

UPR of Nicaragua

Statement by Norway

8 February 2010

Norway would like to thank Nicaragua for their national report as well as their presence and presentation here today. We appreciate the response that has been given to some of our advance questions.

We have comments and recommendations with regard to four topics:

- 1 Norway appreciates that Nicaragua has ratified most universal and regional human rights treaties. It is also very positive that Nicaragua has retaken the practice of submitting periodic reports to the UN treaty bodies. Norway recommends that Nicaragua considers ratifying the ILO convention no 169 as soon as possible.
- 2 Norway is concerned by the reported persistent discrimination of the LGBT population. We welcome the recent decriminalization of homosexual relations in the Penal Code of 2008, as well as Nicaragua's appointment, as the first country in the region, of a Special Ombudsman for the Rights of Sexual Diversity.
- 3 When it comes to women's rights Norway shares the concern raised by civil society, the Human Rights Ombudsman and the UN over the criminalization of therapeutic abortion. We have noted the Government's reassurance that women will be given legal assistance when their lives are in danger, but we remain concerned about the lives and health of women and girls. Norway recommends Nicaragua to consider the abolition of the criminalization of therapeutic abortion in accordance with the recommendations made by various UN treaty bodies.
- 4 Norway strongly believes that human rights defenders play an important role in fostering a culture of human rights. We share the concern raised by inter alia the UN Human Rights Committee over reports depicting an increasingly difficult working environment for human rights defenders and journalists. We recommend that Nicaragua effectively investigates and prosecutes violations against human rights defenders and journalists. We also recommend that the Government forcefully denounces attacks against human rights defenders and that State authorities give human rights defenders legitimacy and recognition through supportive statements. Lastly, we recommend the Government to adopt appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Thank you!