



56

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

UPR Nicaragua 7 May 2014 – Statement by Norway

Norway would like to thank the delegation from Nicaragua for presenting its national report.

We congratulate Nicaragua on the ratification of ILO-Convention number 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

Norway also congratulates Nicaragua on the increased respect for LGBT rights achieved since the decriminalization of homosexual relations in 2008. We recommend that Nicaragua continue this positive development and to assure the approval of an inclusive Family Code respectful of the right to gender identity and sexual orientation.

Norway commends the steps taken to guarantee access to free education and recognizes the increased number of adolescents enrolled in the school system. Norway recommends that Nicaragua continue to increase education quality and participation as a means to combat poverty and child labour.

Violence against women in Nicaragua remains a serious problem. The 2013 reform on the 779 Law is considered a weakening of both prevention and prosecution. Norway recommends that Nicaragua ratify the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW. Norway reiterates its concern from 2010 that the Penal Code has criminalized abortion. We recommend that Nicaragua decriminalize abortion, and ensures that girls and women are not subject to reprisals for seeking an abortion under any circumstances.

It is necessary to maximize the efforts to promote a culture of tolerance, dialogue and respect for human rights. Norway recommends that Nicaragua promote efforts to ensure that the right to freedom of expression can be fully exercised and that all violations against human rights defenders and journalists are effectively investigated and prosecuted.

Thank you.