial system remain under the rule of law, curbing the activity of paramilitary forces and ensuring that no acts of ill-treatment are tolerated in detention facilities (Holy See);
- 125.66 Release without delay lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in detention after the events of April 2018 and guarantee dignified conditions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons arrested and detained for other reasons (Malta);
- 125.67 Disband paramilitaries, prevent excessive use of force by police and investigate perpetrators to protect the rights to association and peaceful assembly (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 125.68 Release all arbitrarily detained political opponents and critics, including journalists (Lithuania);
- 125.69 Honour without delay the commitment to free all political prisoners (Luxembourg);
- 125.70 Release all those arbitrarily or illegally detained, guarantee due process, and ensure that the conditions of detention are compliant with international human rights obligations (Norway);
- 125.71 Release political prisoners immediately and implement a comprehensive reparation policy for victims and families that includes measures to establish the truth, the identification of victims and perpetrators, and allows the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts to enter and stay for an indefinite period of time, as well as the presence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and all its mechanisms (Paraguay);
- 125.72 Immediately release political prisoners, guarantee the independent investigation of complaints of rape, torture and other ill-treatment committed in detention centres, and provide victims with truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition (Peru);
- 125.73 Release prisoners held since the beginning of the crisis without court supervision (France);
- 125.74 Release all those who were unlawfully imprisoned and ensure due process and fair treatment at all stages (Slovakia);

125.75 Release, immediately, and within the established deadlines, all the prisoners on the lists provided by the Government and the Civic Alliance (Spain);

125.76 Honour its commitments related to the release of political prisoners (Georgia);

125.77 Release all prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally, and take immediate steps to end arbitrary arrest and detention (United States of America);

125.78 Release without delay political prisoners and guarantee the prompt, exhaustive, independent and transparent investigation of allegations of rape, torture and other ill-treatment committed in detention centres, and provide victims with truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition (Argentina);

125.79 Release all students, human rights defenders, journalists and other protestors who were arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, without resorting to house arrests, and ensure that their right to due process is fully respected (Belgium);

125.80 Immediately release political prisoners and guarantee independent and transparent investigations into allegations of rape, torture and other ill-treatment committed in detention centres (Brazil);

125.81 Expeditiously release all prisoners per the announcement made in the context of the National Dialogue, including those arbitrarily sentenced for their participation in social protests (Canada);

125.82 Immediately release political prisoners in accordance with the commitment undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua within the framework of the negotiations (Chile);

125.83 Immediately release all political prisoners, guaranteeing the prompt, exhaustive, independent and transparent investigation of allegations of rape, torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment committed in detention centres, and provide victims with truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition (Colombia);

125.84 Adopt measures to release political prisoners without delay and guarantee prompt, exhaustive, independent and transparent investigation into allegations of rape, torture and other ill-treatment committed in detention centres, and provide victims with truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition (Ecuador);

125.85 Conduct thorough investigations into all acts of violence against journalists and media outlets, including the assassination on 21 April 2018 of Ángel Eduardo Gahona, and hold the perpetrators accountable (Iceland);

125.86 Conduct prompt and impartial investigations into the widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms perpetrated in the country and release all unlawfully detained political opponents (Italy);

125.87 Guarantee respect for all internationally recognized human rights standards, starting with those related to habeas corpus, fair trial and freedom of association and expression, including press freedom (Italy);

125.88 Guarantee that access to justice, truth and reparation will be at the centre of any resolution to the current crisis (Maldives);

125.89 Create a mechanism for investigating acts of violence occurring in the context of demonstrations, with guarantees of autonomy and independence, to ensure the right to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition (Mexico);

