**Universal Periodic Review of Nicaragua**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*15 May 2019, Geneva*

*Mr. President,*

The Polish delegation would like to thank the delegation of Nicaragua for the presentation of their national report. We acknowledge the activities undertaken by Nicaragua to comply with the recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the UPR.

Poland notes with appreciation the number of initiatives of the government of Nicaragua aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights in the country, in particular the release of over 230 people, according to official data, arrested in the context of the anti-government protests organized in 2018 and the decision to release all people detained in the context of the above mentioned demonstrations by mid-May this year as well as to drop the charges against them.

However, we remain alarmed by the restrictions on the enjoyment of all human rights, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly and due process, as an aftermath of the protests in Nicaragua. We are deeply concerned by the reported violence against the demonstrators, killings, detentions, torture, sexual violence and disappearances.

Therefore we would like to recommend the government of Nicaragua to:

* **conduct prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into the widespread human rights violations perpetrated by the police and armed pro-government groups against the participants of protest since April 2018 and to ensure the victims access to effective remedies.**
* **ensure that international human rights standards related to freedom of expression, including freedom of media, both online and offline, are upheld, and refrain from using any administrative, judicial, and financial means to unduly restrict the exercise of this right;**
* **immediately investigate all cases of attacks or violations against human rights defenders, members of NGOs and journalist and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice**;
* **grant international human rights mechanisms full and unhindered access to all parts of the country, including detention facilities, as well as access to all official documentation**;
* **continue effective dialogue with the opposition and all concerned parts of the conflict.**

Thank you.