

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, NINETEENTH SESSION, GENEVA, 28 APRIL – 9 MAY 2014 – SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF NICARAGUA - STATEMENT BY GHANA DELIVERED BY MR EBENEZER APPREKU, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, CHARGE D' AFFAIRES A.I. ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2014.

I thank you Mr President for giving me the opportunity to address this session

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Nicaragua and commends their commitment to the UPR Mechanism

We note in paragraph 4 of the OHCHR compilation that Nicaragua of efforts that have been made by Nicaragua to improve her national legal framework particularly relating to certain groups such as women, persons with disabilities, migrants and persons of African Descent. Ghana is also pleased that Nicaragua has issued standing invitation to all special procedures.

However, in view of the concern raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in paragraph 14 of the OHCHR compilation, Ghana recommends that Nicaragua take further urgent steps to eradicate de facto discrimination reportedly suffered by various groups including peoples of African descent in rural and remote areas of the country

Furthermore, Ghana recommends that Nicaragua takes steps:

To decriminalise defamation,

To submit its overdue initial reports to the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

To establish a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles

To ratify the optional protocol to the CEDAW and the optional protocol to Convention on the Rights of Children relating to individual complaints

I thank you Mr President