**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

33nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Nicaragua***

15 May 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Nicaragua and thanks for the presentation of the national report and its actualization on 23rd of April 2019.

Bulgaria would like to acknowledge the recent developments, related to the search for peace, peaceful coexistence and advancement in Nicaragua. We note the setting up of a Negotiation table on 27 February 2019, as well as the release of 200 detainees. We encourage the authorities to proceed with the timetable and the roadmap of the Negotiation table, and to ensure participation of all stakeholders.

Bulgaria deplores that excessive force, vigilante squads and arbitrary arrests were used by the authorities to discourage participation and to suppress the protests in the country that began on 18 April 2018. We call for the release of all political detainees.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Launch thorough investigation of the events that began on 18 April 2019 and bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations;
2. Restore the autonomy of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to it;
3. Adopt and effectively implement a National Action Plan to combat child and adolescent malnutrition, including measures to raise awareness, improve nutrition surveillance and promote positive behaviors around nutrition;
4. Adopt effective measures to address widespread adolescent pregnancy, including the development, implementation and monitoring, as well as costing and budgeting, of an integrated national prevention strategy.

We wish the Delegation of Nicaragua a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!