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## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

### **Nicaragua**


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## Introduction

1. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity, in accordance with its commitment to respecting human rights, peace and solidarity, hereby presents its achievements in the field of human rights in the period 2014–2018 to the international community in the framework of the third cycle of the universal periodic review.
2. In the interests of the peace and development of the Nicaraguan people, the Government welcomes the recommendations made by the international community during the first and second cycles of the universal periodic review, and has implemented most of them for the benefit of Nicaraguans.

## Methodology

3. This report was prepared in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and decisions 17/119 of 17 June 2011 and 31/116 of 23 March 2016.
4. A National Governmental Commission, chaired by the President of the Republic, was established in September 2018 to prepare reports due under the universal periodic review. It is composed of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Household, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Nicaraguan Army, the Counsel General's Office, the National Police, the Central Bank of Nicaragua, the National Development Information Institute, the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute, and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Control.
5. The National Governmental Commission worked in cooperation with other Nicaraguan State institutions<sup>1</sup> to gather and systematize information on the progress made and the challenges met in the period 2014–2018. Working groups, interviews, discussion sessions and exchanges were held in relation to the performance of each institution. The National Human Development Programme and the recommendations made by States during the second cycle of the universal periodic review were used as guidelines.
6. The present report was submitted for extensive consultation and validation by various community organizations and social leaders on 10 December 2018.<sup>2</sup>

## Victory for peace after failed coup d'état

7. In the period under consideration, Nicaragua resisted an attempted coup d'état, successfully restored peace and fraternal coexistence and oversaw a gradual return to normalcy. The attempted coup, which was born of interventionism, resulted in significant economic damage, destruction, terrorism in the guise of peaceful protest, the horrific murder of citizens and police officers, the burning of public and private property, assault, kidnapping, rape, extortion, torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
8. On 18 April, public protests were held during which no lives were lost. However, media hostile to the Government published false reports that a student from the Central American University had died. These reports triggered the violent events that occurred from 19 April onwards. Groups seeking to sow unrest and tear down the constitutional order of the country, which had nothing to do with social protest, caused rioting from that day forward.
9. From that day on, a series of violent events occurred that were intended to provoke chaos and social, economic and political unrest. These events undermined and violated public safety, life, individual mental and physical health, public and private property, family tranquillity, the normal functioning of the State and private entities and the right to free movement of the population, spreading terror, fear and intimidation with a view to undermining the legitimacy of the Government of Nicaragua and tearing down the

constitutional order in an unlawful and violent attempted coup d'état against the Government of President Daniel Ortega.

10. The Government of Nicaragua wishes to make clear that, as is evident from the turn of events, the violent activities of pro-coup groups involved armed individuals who intentionally used violence with a view, from the outset, to overthrowing the Government and tearing down the constitutional order.

11. As a result of the violent acts committed during the failed coup d'état, 198 people, including 22 police officers, lost their lives; some 1,240 persons were injured; 401 police officers were injured with firearms; and there were substantial economic losses. A total of 273 persons were charged in relation to the events.

12. Pro-coup groups also damaged public infrastructure: 252 buildings were vandalized, 209 kilometres of streets and roads were destroyed, 278 pieces of heavy machinery were vandalized and burned and 389 vehicles were destroyed. In monetary terms, the damage done to the economy was US\$ 205.4 million worth of destruction in the public sector, US\$ 231 million in losses in the tourism sector and US\$ 525 million in the transport sector. This had a direct impact on the population, leading to 119,567 job losses and a reduction of 7 million Nicaraguan córdobas (C\$) in the general national budget.

13. The manifesto of the Forums for Peace and Solidarity with Nicaragua of 26 October 2018, signed by the Latin American Ecumenical Committee for Peace in Nicaragua, the San Pablo Apóstol Christian Community of Managua, the Gaspar García Laviana Centre and political, social and religious leaders and intellectuals from Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, the United States of America, and Venezuela, states: "The first act of this seditious opposition was to provoke unprecedented violence in the streets of cities throughout the country, their use of barriers becoming a twisted symbol painfully rebaptized by the ordinary people as the 'barriers of death'. Its second act was to spread sheer, unadulterated terror by means of organized groups of mercenaries, not in search of 'dialogue', but to sow violence and terror among the population with one sole strategic objective, shouted defiantly and repeatedly in town squares and in the Cathedral of Managua: 'Get him out!' Once again, the elites and the extreme far right placed their bets on violence and terror in a viciously spiteful attempt to snatch the people's victory in the free, well-informed and constitutional presidential election of 2016 from their hands."

14. In the face of these violent events, State institutions have been working and will continue to work to protect the human rights of the Nicaraguan people.

## General aspects

15. The National Human Development Programme for 2018–2021 incorporates the core elements of the National Human Development Plan for 2012–2016. Its strategic objectives remain achieving sustained economic growth, reducing poverty, creating jobs, promoting and facilitating investment, reducing social inequality, improving living standards and protecting natural resources.

16. In the period 2014–2017, the macroeconomic performance of Nicaragua was one of the highest in the region, with an average growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 4.8 per cent, surpassing the growth of the global economy, which stood at 3.7 per cent in 2017.

17. The trend of the country's main economic and financial indicators demonstrated that economic activity was robust and diversified, while inflation remained low, averaging 4.6 per cent. These factors contributed to stable levels of public debt, which averaged 46.6 per cent of GDP, and to a sustained increase in the country's international reserves, which grew by almost 40 per cent overall during the reporting period, ending 2017 with a value of US\$ 2,757.8 million, which is 2.6 times larger than the monetary base.

18. Macroeconomic results in the period 2014–2017 surpassed international financial bodies' predictions. In June 2017, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) stated that the fiscal stance of Nicaragua was sufficient to maintain short-term macroeconomic stability. However, it pointed to the need to establish fiscal buffers to head off certain risks, such as the deficit which the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute is currently running.

19. Sustained economic growth contributed to an improvement in poverty indicators, with GDP per capita reaching US\$ 2,160.60 in 2017.

20. The failed coup d'état hampered the macroeconomic outlook for 2018, with contracting growth (-4 per cent), a higher fiscal deficit (4.5 per cent of GDP) and lower international reserve levels (US\$ 2,367 million at the end of year).

21. The worst affected areas were tourism, trade, the manufacturing industry, construction and financial intermediation; the latter has been faced with a gradual decrease in deposits (down by 19 per cent in September 2018 as compared with April that same year) and a deterioration in the quality of the loan portfolio.

22. In late October 2018, an IMF mission visited Nicaragua to assess the economic situation. The mission concluded that several shocks are affecting the Nicaraguan economy and confirmed its projection of a 4 per cent decrease in GDP for 2018. However, it highlighted the efforts of the authorities to maintain financial stability and limit increases in public spending.

**Public policies (recommendations 114.1, 114.3, 114.4, 114.15, 114.16, 114.19, 114.96, 114.97, 114.98, 114.100, 114.101, 114.102, 114.103, 114.104, 114.105, 114.106, 114.107, 114.108, 114.111, 114.112, 114.132, 114.141 and 114.142)**

23. The efforts of Nicaragua to eradicate overall and extreme poverty have received international recognition owing to the implementation of a model of direct, participatory democracy, based on partnership, complementarity and shared responsibility between central and municipal government, producers and businesspeople, in which the community plays a central role and acts as a civil branch of government.