- 125.90 **Guarantee a thorough and transparent accountability process by ensuring access to justice and reparation for the victims of human rights violations (Norway);**
- 125.91 **Conduct prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into the widespread human rights violations perpetrated by the police and armed pro-government groups against the participants in protests since April 2018 and ensure the victims access to effective remedies (Poland);**
- 125.92 **Immediately investigate all cases of attacks or violations against human rights defenders, members of NGOs and journalists and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Poland);**
- 125.93 **Ensure reparation for victims of acts of violence committed since 18 April 2018, as part of an independent judicial process that allows for the holding of free and transparent elections, in line with the recommendations of the Organization of American States and the European Union, and authorizing the presence of electoral observation missions by these same organizations (France);**
- 125.94 **Conduct prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into the widespread human rights violations perpetrated by various officials, including police and armed pro-government groups (Slovakia);**
- 125.95 **Adopt further measures to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (State of Palestine);**
- 125.96 **Undertake independent investigations into all reported incidents of attacks, intimidation or harassment of journalists since April 2018 (Sweden);**
- 125.97 **Take all necessary actions to implement the recommendations of the OHCHR and the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts reports regarding the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Sweden);**
- 125.98 **Create a mechanism of international investigations into the violence that had occurred (Georgia);**
- 125.99 **Hold accountable all government officials, agents, or para-police forces who are responsible for human rights violations or abuses – including unlawful or arbitrary killings, forced disappearances, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, physical abuse, and rape – by initiating investigations immediately (United States of America);**
- 125.100 **Ensure the independence of the judiciary, including by complying with established procedures on the appointment of judicial personnel and by cooperating with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (Germany);**
- 125.101 **Address and ensure thorough and impartial investigation of human rights violations, including excessive use of force, torture, arbitrary detention and killings committed by State officials and paramilitary groups, and guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Austria);**
- 125.102 **Launch thorough investigations into the events that began on 18 April 2019 and bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations (Bulgaria);**
- 125.103 **Adopt a thorough and transparent accountability process to ensure access to justice and reparation for the victims of human rights violations and abuses (Canada);**
- 125.104 **Set up a mechanism of international investigation into the violent events that took place, with guarantees of autonomy and independence, to ensure the right to truth and to duly identify those responsible (Chile);**
- 125.105 **Ensure the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary (Cyprus);**

- 125.106 Prosecute the perpetrators of violence against demonstrators, especially those who caused deaths, and provide justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition to the victims or their surviving family members (Ecuador);
- 125.107 Take concrete steps to end the current sociopolitical crisis in the country, including by strengthening State institutions and fighting corruption (Haiti);
- 125.108 Immediately halt the persecution of political opponents and swiftly release all individuals who have been arbitrarily detained (Iceland);
- 125.109 Revoke anti-terrorism laws that allow for the persecution of human rights defenders, including women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex defenders, journalists and peaceful protesters (Iceland);
- 125.110 Promote freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Iraq);
- 125.111 Ensure that human rights standards for freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including press freedom, are upheld (Ireland);
- 125.112 Take effective measures to ensure that the next electoral process is inclusive of all political parties and movements and entirely transparent (Italy);
- 125.113 Enhance the protection and promotion of freedom of expression and of the media and the right to peaceful assembly, and resolve ongoing problems through dialogue between the Government and the people (Japan);
- 125.114 Take further measures, including reform of the electoral system, to organize elections in a fairer manner in cooperation with the international community (Japan);
- 125.115 Comply with international human rights obligations to guarantee that all persons and civil society actors can freely exercise, without fear of persecution or violence, their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including peaceful protest and dissent; refrain from using arbitrary restrictions and excessive force against protesters; and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice and held to account (Lithuania);
- 125.116 Take all necessary steps to fully protect the freedom of the media and of expression, both online and offline, to ensure the safety of journalists and accountability for violence and attacks against them (Lithuania);
- 125.117 Restore civil and political rights, including the right to demonstrate and freedom of the press (Luxembourg);
- 125.118 Protect civil society organizations and individuals, including organizations that defend women's rights (Luxembourg);
- 125.119 Guarantee the exercise of freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, avoiding acts of repression against journalists or human rights defenders (Mexico);
- 125.120 Respect and guarantee freedom of expression for all civilians, which includes the unconditional release of incarcerated journalists and political prisoners and the return of confiscated material to the media and human rights organizations (Netherlands);
- 125.121 Respect and guarantee the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (Finland);
- 125.122 Ensure the freedom of speech and the independence of the press (Finland);

125.123 **Immediately cease the repression of public protests, particularly the unlawful arrests and arbitrary detentions of those involved in public protests (New Zealand);**

125.124 **Guarantee the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens, especially their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly without fear of reprisals, threats, attacks, harassment or unjust prosecution (New Zealand);**

125.125 **Repeal any law, policy or practice that places obstacles to legitimate activities to promote and defend human rights, including the misuse of legislation and administrative measures by the Government to close down, raid or silence civil society organizations (New Zealand);**

125.126 **Respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly by ending the repression of people involved in peaceful protests and allowing human rights defenders, civil society organizations and the media to carry out their work (Norway);**

