

## **UPR of El Salvador**

Statement by Norway

9 February 2010

Mr. President,

Norway thanks the delegation of El Salvador for the presentation of the national report, and appreciates the inclusive process in its elaboration. The active participation of civil society is essential to a meaningful UPR process. We recommend that El Salvador establish an effective and inclusive process to follow-up on UPR recommendations.

Norway recognizes the commitment by El Salvador to strengthen its national system for protection of human rights. We welcome the official apology expressed by president Mauricio Funes on 16 January 2010 on human rights abuses committed by the state during the country's civil war.

Treaty bodies recommend that El Salvador strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society (OHCHR report para 8). Norway recommends that civil society and human rights defenders are included in the political dialogue and in the development of legislation, through open and transparent consultation processes.

The reported growth in the number of attacks and intimidations against human rights defenders and independent journalists gives room for concern. (Stakeholders report para 33). We recommend El Salvador to ensure that civil society organisations and journalists can exercise their right to freedom of expression and to participate in peaceful public gatherings and demonstrations. Further, we recommend that violations against human rights defenders and journalists are fully and effectively investigated, and those responsible brought to justice.

Norway recognizes the positive programs initiated by El Salvador towards women's basic rights. However, Norway is concerned that the formal participation by women in public administration, government, ministerial level and parliament recently has seen a decrease. We recommend El Salvador to take measures to increase women's participation in public life, both in matter of legislation and concrete actions.

Treaty bodies express concern at the high incidence of violence against women. Norway recommends that El Salvador intensify its efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and girls. We further recommend that El Salvador takes measures to ensure a transparent, independent and impartial investigation of these cases.

Thank you.