24. Nicaragua made considerable economic and social progress in the reporting period. Sustained economic growth has been matched by significant progress in social indicators, as demonstrated by a reduction in overall and extreme poverty indicators. Overall poverty fell from 29.6 per cent in 2014 to 24.9 per cent in 2016, while extreme poverty fell from 8.3 per cent in 2014 to 6.9 per cent in 2016. Similarly, the inequality coefficient fell from 0.38 per cent to 0.33 per cent.

25. Nicaragua was one of the first Latin American countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty and hunger between 1990 and 2015, as recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme. It also met Millennium Development Goal 4, of reducing the under-5 child mortality rate per 1,000 live births by two thirds by 2015.

26. The Government is implementing a comprehensive food security and sovereignty policy through treasury-funded programmes, donations and loans with a view to achieving the objectives and goals set under the National Human Development Programme, the Millennium Development Goals and their successors, the Sustainable Development Goals. It has focused on improving budgetary management by optimizing its use of resources in order to build additional social and productive infrastructure and ensure that services are delivered efficiently and fairly; creating additional fiscal space in which to increase the quantity and quality of public spending; and maintaining balanced public finances.

27. Budgetary efforts to combat poverty have largely depended on the implementation of a policy on the restitution of the rights to health and education, a wages policy designed to correct the anomalies that arose in the drive for fiscal stability, subsidies for basic services (primarily public transport and taxis, water and energy) and the revitalization of public investment.

28. Resources have been earmarked for the following programmes: the Usura Cero fair microcredit programme; a rural road construction programme; the Plan Techo (Roof Plan); a food production voucher scheme; a funding and training programme for small, medium-sized and micro-enterprises; the Calles para el Pueblo (Streets for the People) programme; a project to install safe drinking water, sanitation and electric power systems in urban and rural areas; and subsidies for public transport in urban areas (with differentiated tariffs in the Caribbean coastal regions), energy use in settlements in economically deprived neighbourhoods, and energy and water use for the retired.

**Economic rights (recommendations 114.96, 114.97, 114.98, 114.99, 114.100, 114.101, 114.102, 114.103, 114.104, 114.105, 114.106 and 114.107)**

29. In order to provide food assistance and support for the most vulnerable in society, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity is currently implementing the following programmes:<sup>3</sup> the Zero Hunger Programme; the Patio Saludable (Healthy Yard) programme; the special support plan for small-scale producers; a programme focusing on adapting agriculture to climate change; a programme designed to improve the organizational and productive skills of cacao producers in the mining triangle; a programme focusing on family-run businesses in 10 municipalities in Las Segovias; a programme to support increased productivity and food and nutritional security in the Caribbean coastal region; a programme to support adaptation to market changes and the effects of climate change; a programme to support the development of production, agricultural, fishing and forestry systems in indigenous territories in the North and South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regions; a programme to support the national livestock value chain; a programme to support female artisans who make products derived from the *tuno* tree in the Sakalwas community of the Mayangna Sauni As territory, located in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region; a programme supporting the development of the dairy sector in the south-eastern livestock farming region in the Río San Juan and Ruta Santo Tomas-El Rama Basin; a sustainable development programme focusing on the livelihoods of rural families in the Nicaraguan dry corridor; and a programme supporting the inclusion of small-scale producers in value chains and their access to markets.

30. “Production capacity recovery” packs containing plants, seeds, organic fertilizers and agricultural tools, worth US\$ 150 each, were distributed to 4,107 families affected by Storm Nate in October 2017 in the departments of Boaco, Managua, Carazo, Granada and Rivas.

31. Foodstuffs are being distributed to help meet the basic needs of Nicaraguan families, including food for school-age and differently abled children, older people and vulnerable groups. National distribution networks for foodstuffs and household items at lower prices are being set up to make these items accessible to people on lower incomes.

32. According to FAO, Nicaragua met the Millennium Development Goal on hunger early, reducing undernourishment by 37.8 per cent. It successfully implemented poverty reduction programmes that provided funding and training for micro and small-scale agricultural production and, until 2016, disbursed an average of US\$ 2,871.3 million to fund such production each year.

33. The central Government has increased, and better targeted, its expenditure on poverty reduction, which now sits at a cumulative total of C\$ 204,309 million (this includes an annual allocation in the updated budget for 2018), having risen from 9.6 per cent of GDP in 2016 to 10.7 per cent of GDP in 2017. Average expenditure in the 2014–2017 period was 11 per cent of GDP. This is expected to drop to 10.1 per cent in 2018 as a result of the attempted coup d’état.

## **Labour rights (recommendations 114.19, 114.21, 114.24, 114.61, 114.62, 114.63, 114.143 and 115.2)**

34. The Government of Nicaragua promotes, guarantees and restores labour rights through the National Human Development Plan, its labour policy and labour legislation. A total of 47,328 persons registered with the Ministry of Labour's public employment service, of whom 43,225 were referred to companies and 23,672 found employment. The minimum salary is renegotiated and readjusted every year by a tripartite panel, affecting approximately 380,000 workers in various economic sectors. A total of 241 new trade union organizations registered in the various economic sectors and participated extensively in the negotiation and adoption of 240 collective agreements in the public and private sectors.

35. The labour rights of 1,459,096 workers were safeguarded through labour inspections intended to guarantee labour protection and conditions of non-discrimination on the grounds of, inter alia, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, financial position or HIV/AIDS status. Children and adolescents are guaranteed the enjoyment of their rights. Monitoring was carried out and 6,645 special child labour inspections were conducted. A total of 326 working children under the age of 14 were rescued and sanctions were imposed on their employers in accordance with the law. A total of 10,844 adolescents received protection and were guaranteed a safe environment in which to work, in accordance with provisions set out in the hazardous jobs list.

36. The Government guarantees labour protection measures, which are a human right of urban and rural workers, through labour counselling and training courses on labour law offered by regional labour committees with a view to ensuring prompt access to employment and administrative courts. Work has been carried out in conjunction with trade union organizations that defend the rights of domestic workers and female sex workers.

37. Labour counselling services have been provided to 473,502 workers. There are 241 newly registered trade union organizations and 4,052 trade union organizations have changed the composition of their boards of directors. The integration of persons with disabilities is provided for in Act No. 763 on the rights of persons with disabilities. A total of 666 persons with various types of disability were integrated into the labour market.

38. Labour legislation was brought into line with the obligations set out in the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). The Labour Code was translated into and published in Miskito and a training programme in Miskito was established to ensure that the Code is appropriated by and circulated among indigenous communities.

39. Specific clauses on the protection of women have been included in collective agreements to prevent discrimination, workplace harassment and sexual harassment, as well as to promote financial benefits. Since the protection and restoration of labour rights is a priority, female workers who have been dismissed without justification or owing to pregnancy are supported in taking legal action to ensure their return to work.

## **Family rights (recommendations 114.75, 114.76 and 114.77)**

40. In 2014, Nicaragua enacted Act No. 870 (the Family Code) and it has strengthened its institutions to ensure that the Act is properly applied. Its application has afforded families guaranteed access to specialized, prompt, free, straightforward, oral proceedings that protect their rights. A total of 29 specialized family courts have been established throughout the country, which has broadened coverage and access to justice. These courts have resolved 143,784 family-related cases.