125.127 **Support the national policy to promote a culture of peace and reconciliation (Oman);**

125.128 **Guarantee freedom of expression and demonstration, as a way of advancing towards effective dialogue with all the parties involved (Paraguay);**

125.129 **Respect and guarantee the full enjoyment of the population's rights to protest, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and political participation and dismantle the pro-government armed groups, given the negative impact of their actions on human rights (Peru);**

125.130 **Ensure the international human rights standards related to freedom of expression, including media freedom, both online and offline, are upheld, and refrain from using any administrative, judicial or financial means to unduly restrict the exercise of this right (Poland);**

125.131 **Continue effective dialogue with the opposition and all concerned parties to the conflict (Poland);**

125.132 **Refrain from resorting to violence and give the highest priority to the implementation of a credible and inclusive reconciliation and dialogue process (Portugal);**

125.133 **Restore civil society space and guarantee that local human rights defence organizations can operate freely (France);**

125.134 **Restore and ensure public freedoms, in particular freedom of expression and of opinion (France);**

125.135 **Adopt urgently all the necessary measures to guarantee the full exercise and enjoyment of the freedoms of association, assembly, demonstration and expression, as recognized in the Constitution, including the cessation of arbitrary detentions and of the excessive use of force by the police (Spain);**

125.136 **Restore legal personality and seized goods to non-governmental organizations that defend human rights and to the media (Spain);**

125.137 **Reform legislation which is used to detain and prosecute demonstrators and human rights defenders, especially to reconsider charges of terrorism under Act No. 977 and assure that the offences cannot be extrapolated to situations unrelated to the aim of the Act (Sweden);**

125.138 **Guarantee freedom of expression and non-resumption of violence (Georgia);**

125.139 **Restore immediately the rights to freedom of expression and of the media, and carry out investigations into all cases of violence committed against journalists and the media (Switzerland);**

125.140 **Respect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and release persons arbitrarily detained for having participated in demonstrations, in conformity with the agreements signed on 29 March 2019 by the Government and the Civic Alliance (Switzerland);**

125.141 **Cease harassment of and political pressure on journalists and the press and reduce import restrictions on journalistic supplies and equipment to strengthen protection of freedom of expression (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

125.142 **End immediately all undue interference with rights to freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, allow all independent media, religious institutions, and civil society organizations to operate without undue coercion, restrictions, legal threat or threat to personal safety (United States of America);**

125.143 **Continue defending peace, stability and constructive dialogue in the country in the face of foreign interference and aggressions (Cuba);**

125.144 **Continue the consultations on building a culture of peace and reconciliation, dialogue and coexistence (Yemen);**

125.145 **Ensure that members of the political opposition and civil society organizations, as well as journalists, are free to express their opinions and that their right to freedom of assembly is guaranteed (Germany);**

125.146 **Cease violent repression of opposition protests, uphold the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression, and release those arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights (Australia);**

125.147 **Refrain from creating or misusing legislative or administrative measures in order to silence civil society organizations active in the field of human rights and democracy (Belgium);**

125.148 **Take steps to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of the media, of association and of peaceful assembly, and refrain from further acts of intimidation or reprisal, including by paramilitary groups (Canada);**

125.149 **Resume the national dialogue between the Government and the Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy that began on 27 February 2019 and that allowed for the adoption of a roadmap, ensuring a wide, credible, representative, inclusive and transparent dialogue, with the support of the international community, to allow for a peaceful and democratic resolution to the crisis (Chile);**

125.150 **Eliminate the restrictions that are systematically imposed on freedom of expression and freedom of the press by developing policies for the promotion and protection of access to public information (Chile);**

125.151 **Respect the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of association with guarantees and effective protection mechanisms (Colombia);**

125.152 **Guarantee the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and cease all acts of censorship and harassment of the media (Colombia);**

125.153 **Decriminalize the right to hold peaceful protests and release persons arbitrarily detained in the context of civil protests (Costa Rica);**

125.154 **Restore respect for freedom of expression and of the press and free journalists who are in detention (Costa Rica);**

125.155 **Repeal or amend legislation that may place obstacles to legitimate activities to promote and defend human rights, thereby respecting the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Croatia);**

