**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**33rd SESSION**

**REVIEW OF NICARAGUA**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(15 May 2019)**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Nicaragua and thank them for the detailed presentation.

Turkey appreciates the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to improve the human rights situation in the country where huge social and political transformation is ongoing.

In this context, we welcome the steps taken by Nicaragua recently towards economic and social progress and encourage the Government to continue its efforts.

We are pleased to note that, according to the World Economic Forum report, Nicaragua is ranked 1st in terms of gender equality in the American Continent and 5th in the world. This has been achieved thanks to government’s active policy towards empowering economic independence of women and fighting with gender-based violence. We encourage the government of Nicaragua to continue these efforts.

We follow with concern the ongoing protests since April 2018. Within the perspective of the recent communication between the government and the opposition, we encourage the continuation of the “National Dialogue” in a constructive manner.

**We recommend** the relevant Nicaraguan authorities to maintain their efforts in promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with their international obligations.

Thank you Mr. President.