*Check against delivery*

**UPR33 – Nicaragua**

**Statement by Slovakia**

15 May 2019

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

Slovakia strongly condemns the repression against civil society organizations, media and journalists, and the use of anti-terrorist laws to suppress non-consented views in Nicaragua. Reports of arbitrary arrests and kidnappings allegedly committed by pro-government groups are matter of serious concern. We are disturbed that the abuses perpetrated by authorities remain unpunished.

Slovakia appeals to the reconstruction of a dialogue, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and democracy.

Slovakia therefore recommends that Nicaragua:

1. rehabilitate of the Special Monitoring Mechanism (MESENI) and renew the mandate of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI);
2. conduct prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into the widespread human rights violations perpetrated by various officials, including police and armed pro-government groups;
3. release of all those that were unlawfully imprisoned and ensure due process and fair treatment at all stages;
4. allow the return of the OHCHR country team and grant its full and unhindered access to all parts of the country and the information requested by it;
5. ratify the CED and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure;

We wish Nicaragua a successful review.

I thank you, Mr. President.