41. With regard to nutrition, childcare, child-rearing, and contact and visiting arrangements, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children trained and certified 361 public sector employees in family counselling and restored the rights of 55,776 children and adolescents in these areas.<sup>4</sup>

42. To expedite the delivery of child support payments and protect children's right to receive them, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children has an automated single maintenance payments system, which currently processes 29,820 administrative and court-ordered child support payments nationwide.<sup>5</sup> In 2018, National Assembly Decree No. 8448 was adopted, approving accession to the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.

43. The Family Code and Act No. 908 on the Late Issuance and Correction of Civil Registry Acts guarantee children's right to a name, an identity and a nationality, since these data are registered immediately upon birth free of charge, which has benefited 20,782 children under the age of 12. The Family Code provides that men and women who have reached the age of 18 may lawfully enter into marriage.

**Right to health and social security (recommendations 114.17, 114.18, 114.19, 114.20, 114.21, 114.22, 114.24, 114.28, 114.29, 114.34, 114.54, 114.55, 114.56, 114.57, 114.58, 114.75, 114.99, 114.100, 114.105, 114.110, 114.113, 114.114, 114.115, 114.116, 114.117, 114.118, 114.119, 114.120, 114.121, 114.122, 114.123, 114.126, 114.132 and 114.140)**

44. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity continues to strengthen the right to health<sup>6</sup> through the family and community health-care model, which is based on the Primary Health-care Strategy, and promotes access to universal health care and free health services.<sup>7</sup>

45. The number of maternity facilities increased from 165 to 178 and the number of health centres increased from 1,287 to 1,520. The Mobile Clinics Programme<sup>8</sup> was launched in 2016 and has treated 2,820,982 persons in 66 clinics; and 83 facilities for persons with special needs were constructed.<sup>9</sup> The number of doctors increased from 5,566 to 6,318 and the number of health workers increased from 31,124 to 35,841. The maternal mortality rate decreased from 37 to 34 deaths<sup>10</sup> per 100,000 live births.

46. Under the Amor programme for very young children, home assistance was provided to 680,741 families with children under the age of 6 to help instil the values of "good living" in children and thus contribute to building a society free of violence.

47. Under the Todos con Voz (Everyone has a Voice) programme, 138,540 persons with disabilities received comprehensive home assistance and 53,202 assistive devices were handed out. A total of 48,525 persons with disabilities underwent a certification process and received disability cards, which guarantees that they will receive comprehensive medical care. There are eight audiological clinics and three orthosis and prosthesis clinics.

48. The Nicaraguan Social Security Institute guarantees social security for affiliated workers, disbursing financial benefits for incapacity, old age, death and professional risks and ensuring access to health services.<sup>11</sup>

49. The number of workers affiliated to the social security system increased by 9 per cent, rising from 690,870 persons in 2014 to 754,688 persons by September 2018. Similarly, the number of affiliated employers increased from 30,108 to 32,714, an increase of 9 per cent. This increase occurred despite the drop of 15.4 per cent in the number of affiliated persons from March to July 2018 as a consequence of the failed coup d'état.

50. In an effort to prevent cervical and breast cancer, 73,654 female workers took Papanicolaou, or Pap, tests and 149,752 insured women underwent clinical breast examinations; 12,971 of them went on to receive medical treatment. Between 2014 and 2017, the number of Pap tests performed increased by 71 per cent and the number of breast examinations conducted increased by 25 per cent. Programmes to treat cancer and kidney disease were expanded, benefiting 10,587 and 3,767 patients, respectively. The number of kidney dialysis machines rose from 155 to 406. Antiretroviral treatment was provided for 2,860 persons with HIV/AIDS and 2,632 persons were diagnosed with and treated for tuberculosis.



51. Access to health services has been widened for insured workers' children born with permanent disabilities, which has benefited 132 children between the ages of 13 and 38.

**Right to education (recommendations 114.28, 114.99, 114.110, 114.124, 114.125, 114.126, 114.127, 114.128, 114.129, 114.130, 114.131, 114.132, 114.133, 114.134, 114.135, 114.136, 114.137, 114.138, 114.139, 114.140, 115.1 and 116.25)**

52. The human right to a free, fair, high-quality, child-friendly education continues to be guaranteed. The implementation of the Education Plan for 2017–2021 is under way. Its strategic objectives are: (1) to improve the quality of education and provide an all-round education that will enable the current generation of students making their way through the education system to develop into better human beings, with relevant knowledge and an entrepreneurial spirit, and to prosper and contribute to the common good; (2) to increase educational coverage and to make education fairer, accessible at an appropriate age, flexible and relevant; and (3) to boost the human potential of staff in State schools by ensuring they have up-to-date knowledge, know-how and a strong commitment to high-quality education, and to increase institutional efficiency and effectiveness.

53. The education system was made more inclusive, with a focus on indigenous and Afrodescendent communities. Education takes account of indigenous languages and the world view of indigenous peoples, in line with national legislation.<sup>12</sup>

54. A total of 32,078 preschool, primary, secondary and special education teachers received training on how to deal with students with hearing, visual, intellectual or physical impairments, autism spectrum disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

55. To increase enrolment and retention in primary and secondary school, social solidarity programmes are being implemented for students in less-developed areas, who were provided with a total of 2,772,631 school kits, 1,995,806 pairs of shoes, 20,000 bicycles and 11,541,635 books. In addition, 5,370,168 students were provided with school meals under the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy.

56. The infrastructure of 1,748 schools was improved and improvements are being made to 2,132 classrooms and other school facilities: 116,607 new desks were provided, information and communication technologies were introduced into 765 schools, 169 mobile digital classrooms were set up, 439 schools gained access to the Internet and 293,464 persons underwent training in topics relating to educational technologies.

57. A curriculum and digital materials were put together for a course entitled “Digital competence for twenty-first century learning”, designed for tenth and eleventh grade students as part of the Digital Competences for Learning, Entrepreneurship and Prosperity Certification Strategy for Secondary School Students.

58. The proportion of educators without professional training decreased from 19 per cent to 12.96 per cent in primary schools and from 43 per cent to 5.03 per cent in secondary schools. A total of 37,208 education workers underwent vocational training or received diplomas or master's degrees.

59. Subjects that contribute to an all-round education were incorporated into the national curriculum, such as “Growing up with values” and “Learning, entrepreneurship and prosperity”. Basic English is being taught to 77,161 children in the first grade of primary school and above.

60. An enrolment registration system for students was set up, a school bulletin was established and students can now enrol in all classes online. Education community advisory councils are up and running, with 160,000 volunteers and 460,828 participating parents.

61. An early warning system set up in 2016 to identify situations of risk or emergency in schools and to provide support has contributed to the well-being, safety and tranquillity of the educational community.

62. In 2014, 447 secondary-level distance-learning centres were opened in the countryside to bring an education to children and adolescents living in disadvantaged rural areas who have historically had no access to education. There are currently 522 such centres.<sup>13</sup>

**Rights of children and adolescents (recommendations 114.2, 114.17, 114.18, 114.19, 114.20, 114.26, 114.28, 114.39, 114.50, 114.53, 114.57, 114.58, 114.59, 114.60, 114.61, 114.62, 114.65, 114.67, 114.70, 114.71, 114.72, 114.73, 114.74, 114.100, 114.110, 114.116, 114.117 and 114.118)**

63. Nicaragua adopted and is currently implementing a public policy on strengthening Nicaraguan families and preventing violence<sup>14</sup> in order to promote, protect and restore the human rights of families, women, children and adolescents and to guarantee them a life free from violence.

