



United Nations Human Rights Council
14th Session
31 May – 18 June 2010
Item 6

Consideration of the UPR report of Nicaragua

Mr. President

Thank you for giving us the floor.

The following statement is made on behalf of Save the Children and the Nicaraguan Federation of NGOs working with children and adolescents - CODENI¹ (*without consultative ECOSOC Status*)

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Nicaragua (A/HRC/14/3) and recognize the self critical approach of the Nicaraguan Government and the willingness to engage civil society in the process.

We call on the Government to prioritise the following issues:

1. *Violence against children:*

We welcome the ban from the Government of Nicaragua on corporal punishment of children. However, we regret the limited focus the Government has on the special protection of children who are victims of rape, resulting in forced pregnancies, particularly in rural areas. We recall recommendations No. 6 and 28 that were accepted and recommendations No. 5, 12, 15 to 24 that were not accepted.

2. *The right to education:*

We anticipate the willingness of the Government to allocate more resources to the education sector and provide rehabilitation and educational opportunities for children in street situations. We urge the government to duplicate a sustained investment in education to achieve the goal of universal basic education, giving high priority to the education of rural children and on the Caribbean Coast as in recommendations No. 55, 56 and 62. We also urge the Government to allocate greater resources to the education sector in the General Budget of the Republic, as in recommendation No. 42 that was not accepted.

3. *Poverty reduction with particular attention on children:*

We welcome the Government's support to the recommendations regarding follow-up, strengthening and implementation of the National Human Development Plan for combating poverty, ensuring the

right to food, health and social protection with particular attention to children (recommendations No. 15, 43 to 59). We urge the Government to double efforts in terms of creating decent jobs in order to reduce the migration of adult heads of households, due to the risks of abandonment and lack of protection resulting in exploitation of children.

4. *Ombudsman Office of Human Rights (PDDH):*

We welcome the acceptance of recommendation No. 8 and 9 requiring the strengthening of the independence and impartiality of the Ombudsman Office of Human Rights. We urge the Government to fully accept these commitments in providing adequate resources and legitimacy to the office.

Thank you.

¹ CODENI – (Nicaraguan Federation of Non Governmental Organizations Working with Children and Adolescents) is a coalition made up of 53 organizations that work to promote and defend the rights of Nicaraguan children.