- 125.156 **Guarantee the protection and promotion of freedom of expression and the independence and pluralism of the media (Greece);**
- 125.157 **Fully guarantee freedom of association and peaceful assembly without fear of reprisals or unjust prosecution (Czechia);**
- 125.158 **Ensure freedom of expression and refrain from using administrative and judicial means to unduly restrict exercise of this right (Czechia);**
- 125.159 **Guarantee press freedom, including by refraining from using administrative, judicial or financial means to unduly restrict its exercise (Denmark);**
- 125.160 **Immediately cease acts of State repression towards demonstrators, and guarantee the population's right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and political participation (Ecuador);**
- 125.161 **Continue efforts to promote political participation for all citizens and to achieve equality of opportunities for everyone to access government jobs and to participate in the decision-making process (Egypt);**
- 125.162 **Safeguard the right to expression and to assembly for all members of society, and the freedom of the press (Holy See);**
- 125.163 **Ensure that all human rights defenders who engage with multilateral institutions and international and regional human rights bodies can do so without fear of persecution or violence and that any allegations or instances of reprisals are promptly investigated (Iceland);**
- 125.164 **Protect human rights defenders, journalists and media workers and fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly by complying with its commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Slovenia);**
- 125.165 **Respect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, in particular by ending reprisals and violence against journalists and human rights defenders (Republic of Korea);**
- 125.166 **Ensure protection of human rights defenders and journalists and take adequate measures to guarantee their physical and psychological security, as well as the full exercise of the rights to freedom of information, expression and association (Uruguay);**
- 125.167 **Guarantee freedoms of expression, assembly, association and movement, particularly for human rights defenders and journalists (Argentina);**
- 125.168 **Institute measures to ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and media workers can exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly without fear of reprisals, threats, attacks or unjust prosecutions (Ghana);**
- 125.169 **Make more efforts to strengthen the fight against trafficking in persons and ensure the rights of victims (Qatar);**
- 125.170 **Continue its efforts to fight against human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 125.171 **Sustain its efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the rights of victims of human trafficking, as well as the rights of migrants (Nigeria);**
- 125.172 **Intensify awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes to strengthen the implementation of its anti-trafficking Act of 2015 (Philippines);**
- 125.173 **Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking through implementation of the anti-trafficking Act and improving measures to prosecute offenders and protect victims (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

- 125.174 Strengthen further efforts in the area of combating trafficking in persons, including improving law enforcement practices, with a view to bringing to justice and punishing the perpetrators, as well as providing victims of trafficking with protection and effective restoration of rights (Belarus);
- 125.175 Protect the family and its development considering it the main unit for the development of society (Egypt);
- 125.176 Continue to promote the employment of persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);
- 125.177 Take further necessary steps to provide adequate housing for its citizens (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 125.178 Intensify its attempts to provide clean water for all people (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 125.179 Continue its efforts to combat poverty and equality (Myanmar);
- 125.180 Continue its effort to enhance the socioeconomic well-being of its people (Nigeria);
- 125.181 Continue to work on achieving the remaining Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health and education (Oman);
- 125.182 Take measures to continue progress made in social and economic development, including through the implementation of the National Human Development Plan and other national policies and international commitments (Pakistan);
- 125.183 Continue to ensure the full range of human rights of both urban and rural residents (Russian Federation);
- 125.184 Sustain national distribution networks for foodstuffs and household items for people on lower incomes (South Africa);
- 125.185 Strengthen support for women seeking to become entrepreneurs (South Africa);
- 125.186 Sustain efforts to expand access to drinking water and sanitation in urban and rural areas (South Africa);
- 125.187 Adopt measures to maintain social programmes and eradicate poverty (State of Palestine);
- 125.188 Continue the efforts that the Government of Nicaragua is making to protect its citizens and support them, including through securing their food needs and through the various programmes it is implementing for this purpose (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 125.189 Maintain its efforts to promote and protect human rights, in accordance with its international obligations (Turkey);
- 125.190 Continue to promote policies in education, health and employment in favour of its people, especially the most vulnerable groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 125.191 Continue consolidating the national distribution of food and household products at lower prices, accessible to lower income families (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 125.192 Effectively implement the National Human Development Plan until 2021 and other government policies and actions for the welfare of its population (Cuba);
- 125.193 Strengthen actions for poverty reduction (Cuba);

