



## **"BEIJING FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS 2022"**

15<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen of the "China Society for Human Rights Studies" and the "China Foundation for the Development of Human Rights",

Dear participants in this important Forum,

On behalf of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua, receive our sincere greetings, expressing our pleasure for participating today in such an important event for the development and strengthening of Human Rights; we know that the holding of these Forums began in 2008 and today, we are successfully celebrating this Tenth Forum on Human Rights.

Nicaragua is a small country, located in Central America, with 130,373.467 square kilometers and a population of 6,625,000 inhabitants<sup>1</sup>; We are a people with a big heart, brave, courageous, who fight tirelessly, -in the midst of adversity and vicissitudes-, to build our own destiny with dignity and decorum, without interference from the powers, which, like the United States of America, have persecuted and tried to submit us to its designs, throughout our history.

The State of Nicaragua, aware that the true way to strengthen Democracy in our country is to work together against poverty, inequality, unemployment, violence, crime and citizen insecurity, established as one of its fundamental priorities the gradual creation of legal,

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<sup>1</sup> According to the World Bank website

social and material conditions to guarantee the promotion and fulfillment of the Human Rights of all Nicaraguans, which has been expressed in concrete programs aimed at advancing in the economic, social spheres and with regards to Nicaraguan culture.

At the same time, we have been working to strengthen our institutions and the consolidation of democracy, which necessarily implies reaching higher levels of political stability, as well as the economic and social advancement of our country, as essential pillars that sustain the development of all peoples, and the strengthening and consolidation of Democratic States.

Currently we are carrying out the Fourth successive National Plan of the Sandinista Government (2022-2026), to fight against Poverty and to

promote Human Development. This Plan contains twelve essential strategic guidelines, among which are macroeconomic stability, the reinforcement of basic conditions (health, water, sanitation, transportation infrastructure), the consolidation of public goods and services, gender equity and equality, increased and improved production, creative economy, measures against climate change, the development of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast, among others; all of which are implemented through transformative policies and actions that ensure sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, job creation, promotion and facilitation of investments, the reduction of social inequality, improvement of the quality of life and the protection of our natural resources, with inclusion and active participation, that elevates the empowerment of the Nicaraguan People in the construction of their own development.

Nicaragua was one of the first Latin American countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG1) of halving poverty and hunger. Programs aimed at combating poverty were successfully implemented through financing and training for micro and small agricultural production, having been recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP). Likewise, MDG4 of reducing by two thirds by 2015, the mortality rate of children under the ages of 1 to 5 years per 1,000 live births, was achieved.

The Government implements the Food Security and Sovereignty Policy in a comprehensive manner, through programs financed with resources of the treasury, as well as through grants and loans, in order to achieve the objectives and goals of the National Human Development Plan

(PNDH), the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the subsequent Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity (GRUN) has focused on improving budget management, maximizing the use of resources to expand social and productive infrastructure, achieve efficient and equitable provision of services, creating greater fiscal space, in which the amount was increased and the quality of public spending improved, maintaining the balance of public finances.

This budgetary effort to combat poverty has been determined mainly by the implementation of the policy of restitution of the rights to health and education, the salary policy aimed at correcting historical lags in correspondence with fiscal stability, the policy of subsidies

for basic services (mainly collective and selective transportation, potable water and energy), as well as the recovery of the dynamism of public investment.

Resources have been guaranteed for the Zero Usury Microcredit Programs; for the Construction of Rural Roads; the Roof Plan; the Food and Production Bonus; Financing and Training for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Streets for the People; Potable Water and Sanitation Systems, Urban and Rural Electrification; Subsidies for collective urban transport (Caribbean Coast differentiated rate), for energy consumption in communities and economically vulnerable neighborhoods, as well as to subsidize the costs of water and energy for retirees.

This sustained growth in Nicaragua, however, was affected at the time, because in 2018, we

had to face an attempted coup d'état, sponsored by the United States of America, in collusion with selfish national sectors with political interests, that chose to sell their country and their people. This violent attempted coup caused profound human and economic damage, which caused enormous destruction, with US\$24 billion in losses, which is equivalent to 2 times the gross domestic product in Nicaragua<sup>2</sup>.

This destabilizing attempt continues in different forms and modalities, also supported by some organizations that call themselves human rights organizations. In this context, we have been the victim of one of the largest and most damaging bombs in the history of humanity, known as "fake news", whose destructive and devastating force comes from lies and from the expansive dissemination of false and manipulated news,

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<sup>2</sup> Article "15 years that have changed Nicaragua", January 2022, Vision Sandinista.



presented as absolute truths and real facts, with which they have sought to destabilize and harm our Rule of Law and undermine our constitutionally elected Government.

Despite all these damaging and interventionist attempts, and the economic sanctions that the United States of North America and some European countries have imposed on us, the People of Nicaragua have resisted; once again we have won peace and we are attentive and jealous to defend it.