64. Strategies are in place to promote care and support for children's development from the womb onwards, and the following programmes are being implemented: the Welfare Programme for Children Living in Extreme Poverty in Urban Areas, the Social Welfare Project and the Support Programme for the Implementation of the National Early Childhood Policy.

65. The Family Code regulates the return of children who have been unlawfully taken to foreign countries. The child development centre network<sup>15</sup> increased from 60 centres to 270 centres around the country, which significantly increased coverage and the availability of care for the young children of working mothers. An early warning violence-prevention system was introduced and family counsellors provided support and care to 42,073 persons.<sup>16</sup>

66. A total of 2,913 public servants from the National Social Welfare System received training on matters relating to special protection and prevention and 1,169,979 pamphlets on caring for small children were sent out to promote care and support for children's development from pregnancy until the age of 6.

67. The Early Childhood Policy and rules established by the Ministry of the Family, Children and Adolescents<sup>17</sup> promote new approaches to child-rearing, such as the development of parenting skills, encouragement of early learning in the family setting and the prohibition of all forms of physical punishment or humiliating treatment as a means of correcting behaviour or instilling discipline in schools and residential childcare facilities. A total of 160,978 home visits were conducted.

68. Awareness-raising campaigns were implemented to promote communication, violence prevention, educational alternatives, equality and the prevention of school bullying. They incorporated cross-cutting themes relating to human rights, inter-generational issues and gender. The 133 helpline was set up to assist victims.

69. Act No. 779 and the Code on Children and Adolescents set out penalties for the physical abuse of children and adolescents by their parents, guardians or any other person, who may not invoke the right to discipline as a defence. The law also prohibits teachers, the authorities, public officials and persons employed by or working for the education system from applying abusive measures and punishments of any kind.

70. Part of the work of the Public Prosecution Service is dedicated to protecting the rights of children and adolescents so as to ensure that they receive rightful child support, by raising public awareness of both parents' obligation to protect and guarantee the rights of their children and the well-being of their families.

71. The Public Prosecution Service adopted a procedural protocol on the appointment of a special prosecutor for juvenile criminal justice, in accordance with best practices in the promotion of restorative juvenile justice. A total of 609 settlements and agreements were

reached as an alternative to conflict resolution through the juvenile criminal courts, which represents 14 per cent of all charges brought.

72. The Nicaraguan judiciary has made access to justice a priority, particularly access to justice for women, children and adolescents, and has enlarged and strengthened 75 special courts dealing with violence, families and children, the judicial facilitators system, and the women's and children's clinics and DNA laboratories managed by the Institute of Forensic Medicine.

73. The Juvenile Criminal Justice System Regulations and the Manual on the Public Defender System for Adolescents are used to train State judicial officials in restorative justice and the prevention of double victimization.

74. Nicaragua has adopted the Brasilia Regulations regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People.<sup>18</sup> Children and adolescents receive support during judicial proceedings, judges do not wear robes, screens are used, interagency cooperation mechanisms have been set up and proceedings are conducted swiftly so that decisions can be made within a reasonable time, and so on.

75. The National Police established two training centres that provide specialized care for children, adolescents and young people at risk. The centre is a point of reference in the region and across Latin America. Training was provided for 13,072 young people.

### **Rights of older persons (recommendation 114.17)**

76. Act No. 900 on Reduced Pensions for Older People Insured by the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute was adopted in 2015 with a view to the continued protection of older people. The number of old-age pensioners guaranteed the right to health care without exception increased by 39 per cent, rising from 72,032 in 2014 to 100,224 in 2018. A total of 97,070 surgical operations were conducted in the country's three ophthalmology centres, restoring vision to thousands of older people.

### **Women's rights (recommendations 114.17, 114.27, 114.28, 114.29, 114.30, 114.31, 114.32, 114.39, 114.40, 114.41, 114.42, 114.43, 114.44, 114.45, 114.46, 114.47, 114.48, 114.49, 114.50, 114.51, 114.52, 114.53, 114.57 and 114.100)**

77. Priority has been given to incorporating a gender perspective into policies, plans, programmes and legislation guaranteeing the restoration of rights and the full and active participation of women in decision-making.

78. Nicaragua rose four positions to rank six in the global equity index. It ranks first for gender equity in the Americas. It also ranks fifth with regard to the number of women serving in parliament<sup>19</sup> and first with regard to the number of women who occupy ministerial roles.<sup>20</sup>

79. The proportion of public positions held by women is 59.7 per cent in the judicial branch, 56 per cent in the executive branch and 45.7 per cent in parliament, while 44 per cent of mayors, 55.55 per cent of deputy mayors and 50 per cent of councillors are women.

80. Strategies were adopted to empower and enhance the leadership skills of 78,295 female community leaders, councillors, mayors, deputy mayors, public servants and entrepreneurs, and policies and instruments with earmarked funding were formulated to incorporate best gender practices in State institutions.

81. Significant progress was made on the legislative front through the adoption of Act No. 870 (the Family Code), which strengthened special protection measures for women victims of violence and introduced an obligation to report domestic violence.

82. The proper application of Act No. 779 and its amendments is ensured through the training of judicial officials, the consideration of gender perspectives at all stages of

criminal procedure, criminal sentence analysis, the application of procedural protocols and institution-building.

83. To facilitate women's access to justice, the Institute of Forensic Medicine conducted 167,009 expert appraisals as part of investigations into offences against life, health and physical, mental and sexual integrity.

84. A total of 69,605 criminal cases were heard and 43,587 were resolved, which represents 62 per cent of the total. The courts have interdisciplinary teams of psychologists and social workers in place to support women victims of violence. A total of 65 sentences for femicide have been handed down, all of which resulted from convictions, which demonstrates that there is no impunity.

85. The Judicial Observatory for Gender-based Violence of the Supreme Court of Justice was strengthened in order to follow up on and monitor the application of precautionary and protective measures, judicial decisions and judicial statistics relating to the offences established in Act No. 779.

86. Institutional, inter-institutional and community coordination and training activities were carried out to prevent and address violence against women and to monitor protection measures.

87. Microcredit was awarded to 1,553 women at risk, or victims, of violence, fostering their personal growth and that of their businesses and contributing to their full recovery. Craft workshops were organized for indigenous craftswomen from the North Caribbean Coast, who were provided with *tuno*, timber-yielding and fruit-tree seedlings.

## **Right to drinking water and sanitation (recommendations 114.99 and 114.109)**

88. Progress was made in the universal and equitable provision of drinking water and sanitation in urban areas through the installation of 104,627 new drinking water supply connections, restoring the right to water of 575,541 people, and the installation of 85,840 new sewage system connections, which benefited 460,065 people. This increased urban drinking water coverage from 87.2 per cent to 92.5 per cent and increased urban sewage system coverage from 40.5 per cent to 47.1 per cent. In rural areas, 53 wells and 10,159 new drinking water connections were constructed and 2,010 drinking water connections were renovated, benefiting 93,106 people. In addition, 10,001 new sanitation units and 1,308 sanitary connections were installed to the benefit of 73,223 people. This helped to increase rural drinking water coverage from 41.77 per cent to 54.90 per cent and to maintain rural sanitation coverage at 50.04 per cent.

