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**19th Session of the UPR working group
Questions and recommendations by Finland to Nicaragua
7th May 2014**

Mr. President,

Finland thanks Nicaragua for its UPR-report and the presentation before us today.

Finland welcomes Nicaragua's support of recommendations on the protection of women and girls who are victims of rape and violence, and the initially progressive Comprehensive Law against Violence against Women (Law 779) that was passed in 2012. However, the recent retrogressive amendments that have seriously undermined the law 779 and weakened the protections it initially offered to women survivors of violence are concerning.

Finland deeply regrets that during the last review Nicaragua rejected recommendations to repeal the total ban on abortion, which runs counter to recommendations made by five UN treaty bodies.

Finland recommends that Nicaragua repeals its current legislation that criminalizes the termination of pregnancies in all circumstances, including in cases of rape, incest and situations where the life of the mother is at risk. We also recommend that Nicaragua makes sure that adequate information on family planning and the regulation of fertility is publicly available.

Thank you.