

UPR of Bolivia

Statement by Norway
10 February 2010

Norway thanks the delegation of Bolivia for the presentation of the National Report.

Norway congratulates Bolivia with the implementation of a new constitution which includes a full and comprehensive catalogue of human rights. Furthermore, we commend Bolivia for the considerable improvements made in terms of promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and for being among the first countries to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

While recognizing the improvements made in the national legal frameworks with regards to rights of indigenous peoples, Norway is still greatly concerned about the harsh living conditions and de facto servitude which many indigenous people are still subjected to. We therefore recommend the Bolivian government to intensify measures so that indigenous peoples' rights are respected at the community level.

Norway acknowledges the increase in the number of women participating in political life in Bolivia, but discrimination and violence against women remains a challenge. We are concerned about the high number of reported cases of violence against women, and recommend that a unified registry of these cases of violence against women be established and that Bolivia intensifies its effort to improve human rights for women.

Norway is also concerned about the paralysis of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Tribunal. The Bolivian government is recommended to designate members to these institutions of proven technical ability and who are independent of any external influence.

Finally, Norway is concerned about the apparent polarization of media and of the number of reported verbal and physical assaults on journalists. The government is recommended to thoroughly investigate complaints filed by journalists and to promote good relations with and between media institutions.