89. In late 2014, a ground and surface water monitoring campaign was launched to improve water resource planning. The quality of water intended for human consumption continues to improve thanks to reduced contamination, with 30,826 check-ups and inspections having been conducted on water sources. A total of 175,457 water quality assessments have been conducted to guarantee that the water distributed is fit for human consumption according to national and international standards.

90. Pursuant to integrated water resource management plans established at the national level and by water basin, 21 water basin committees were set up and three plans were drafted, for the Río Mayales Sub-basin, the Río Colorado Microbasin and Basin 72, between Río Brito and Río Sapoa. A plan for the Río Dipilto Basin is currently being drafted. As part of land management and land-use planning efforts, 207 ground and surface water sources were declared fit for human consumption.

91. Special licences for the development of water sources for human consumption were granted to drinking water and sanitation committees in the communities of León, PoneLOYA, El Palenque, Murra, Juigalpa and San Juan de Limay. Special licences for the drinking water and sanitation committees of the communities of Las Ánimas, Dipilto Viejo, Las Manos, La Tablazón, Las Nubes, El Naranjo, La Laguna 1 and Ocotál are being prepared for legal certification.

## **Access to electricity, production infrastructure and communications**

92. Nicaragua ensures that the most vulnerable sectors of the population, such as those living in rural areas, have access to electricity. The electricity coverage rate increased by 14.6 per cent, rising from 80.4 per cent in 2014 to 95.31 per cent by October 2018 as a result of the implementation of 4,388 projects, bringing electricity to 559,820 homes and 2.9 million inhabitants. Sixty per cent of the energy consumed comes from renewable sources.

93. Work is almost complete on a power line stretching from the mining triangle to Wilwi, which involves over 200 kilometres of high voltage lines and towers. A total of 140 kilometres of lines were constructed for the benefit of the communities on the banks of Río Coco. In addition, electricity production doubled, rising from 700 megawatts to 1,500 megawatts. Electrical substations are being constructed to improve the flow of energy to municipalities and communities. The cost of investment in each substation is between 7 and 8 million dollars.

94. The national port system is composed of six large commercial maritime ports, as well as lake ports and terminals, that were strengthened during the reporting period.<sup>21</sup> Road and river transport routes through rural areas have also been strengthened, fostering productive and commercial activities, widening access to basic services and improving the quality of life.

95. With regard to road infrastructure, progress is being made in the construction, improvement and maintenance of the country's road network, facilitating access to the main strategic corridors and communication between regions and connecting the Caribbean coastal region to the central and Pacific regions to foster development in the agricultural, fishing, mining and industrial sectors and to increase the availability of education, health care, water, energy, communications, tourism and trade.

96. A total of 767 kilometres of road were built, connecting 15 departments and two Caribbean coastal regions, which benefited 126 municipalities with a total population of 3.5 million and contributed to reducing the national poverty rate. An average of 3,596 kilometres of unpaved road underwent maintenance works each year; 71 bridges with a combined length of 2,639 metres were built and 2,494 metres of drains were constructed.

97. Plans are currently being drawn up for a port in Bluefields, on the South Caribbean Coast, which will have an impact on all sectors of the economy. Plans for a road between Sasha and Puerto Cabezas, which include a bridge over the Río Wawa, were completed. Work is under way to increase road capacity at the entry points to the city of Managua to reduce traffic congestion.

## **Right to decent housing (recommendations 114.99 and 114.110)**

98. The Government has made solving the housing problem a top priority and is implementing a policy to restore the right of Nicaraguan families, especially the poorest families, to decent, comfortable and safe housing. It has introduced housing incentives such as direct subsidies, the advance payment of benefits to workers with a long employment history, subsidized interest rates on mortgage loans, ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 per cent a year for 10 years, and exemption from value-added tax.

99. In accordance with this policy and on the basis of the shared-responsibility model, 57,859 houses were built or renovated, which benefited an equal number of families and a total of 236,165 persons.

## **Right to own property and the restitution of indigenous peoples' property (recommendation 116.26)**

100. In the interests of legal certainty and to resolve social conflicts arising from property-related issues, 138,737 land titles have been issued,<sup>22</sup> which has benefited 542,333 persons,<sup>23</sup> of whom 55 per cent are women and 45 per cent are men. This has fostered the economic development of families and small-scale producers by affording them legal ownership of their parcels of land.

101. A total of 225,080 parcels of land were measured and 2,114 conflicts were addressed in cooperation with the Office for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, 59 per cent of which were satisfactorily resolved, with agreements yet to be reached in the remaining 41 per cent. The cases of 5,171 individuals have been heard (2,562 women, representing 49.5 per cent, and 2,609 men, representing 50.5 per cent).

102. In the wake of the failed coup d'état, 288 illegal seizures of property were registered. To restore order and ensure legal certainty over property, the State has conducted 256 non-violent evictions, representing 88.8 per cent of seized properties, and is in the process of arranging evictions from the remaining 11.2 per cent.

103. The Constitution recognizes the existence of the collective right of indigenous peoples to their lands. Territorial land titles therefore continue to be awarded. During the reporting period, eight community titles were awarded – 6 in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and 2 in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region<sup>24</sup> – covering 15,347.89 square kilometres of land, which represents 13 per cent of the national territory and 23.6 per cent of the Caribbean coastal region. This benefited 92 communities, the inhabitants of 81 cays and 17,257 families.

104. Eight titles were awarded between 2014 and 2018, which, when added to the 15 titles awarded in the previous reporting period, brings the total to 23 titles awarded in response to requests made by indigenous communities. Another title is currently being prepared for a territory in Alto Wanki, which represents 4 per cent.

## **Right to a healthy environment and protection from the effects of climate change (recommendation 114.22)**

105. Nicaragua has fulfilled its commitments as a State party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, having adhered to the Paris Agreement, prepared its third national communication and submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution. Nicaragua actively participates in and is committed to climate change negotiations.<sup>25</sup>

106. In 2018, Nicaragua, representing the developing countries, became co-chair of the Green Climate Fund alongside Sweden.

107. Nicaragua has made important strides towards addressing the challenges of climate change, such as the transformation of its electricity production grid, which increased the production of renewable energy to 50.72 per cent in 2018.<sup>26</sup>

108. A programme is being implemented in the agricultural, land use, and land-use change sector to combat climate change and poverty together with rural communities and indigenous people who live in the forest regions of the Caribbean coastal region, Bosawás and Indio Maíz. The programme will reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by approximately 11 million tons of carbon dioxide.<sup>27</sup>

109. National progress in adapting to climate change is reflected in the implementation of 197 climate-change adaptation technologies in the water resource, forestry, biodiversity and agriculture sectors.<sup>28</sup>

**Right to public safety and justice (recommendations 114.14, 114.19, 114.35, 114.36, 114.37, 114.38, 114.64, 114.65, 114.66, 114.67, 114.68, 114.69, 114.88, 114.92, 115.8, 116.17, 116.18 and 116.19)**

110. At the national, regional and international levels, Nicaragua is recognized as the safest country in the Central American region and as an authority on matters of safety in Latin America. It is the third least violent country in Latin America. A State sovereignty and public safety strategy is in place and the National Police works in close cooperation with society to resolve security issues at the community level.