- 125.194 Continue its public policies by including programmes that will create the conditions to alleviate poverty, such as the urban programme for the well-being of children living in extreme poverty (Angola);
- 125.195 Continue to build on the success of the National Human Development Plan 2012–2016 by ensuring that the core elements of the 2018–2021 National Human Development Programme are fully implemented (Ghana);
- 125.196 Continue its efforts to reduce poverty, particularly by increasing the food security of the most vulnerable in the society (Bhutan);
- 125.197 Adopt and effectively implement a national action plan to combat child and adolescent malnutrition, including measures to raise awareness, improve nutrition surveillance and promote positive behaviour around nutrition (Bulgaria);
- 125.198 Continue to strengthen efforts to maintain financial stability and boost economic growth that would benefit all Nicaraguans (Viet Nam);
- 125.199 Continue increasing economic and social development with a view to eliminating extreme poverty (Cyprus);
- 125.200 Fully implement programmes aimed at supporting the most vulnerable in society, such as the Zero Hunger Programme and the distribution of production capacity recovery packs (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 125.201 Continue efforts to eradicate general and extreme poverty in the country (Dominican Republic);
- 125.202 Continue to strive to reduce inequality indices (Dominican Republic);
- 125.203 Continue efforts to provide social services to all segments of society, especially the most vulnerable and most needy groups, particularly in the area of universal health-care services and education (Egypt);
- 125.204 Ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of the Nicaraguan population in all its spheres (El Salvador);
- 125.205 Adopt targeted policies to promote the effective equality and economic development of Nicaraguans of African descent (Haiti);
- 125.206 Ensure non-discriminatory access to universal health care and free health services (India);
- 125.207 Draft and implement an action plan to reduce child pregnancies, consisting of awareness-raising campaigns, active prosecution of rapists, comprehensive sexual education and access to emergency contraception (Netherlands);
- 125.208 Develop strategies to ensure sexual education in schools aiming, inter alia, at reducing the number of teenage pregnancies and ensuring that girls continue to have access to education without discrimination (Portugal);
- 125.209 Step up efforts to guarantee universal access to health and education for all Nicaraguans (Eritrea);
- 125.210 Guarantee health care and education for all citizens of Nicaragua (Russian Federation);
- 125.211 Continue to strengthen the right to health, including through full health coverage and health services free of charges (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 125.212 Continue to expand the quality of and access to the health system, with emphasis on the reduction of maternal and child mortality (Cuba);
- 125.213 Continue its efforts to further reduce the rate of child mortality (Bangladesh);

125.214 **Adopt effective measures to address widespread adolescent pregnancy, including the development, implementation and monitoring, as well as costing and budgeting, of an integrated national prevention strategy (Bulgaria);**

125.215 **Further consolidate the family and community health-care model in line with the primary health-care strategy and share good practices in this regard (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

125.216 **Guarantee health assistance to all, with no discrimination for political reasons, and with respect to the freedom and the professionalism of medical personnel (Holy See);**

125.217 **Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and ensure that safe and legal abortion services are available for those women and girls whose pregnancy is a result of rape or whose lives or health are put at risk, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

125.218 **Survey the extent of unsafe illegal abortions and introduce measures to safeguard women's universal right to life and health (Norway);**

125.219 **Decriminalize abortion at least in cases of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest and also where the life or health of the mother is at risk (Germany);**

125.220 **Ensure the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to the full range of quality reproductive and sexual health-care services and information (Australia);**

125.221 **Enhance the quality of teaching and ensure non-discriminatory access to education in rural areas (India);**

125.222 **Continue to provide better access to education by prioritizing budget allocation for preschool and secondary education in rural areas (Indonesia);**

125.223 **Continue its efforts to eradicate illiteracy, particularly for women and young girls (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

125.224 **Continue its guaranteed education programmes that aim to improve quality education and equitable access, and increase institutional efficiency and effectiveness (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

125.225 **Ensure that access to education for vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, persons of African descent and migrants, is guaranteed and respected (Madagascar);**

125.226 **Introduce legislative measures prohibiting all forms of discrimination with regard to access to education (Madagascar);**

125.227 **Continue its efforts to ensure free, fair, high quality and appropriate education (Oman);**

125.228 **Continue its efforts to implement the Education Plan for 2017–2021 in order to ensure the provision of free, fair, high-quality, child-friendly education (Pakistan);**

125.229 **Continue the campaigns against school dropout and maternal mortality (Eritrea);**

125.230 **Continue to improve the infrastructure of study centres at the national level, especially in rural areas (Eritrea);**

125.231 **Continue ensuring the right to free, equitable, high quality and appropriate education, expand its scope and promote equal opportunities to benefit from it (Syrian Arab Republic);**

