



**Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – 19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
NICARAGUA**

Geneva, 7 May 2014

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Nicaragua led by Her Excellency Ana Isabel Morales on the occasion of the presentation of the second report of Nicaragua to the UPR.

The Delegation of the Holy See welcomes the initiatives introduced by Nicaragua to promote and protect human rights, particularly the strengthening of national institutions that collaborate with international organizations.

The Holy See acknowledges the progress achieved in the increase of children attending school and for the programs that have been introduced to help the provision of food, health care, security of citizens and to diminish poverty. The efforts undertaken to guarantee the access to safe drinking water, to provide proper sewage treatment and to secure adequate housing are commendable and should be further pursued. We encourage Nicaragua to continue increasing its efforts to assure the participation of all groups of society in the political process and in decision making.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration:

- To continue monitoring and fighting the trafficking in persons and therefore to renew the National Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.
- To enact legislation that guarantees that all children are registered at birth and are provided with appropriate birth certificates.
- To raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years and to improve maternal and neonatal health services, especially in rural areas and among indigenous people.

Thank you Mr. President.