111. The homicide rate remained 7.5 for every 100,000 inhabitants, which is four times less than the average rate across the Central American region. The police solve an average of 94 cases for every 100 complaints received, of which only 6.3 per cent relate to highly dangerous offences.

112. The number of prosecutors at the national level rose by 36 per cent compared with the previous reporting period. Prosecutions were brought in 102,036 cases and specialized legal counselling and psychological support services for victims – particularly women, children and adolescents – were provided on 391,255 occasions.

113. The Institute of Forensic Medicine conducted 364,266 expert appraisals, facilitating access to justice for persons who reported acts of physical, psychological or sexual violence or violent deaths. In a large proportion of cases, forensic examination did not reveal the presence of physical or mental injuries. In 65 per cent of cases where injuries were discovered, medical treatment was not required for the healing process. The injuries of 95.9 per cent of persons were not life-threatening. These data show that, in Nicaragua, the rate of mortality resulting from violence is low and violence does not generally cause serious harm to the health and physical integrity of the person.

114. The judicial branch continues to strengthen and modernize the administration of justice through:

(a) The judicial facilitators service, which has been introduced in 153 municipalities to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable groups and to promote a culture of peace and knowledge of the law, to prevent crime, to restore rights, to resolve social conflict and to avoid recourse to legal proceedings;

(b) Free legal assistance in criminal, family and civil affairs for vulnerable persons. Each year, legal assistance is provided around 119,290 times. An additional 377 public defenders were appointed, bringing the level of coverage to six defenders for every 100,000 inhabitants. A total of 42,032 children and adolescents saw their right to child support restored, to the amount of C\$ 193,099,626.59, or US\$ 6,028,711.41;

(c) The strengthening of special courts dealing with violence, families and children, as well as subsidiary bodies such as the General Directorate of the Judicial Inspection Service, the National Registry, the Office for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, the Institute of Forensic Medicine, the Technical Office for Monitoring the Juvenile Justice System, the Office for Court Management and the office for enforcing and monitoring sentences imposed on juveniles;

(d) The establishment of a specialized national centre for persons deprived of liberty, complete with maternity facilities and a mechanism for analysing cases in which early release from prison is possible, helping to reduce overcrowding. Alternatives to imprisonment were granted to 2,215 inmates, 309 foreign convicts were expelled and a further 67 were transferred to their countries of origin to complete their sentences;

(e) The general application of the recommendations set out in the Brasilia Regulations across all courts specializing in violence, in order to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable persons, and the introduction of oral proceedings in trials to streamline the course of justice;

(f) The strengthening of the restorative juvenile justice system through the adoption of legislation, the training of public officials and the establishment of multisectoral community programmes facilitating the reintegration and recovery of adolescents;

(g) The elevation of the National Council on Judicial Administration and Service to constitutional rank and the strengthening of the National Directorate of the Judicial Service, which organizes the selection, appointment and promotion of judicial officials, to increase the independence of the judicial branch. A total of 637 public servants were recruited through 18 selection processes and the performance of 409 public officials from various parts of the judicial service was assessed and validated.

### **Fight against trafficking in persons and rights of irregular migrants (recommendations 114.54, 114.55, 114.56 and 114.144)**

115. The Government of Nicaragua continually works to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in a way which is consistent with efforts to harmonize legislation among Central American and Caribbean States. In 2015, it enacted Act No. 896 on combating human trafficking.

116. The National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and the Single National Register of Information on Trafficking in Persons were established. The Coalition brings together 25 governmental bodies,<sup>29</sup> municipal bodies and children's organizations and has 17 departmental panels. It makes proposals for inter-institutional procedural protocols. It conducted 8,619 prevention and awareness-raising activities in which 467,863 persons participated, trained 44,232 public officials (21,364 men and 22,868 women), and established a training course on the international return of children and adolescents for judicial officials.

117. These prevention activities resulted in fewer victims and complaints of trafficking in persons and fewer cases brought to trial as compared to the previous reporting period.<sup>30</sup> In all, 30 cases were recorded, 60 persons were investigated, and 22 cases were brought to trial, as a result of which 20 persons were convicted and 2 acquitted. There are currently eight cases under investigation. A total of 73 victims were rescued (13 were male and 60 female); of the total, 10 were children, 28 were adolescents and 35 were adults.

118. Four training and equipment projects were carried out with the technical and financial support of international cooperation agencies at a total cost of US\$ 292,890.

119. With regard to mixed migration flows, Nicaragua has not criminalized forced or voluntary irregular migration, which it conscientiously manages by continually improving reception conditions in migration offices at checkpoints along the national border; continuously analysing the regional and interregional migration situation in order to adjust national migration policy in a way that is respectful of human rights; conducting coordinated operations with the National Police, the Nicaraguan Army and the Office of Migration and Alien Affairs to uncover and combat irregular migration and human smuggling networks; establishing and continually improving accommodation for identified irregular migrants; and continuously conducting training and awareness-raising programmes for staff on how to identify and process irregular migrants and victims of human smuggling and trafficking.

120. To successfully identify migrants, efficient communication channels have been established with consular authorities accredited in Nicaragua, and irregular migrants may receive visits from family members and communicate with their consulates. Once a migrant's identity has been established, his or her return to the country of origin is promptly arranged.

121. Vulnerable groups found in mixed migration flows can include migrants seeking asylum or refuge, women victims of violence, persons who have suffered psychological



trauma or who have acquired disabilities as a result of the hardship of migration, pregnant women, older people, and unaccompanied children and adolescents.

122. To deal with such cases, the Government coordinates the various agencies concerned in order to facilitate the provision of comprehensive health care, support for vulnerable minors to ensure they are not separated from their parents, the evaluation of requests for refugee status or asylum, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and support for vulnerable migrants until the moment they leave the national territory.

**Promotion and defence of human rights (recommendations 114.5, 114.6, 114.7, 114.8, 114.9, 114.10, 114.11, 114.12, 114.13, 114.14, 114.18, 114.19, 114.21, 114.22, 114.23, 114.24, 114.33, 114.34, 114.35, 114.36, 114.37, 114.88, 114.89, 114.90, 114.109, 114.139, 115.3, 115.6, 116.13, 116.14 and 116.15)**

123. The Nicaraguan Office of the Human Rights Advocate protects human rights on an individual level, monitors the State authorities, receives complaints of human rights violations, and issues recommendations on reparations and measures to restore the rights of complainants.

124. Nicaragua pursues a general policy on the promotion and protection of human rights through the joint, coordinated and harmonized work of all its institutions. This policy has been incorporated into the National Human Development Plan, featuring prominently in the component on the human security strategy.

125. Nicaragua promotes the inclusion of all communities in national cultural activities, which contributes to good living, prosperity and happiness.

126. Inquiries were conducted into respect for the human rights of people of diverse sexuality, the right of children and adolescents with disabilities to an inclusive education in mainstream schools, the right of children and adolescents to protection from the non-payment of child support, and the human rights of child and adolescent health-system users.

127. To verify whether the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS were being respected, visits were conducted to schools, child protection centres, early childhood development centres, health centres and referral hospitals throughout the country.

128. To promote respect for human rights, 23 fairs were held – 9 related to health and 14 to children and adolescents – and 1,255 training courses were organized for various civil service institutions and the general public, with a total of 53,479 people undergoing training.