- 125.232 Continue its focus on the implementation of the Education Plan for 2017–2021 and establish the appropriate curriculum and initiatives for the promotion of equal access to education for all (Bahamas);
- 125.233 Continue to improve the infrastructure of public schools to guarantee better education in the country (Dominican Republic);
- 125.234 Continue implementing remote secondary education services in the most vulnerable rural areas (El Salvador);
- 125.235 Keep improving access to, and the quality of, education for children, especially for those living in rural areas (Holy See);
- 125.236 Fully implement its national legislation to prevent violence against women and to eradicate gender discrimination (India);
- 125.237 Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all harmful practices against woman and girls, including child, early and forced marriage (Italy);
- 125.238 Continue its priority to support gender equality and the participation of women at decision-making levels (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 125.239 Develop strategies to address ongoing violence against women and girls, including femicides and sexual abuse (Portugal);
- 125.240 Take immediate measures to address the high rates of femicide and sexual and domestic violence against women and children by promptly investigating and prosecuting such crimes, by repealing legislative amendments that have weakened the implementation of Act No. 779 and providing specialized support for victims (Germany);
- 125.241 Ensure better protection of women and children by putting in place early warning mechanisms for signs of violence (Algeria);
- 125.242 Eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination and violence directed at indigenous and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex minorities (Australia);
- 125.243 Take urgent measures to combat all forms of violence against women and children, particularly sexual violence against girls, through strengthening of the legal framework, development of competent authorities and adequate support for victims (Austria);
- 125.244 Continue its efforts to strengthen the rights of women, particularly by enhancing their access to justice (Bhutan);
- 125.245 Increase efforts to reduce the levels of impunity for violence against women and girls (Brazil);
- 125.246 Establish comprehensive and transparent records of the incidence of domestic violence, sexual violence and maternal mortality, as well as femicides and discrimination against LGBTIQI (Cyprus);
- 125.247 Make further efforts to ensure full enjoyment of the rights of children (Italy);
- 125.248 Take all necessary measures to prevent violations of the human rights of children and adolescents, particularly the rights to life and health (Maldives);
- 125.249 Increase its efforts to reduce child labour by providing necessary incentives and allocating more funding to the education sector (Myanmar);
- 125.250 Further invest and develop policies to eliminate child labour, to reduce school dropout rates and to improve access to education in rural areas (Portugal);
- 125.251 Take measures to prevent violence against children and their labour exploitation in order to protect the rights of the child (Yemen);

125.252 **Allocate sufficient financial resources to support the effective implementation of legislation aimed at reducing the rate of child labour (Algeria);**

125.253 **Take measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of children and adolescents, particularly the right to life, health, participation and freedom of association (Malta);**

125.254 **Take bold measures to improve the process of awarding land titles to indigenous peoples (Mozambique);**

125.255 **Guarantee the traditional property regime of indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples and protect their ancestral cultural identity (Peru);**

125.256 **Ensure effective access to the right to seek and enjoy asylum by resuming the processing of asylum claims (Afghanistan);**

125.257 **Ensure effective access to the right to education for refugees and asylum seekers (Afghanistan);**

125.258 **Allow the voluntary and safe return of citizens who have fled the country from fear of reprisal (Australia);**

125.259 **Guarantee safe return and stay without reprisals for all those who have been forced to leave Nicaragua since the beginning of the crisis (Costa Rica).**

126. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Nicaragua was headed by H.E Mr. Valdrack Ludwing Jaentschke Whitaker, Minister Adviser to the President of Nicaragua for International Relations and the Wider Caribbean and composed of the following members:

- Su Excelencia Sr. Carlos Ernesto Morales Dávila, Representante Permanente de la República de Nicaragua ante la organización de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales acreditados en Ginebra, Suiza;
 - Sr. Javier Antonio Morazán Chavarría, Asesor de la Delegación del Gobierno de la República de Nicaragua para el tercer Examen Periódico Universal;
 - Sr. Maynor Josué Aragón Bravo, Secretario de las Relaciones Internacionales de la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos;
 - Sra. Nohelia Carolina Vargas Idiáquez, Primer Secretarí de la Misión Permanente de la República de Nicaragua ante la organización de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales acreditados en Ginebra, Suiza;
 - Sra. Elvielena Díaz Obando, Primer Secretarí de la Misión Permanente de la República de Nicaragua ante la organización de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales acreditados en Ginebra, Suiza.
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