



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

17th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's recommendations to Mexico

23 October 2013

Mr President,

Finland wishes to thank Mexico for the national report and its presentation today.

Finland welcomes the steps Mexico has taken to strengthen the protection of human rights, especially the comprehensive human rights reform to the *Constitution* and the *Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Act*.

However, Finland is extremely concerned about the reports on alarming numbers of cases of violence, harassment and killings of human rights defenders and journalists. We would like to ask about measures the Government is taking to protect them, especially women and indigenous human rights defenders, and to combat impunity.

Referring to the national report and acknowledging the Government's commitment to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, we would be interested in hearing more about the participatory and consultation mechanisms that are being developed.

Finland recommends that Mexico take concrete and effective measures to

- 1) implement the recommendations by the UN Treaty Bodies* regarding the protection of human rights defenders and journalists.**
- 2) ensure full and effective consultation of indigenous peoples on economic and development policies and projects affecting them.**

Thank you.

*** Human Rights Committee, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee against Torture, Committee on Migrant Workers**