129. In the wake of the violent events that began in April 2018, the Office of the Human Rights Advocate established a victims' committee to receive and investigate complaints and to demand justice and reparation for victims without distinction of any kind.

**Right to freedom of expression and freedom of association (recommendations 114.78, 114.79, 114.80, 114.81, 114.82, 114.83, 114.84, 114.85, 114.86, 114.87, 114.91, 114.93, 114.94, 114.95, 115.7, 115.8, 116.20 and 116.21)**

130. In accordance with the Constitution, the right to impart information is a social responsibility and must be exercised in strict compliance with constitutional principles. This right cannot be subject to censorship but may be subject to other responsibilities established by law. The media, in keeping with their social function, must contribute to the development of the nation.

131. The full exercise of the right to freedom of expression is guaranteed as there is no prior censorship or applicable restriction of any kind. Journalists may monitor, investigate and criticize politicians and the activities of the administration. Media and journalists

hostile to the Government publish all sorts of information, including fake news and articles that encourage criminal acts and promote violence and hatred, but the Government's policy has nevertheless been not to place restrictions on any media agency.

132. The independence and pluralism of the media are respected, as evidenced by the fact that the only two national newspapers in Nicaragua and two local newspapers in the capital are privately owned, as are all the television channels with the exception of Canal 6, which is State-owned.

133. There are 377 authorized FM and AM radio stations and 29 authorized free-to-air VHF and UHF television stations broadcasting a wide variety of content. There is mobile-phone network coverage in every municipality and 85 per cent of the population has access to a mobile Internet network.

134. The freedom of the press is protected and media agencies and journalists are not persecuted for exercising this right in strict compliance with the Constitution and the law. No proceedings of either an administrative or a criminal nature have been opened against persons for doing their job as journalists.

135. Access to public information is guaranteed through offices set up for that purpose and the websites of State institutions.

136. Full access to the media is guaranteed during political campaigns, ensuring freedom of expression, thought and movement, in accordance with the Constitution, the Elections Act and the Code of Electoral Ethics.

137. The right of peaceful assembly is fully guaranteed. Its exercise does not require prior authorization. The right of Nicaraguans to express their opinion freely in public or in private, individually or collectively, in written form, orally or by any other means is also fully guaranteed. The right of public assembly, demonstration and movement in accordance with law is recognized.

138. The constitutional right to freedom of association is guaranteed, as evidenced by the existence of 7,227 duly registered not-for-profit organizations, 3,276 of which registered during the reporting period.<sup>31</sup> The National Assembly has never been called upon to revoke the legal status of any non-governmental organization.

## **Right to vote and to run for election (recommendations 115.4 and 115.5)**

139. Electoral rights are guaranteed in the Constitution and its amendments, the Elections Act, the Municipalities Act, and the Act on Equal Rights and Opportunities to ensure greater participation, inclusion, representation, equity, proportionality and rotation between women and men.

140. During the general election in 2016, the municipal elections in 2017 and the elections to the regional councils of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples in 2014, the free, direct and confidential participation of the Nicaraguan people exercising their right to vote was guaranteed, as was the participation of 18 political parties. Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra was elected President of the Republic in 2016, obtaining 72.44 per cent of the votes cast. The electoral process was monitored by the Organization of American States, which recognized the result.

141. Progress was made in voter registration, with an increase of 17.74 per cent<sup>32</sup> in the number of citizens registered on the basis of their identity cards for the municipal elections in 2017. The number of polling stations in urban and rural areas increased by 2 per cent, rising from 12,960 stations during the general election in 2011 to 13,206 stations during the municipal elections in 2017.

## International commitments and dialogue (recommendation 114.25)

142. In compliance with its international commitments, Nicaragua participates in the Human Rights Council, the Inter-American human rights system, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, the Central American Integration System, the Ibero-American Conference, the Summit of the Americas, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and all bodies of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

143. Nicaragua strengthened its alliances with friendly countries and international bodies, making progress in the recovery, promotion and defence of our culture and cultural heritage through educational activities and cultural exchanges, cooperation agreements, Nicaraguan and foreign art exhibitions, education in the arts and culture, and the updated curricula, new structure and reclassification of the National Schools of the Arts.

144. In order to continue perfecting the electoral system, in 2016, Nicaragua signed a memorandum of understanding with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. A panel for dialogue and constructive interaction was set up, comprising representatives of the Government of Nicaragua and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, and several agreements were reached on strengthening political and electoral institutions in Nicaragua.

145. The Government of Nicaragua reiterates its resolve to back up its international commitments by focusing on areas of agreement and working together with others to protect and promote human rights in all areas.

## Conclusion

146. The present report sets out the significant progress made by the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity in the protection, promotion and safeguarding of the human rights of Nicaraguans in the period 2014–2018, as well as the progress made in social and economic development as a result of implementing measures under the National Human Development Plan, State policies and international commitments.

147. The violent events that occurred from 18 April 2018 onwards had a negative impact on the hitherto sustained human development of Nicaragua and prevented the population from being able to fully exercise their human rights, such as their rights to free movement, health care, food, education, work, peace, security and tranquillity.

148. The peace-loving Nicaraguan people resisted the attempted coup d'état and chose to continue building on the peace, stability and well-being that they had achieved. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity is implementing a number of economic, social, political and legislative measures to reboot the economy, bring back stability, guarantee public safety and restore the rights of Nicaraguans. It is also holding a wide-ranging consultation on a proposal for a State policy on building a culture of peace and reconciliation, which will promote the values and customs of respect, solidarity, dialogue, coming together and harmonious coexistence throughout Nicaragua in schools, homes and the community at large.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Ministerio Público, Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Asamblea Nacional, Consejo Supremo Electoral, Poder Judicial, Autoridad Nacional del Agua, Consejo Nacional de Universidades, Empresa Nicaragüense de Alimentos Básicos, Empresa Nicaragüense de Acueductos y Alcantarillados, Empresa Portuaria Nacional, Fondo de Inversión Social de Emergencia, Instituto Nacional Tecnológico, Instituto Nicaragüense de Cultura, Instituto Nicaragüense de Fomento Municipal, Instituto de la Vivienda Urbana y Rural, Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales, Ministerio de Energía y Minas, Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público, Ministerio de la Juventud,

