

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 49th SESSION

### Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Nicaragua (HRC res. 46/2)

7 March 2022

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights** mentioned that accountability is still not ensured in Nicaragua and regretted that restrictions on civil and political rights continue. She expressed deep concern over arbitrary detentions and harassment carried out by state agents against human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers and current cancellations of the legal personality of several institutions and civil society organizations. She urged Nicaragua to repeal the laws that unduly restrict civic and democratic space and to respect the rights of indigenous peoples who continue to suffer violent attacks in the context of territorial disputes. For the municipal elections scheduled this year, the government should take steps to restore a credible, fair and transparent electoral process and initiate a national dialogue, as offered by the President in January 2021.

**Nicaragua**, Ms. Wendy Carolina Morales Urbina (Country Concerned) expressed that the Council's application of human rights is rated unevenly from country to country, and it lends itself to the instrumentalization of human rights. The country disapproves of the sources used as the basis for the OHCHR's report, which only gathers the voices of some sectors with political, ideological and economic interests. The report contains biased information with the purpose of interfering in the country's internal affairs and echoes the interventionist policy of the **US** and some European countries.

**Canada on behalf of the Core Group of the Nicaragua resolution (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru), Sweden on behalf of Nordic-Baltic Countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden), the UK, the EU, the US and Uruguay** showed their concern for the continued arbitrary arrests and detentions in the country as well as to Nicaragua's refusal to cooperate with any international or regional organizations and mechanisms. They called on Nicaragua to engage with the international community, grant access to the OHCHR and promote spaces for dialogue and negotiation that allow the reestablishment of democracy.

**China, Cuba, DPK, Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation, Belarus and Iran** focused on the economic sanctions and UCMs that have led to the exacerbation of human rights issues in Nicaragua. They rejected the approach and opposed external interference in Nicaragua's internal affairs. **Eritrea, Sri Lanka, and Belarus** called on the discriminatory practice of selective country specific initiatives that breach the principles of universality, impartiality and non-selectivity. **Yemen** called for support and technical assistance to the Government of Nicaragua in order to overcome the economic and social challenges it is facing.

**NGOs** denounced the arbitrary detentions of political opponents, journalists and activists that persist and regretted the lack of progress from the authorities' part towards ensuring justice for recent abuses. Additionally, NGOs expressed concern for the lack of judicial independence and accountability. Some NGOs mentioned that enforced disappearances have become a tactic for repression in the country, that ending impunity is key as well as guaranteeing indigenous peoples' territorial rights.

*\*Nicaragua's Point of Order emphasized that the country is not a dictatorship.*

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (32 country delegations):

*Belgium (on behalf of GAF), Nicaragua, European Union, Sweden (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries), Canada (on behalf of a group of states), Germany, Paraguay, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ecuador, China, Cuba, Syrian Arab Republic, Spain, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Russian Federation, Chile, Uruguay, Belarus, United States of America, Belgium, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Colombia, Eritrea, Yemen, Georgia, Peru, Italy, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico.*

NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (9):

*Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Human Rights Watch, International Service for Human Rights, Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH), World Organisation Against Torture, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Amnesty International, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Ingenieurs du Monde.*

To watch full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).