

UPR 19 – NICARAGUA

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua.

We welcome the legislative advances made by Nicaragua since its last UPR while tackling violence against women. Some concerns, however, remain and the Government's implementation efforts should be strengthened.

We **recommend** that Nicaragua step up efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, including against rural and indigenous women, improve women's access to education and guarantee their right to health, including the sexual and reproductive rights. In this context, we also **recommend** launching public discussions on the eventuality of abortion in cases where a woman's health or life is at risk if she continues with the pregnancy, and, as a next step, decriminalizing abortion. We also **recommend** ratifying the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW.

While noting some gaps in the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression in Nicaragua, we **recommend** that plurality of the media be actively promoted, perpetrators of attacks on journalists held accountable and the defamation decriminalized.

Finally, we **recommend** creating an environment conducive to free, fair and inclusive elections, including by ensuring neutrality, independence and professionalism of the Supreme Electoral Council.