- Ministerio de Transporte e Infraestructura, Secretaría para el Desarrollo de la Costa Caribe, Secretaría de la Presidencia y el Instituto Nicaragüense de Telecomunicaciones y Correos.
- 2 Fueron consultadas más de 130 organizaciones comunitarias y protagonistas sociales, entre los que se encuentran: el Frente Nacional de los Trabajadores (FNT); Coordinadora Social; Comunidades Eclesiales de Base (CEB); Movimiento Médico; Organización de Revolucionarios Deshabilitados (ORD) y la Federación de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad (FECONORI), entre otras.
  - 3 El Programa de Desarrollo de los Sistemas Productivos, Agrícolas, Pesqueros y Forestal en Territorios Indígenas de la RACCN y RACCS (NICARIBE), ejecutado en el período 2012-2018, capitalizó a 14,072 familias originarias y afrodescendientes en 5 territorios de la RACCN y 2 territorios de la RACCS, diversificando e incrementando la producción, garantizando ingresos y seguridad alimentaria, así como el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos naturales y fortalecimiento de sus organizaciones tradicionales.
  - 4 SIGRUN 2014-2018. Ministerio de la Familia, Adolescencia y Niñez.
  - 5 Sistema Único de Pensiones Alimenticias: <https://web.mifamilia.gob.ni/voronoj/login.html>.
  - 6 En Nicaragua la gratuidad de la salud está consignada en la Constitución Política, artículo 105 y el GRUN lo hace efectivo a través del Modelo de Salud Familiar y Comunitario a través de su red integrada de salud que consta de 1,520 unidades (centros, puestos de salud y hospitales de diferente complejidad) y en los 2,675 sectores.
  - 7 La población promedio de Nicaragua en el periodo 2014-2018 es de 6, 329,000 habitantes. 129,000,000 de consultas y de ellas el 13% son especializadas; 2,500,000 egresos hospitalarios con 1,700,000 cirugías; 4,800,000 estudios de rayos X y 133,200,000 exámenes de laboratorio; 156,000 estudios tomográficos y 33,200 resonancias magnéticas.
  - 8 Las clínicas móviles son unidades equipadas para brindar servicios odontológicos (endodoncia, exodoncia, profilaxis y educación en salud oral), consultas médicas generales y especializadas, atenciones en medicina natural y terapias complementarias, ultrasonografía, toma de Pap, exámenes de VIH, toma de glicemia, vacunas, electrocardiogramas, charlas educativas, entre otros. Atienden en zonas rurales alejadas y pueden dar atención en zonas urbanas que no cuentan con unidades de salud.
  - 9 Las Casas para Personas con Necesidades Especiales son locales diseñados para realizar charlas demostrativas a diferentes grupos de población a fin de promover conductas saludables. Están administradas por las alcaldías y corresponde el contenido técnico al personal de salud y las convocatorias a la red comunitaria.
  - 10 Cifra preliminar de 2017.
  - 11 A través del INNS se brindaron 30,756,953 consultas médicas, hubo 553,230 egresos hospitalarios, se atendieron 108,195 nacimientos, se realizaron 32,011,879 exámenes de laboratorio y 3,565,257 estudios de imagenología, 613,283 estudios de anatomía patológica y 486,893 Pap, además se despacharon 79,691,223 recetas médicas; observándose en el 2017 un incremento global del 18% con respecto al 2014. Para la prevención del cáncer cervicouterino y de mama se realizaron exámenes de PAP a 73,654 mujeres trabajadoras y exámenes clínicos de mamas a 149,752 mujeres aseguradas, de las cuales 12,971 recibieron atención médica. En el 2017 hubo un aumento del 71% en los PAP y del 25% en los exámenes de mama con respecto al 2014.
  - 12 Ley No. 582 "Ley General de Educación", Ley No. 114 "Ley de Carrera Docente", Ley No. 763 Ley de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad" y la Ley No. 675 "Ley de Lenguaje de Señas Nicaragüense", normativas y manuales específicos en cada modalidad educativa.
  - 13 En el 2018, se celebró la primera promoción de 9,535 bachilleres en la modalidad de Secundaria a Distancia en el campo. Así mismo se está trabajando con las entidades rectoras de los Subsistemas de Educación Técnica y Superior, acompañar a los bachilleres en la continuidad educativa en carreras técnicas y superior.
  - 14 Dictada a través del Decreto Ejecutivo No. 43-2014 del 30 de julio de 2014, publicado en la Gaceta No. 143 del 31 de julio de 2014.
  - 15 SIGRUN 2015-2017.
  - 16 MIFAN, Informes Anuales / Planificación 2014-2018.
  - 17 SIGRUN 2014-2018. Planificación SEPRES "Normativa para la Restitución de Derechos y Protección Especial de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes.
  - 18 Las Reglas de Acceso a la Justicia de las Personas en Condición de Vulnerabilidad han sido aprobadas por la XIV Cumbre Judicial Iberoamericana, que ha tenido lugar en Brasilia durante los días 4 a 6 de marzo de 2008.
  - 19 Según la Unión interparlamentario 2017.
  - 20 Organización de Naciones Unidas (2016).
  - 21 En el Océano Pacífico: Puerto Corinto, Puerto Sandino y Puerto San Juan del Sur. En el Océano Atlántico: Puerto Cabezas, Puerto El Bluff y Puerto El Rama (Arlen Siu). Los puertos están equipados para brindar servicios portuarios comerciales, como manejar y almacenar carga. También, el Sistema Portuario Nacional cuenta con puertos y terminales lacustres, los cuales están ubicados en

el lago Cocibolca y en el lago Xolotlán, destinados principalmente para las actividades de recreación y turismo, transporte de pasajeros y carga de cabotaje nacional.

En el Lago Cocibolca sobresale el Puerto San Jorge, ubicado en el departamento de Rivas, como puerto de enlace a la Isla de Ometepe, Terminales Moyogalpa y Altagracia también como terminales de enlace a la Isla de Ometepe. También está el Puerto Granada, las Terminales Morrito y San Miguelito, y Puerto San Carlos, ubicado en el departamento de Río San Juan, el cual es usado al viajar hacia el archipiélago de Solentiname o navegar el Río San Juan. En el Lago Xolotlán se encuentra la Terminal San Francisco Libre y el Puerto Salvador Allende ubicados en Managua, éste último convertido en destino capitalino sano (en lo ambiental y social) orientado a la recreación infantil y familiar.

- <sup>22</sup> Títulos Urbanos (55,257); Títulos Rurales (56,606); Solvencias de Ordenamiento Territorial (588) y Certificados de Cumplimiento (3,286).
- <sup>23</sup> 244,050 hombres (45%) y 298,283 mujeres (55%).
- <sup>24</sup> Región Autónoma de la Costa Caribe Norte (RACCN) y Región Autónoma Costa Caribe Sur (RACCS).
- <sup>25</sup> La Adhesión de Nicaragua al Acuerdo de París fue firmada el 20 de octubre de 2017, y la tercera Comunicación Nacional y su Contribución Nacionalmente Determinada fue recibida formalmente por la secretaria de la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático el 3 de septiembre de 2018.
- <sup>26</sup> Fuente: Ministerio de Energía y Minas (MEM), Gráfica de Generación por Tipo de Recursos: Eólico, Geotérmico e Hidroeléctrico, a partir de Base de Datos del Sistema SCADA & Empresa Nacional de Transmisión Eléctrica (ENATREL) - Centro Nacional de Despacho de Carga (CNDC), septiembre de 2018: <http://www.enatrel.gob.ni/evolucion-de-la-cobertura/>.
- <sup>27</sup> La formulación de este programa fue ratificada mediante Acuerdo Presidencial No. 21-2018, publicado en La Gaceta No.16 del 23 de enero 2018.
- <sup>28</sup> Fuente: Tercera Comunicación Nacional sobre Cambio Climático, mayo 2017.
- <sup>29</sup> MIGOB, Migración, Policía Nacional, MIFAN, Ministerio Público, Poder Judicial, MINED, MINSA Ejército de Nicaragua. Procuraduría General de la República, Ministerio del Transporte e Infraestructura, Procuraduría para la defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Ministerio de la Mujer, Instituto de Turismo.
- <sup>30</sup> En el período 2010-2014, se reportaron 74 casos.
- <sup>31</sup> 2,956 nacionales y 320 de otras nacionalidades.
- <sup>32</sup> En comparación con el proceso de elecciones generales de 2011.