For Nicaragua, the life and health of the people is an essential right that must be promoted and guaranteed; therefore, in relation to the Pandemic that has hit the world, the Government of Nicaragua, since its inception (January 2020), established measures aimed at protecting the Nicaraguan population, reducing the national

impact, in terms of morbidity and mortality from the risk of COVID19.

As part of the response to Covid19, a healthcare protocol was defined and applied to prevent morbidity and mortality from Covid19, and to ensure control and containment, based on actions promoted by an inter-institutional National Commission.

The "Covid-19 Containment Protocol" adopted by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health includes:

1. Surveillance, detection and containment of the transmission of Covid19, throughout the national territory.
2. Timely care for suspected and confirmed cases of Covid19, ensuring detection, adequate medical care, diagnosis, reduction of complications and specialized care for seriously ill patients.

3. Reduction of transmission between close contacts and health workers.
4. Implementation of an effective and permanent communication plan, aimed at the population, health workers, travelers and the information media<sup>3</sup>.

Likewise, we have a balance strategy between the pandemic and the economy, presented in the "WHITE PAPER, NICARAGUA IN THE FACE OF THE COVID19 PANDEMIC: A SINGULAR STRATEGY", which contains public policies, the vision of Nicaraguan Healthcare, which is unique in the world, based on the reality of the country, with a preventive approach for individuals, families and communities and with proactive actions.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Nicaragua COVID-19 Response Project, Loan 6804-NI. Available at: [http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/repository/Descargas-MINSA/Cooperaci%C3%B3n-Externa/Proyecto--Respuesta-al-COVID-19-en-Nicaragua-Pr%C3%A9stamo-World-Bank/PPPI--Additional\\_Financing---Project-6804-NI-Covid-19/](http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/repository/Descargas-MINSA/Cooperaci%C3%B3n-Externa/Proyecto--Respuesta-al-COVID-19-en-Nicaragua-Pr%C3%A9stamo-World-Bank/PPPI--Additional_Financing---Project-6804-NI-Covid-19/)

As of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022, through voluntary vaccination against COVID19, at least one dose has been provided to 5,713,101 Nicaraguans, which is equivalent to 89.20% of the total population, between the ages of 2 years and above; We have applied the complete dosage to a total of 4,360,558 people, which represents 68.09% of the total population, of ages 2 above<sup>4</sup>.

Nicaragua has adequately confronted the pandemic and managed to maintain control of it, without shutting down the economy and the life of our country; we were prepared before the appearance of the first case of COVID19 in our territory on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2020; and to date<sup>5</sup> the Ministry of Health has provided Responsible and Careful Care to 14,395 people and achieved the recovery of 14,116 Nicaraguans.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: National Map of Health in Nicaragua. Available at: <http://mapasalud.minsa.gob.ni/>

<sup>5</sup> As of April 26, 2022

In terms of health, since 2007, the State of Nicaragua promotes and strengthens, as a State policy, free medical care for all Nicaraguans; we have developed the Family and Community Health Model to ensure health, to and from the communities; we have the National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and the National Early Childhood Policy, which protects the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of children from 0 to 6 years of age.

Likewise, we have an integrated nationwide network of medical services, which includes 77 hospitals, 143 health centers, 80 mobile clinics, 1,333 health posts, 5 specialized centers, 178 maternity homes; likewise, there is a network of over 42,000 community leaders integrated into the healthcare services. 18 national hospitals have been built since 2007, all of them operating free of charge.

To support and care for people with disabilities, the "Everyone with a Voice Program" was developed, which includes house-to-house care, follow-up visits and the delivery of auxiliary means.

In relation to equality between men and women, the State established Law No. 648, "Equal Rights and Opportunities Law", to promote the equal enjoyment of human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights between women and men. General principles and public policies were established aimed at guaranteeing the effective exercise of real equality, implementing strategies for the strengthening of the leadership and empowerment of women.

In this regard, in 2007 Nicaragua ranked 90<sup>th</sup> in the gender gap index of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, while in 2020, Nicaragua ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the same index.

We are in 3rd place in the world ranking of the participation of women in ministerial positions with 58.8%, which includes the Ministries of health, education, family, defense, government, natural resources, telecommunications, labor, among others. With respect to the participation of women in parliament, Nicaragua ranks 6th with 47.3%.

A historic increase in national electricity coverage has also been achieved, going from 54% of households in 2007 to 99% in 2021, that is, from half of households with electricity to almost all households.

In yet another historical milestone of Nicaragua, for the first time in 200 years of national history and over 125 years since its annexation to the nation, we were able to link

by land, the Caribbean Coast of the country with the Pacific and Central regions.

The State of Nicaragua has prioritized the restitution of property rights to the indigenous communities of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua and to date, 25 indigenous territories have been titled, covering 315 communities, with an area of 38,426 km<sup>2</sup> that have been titled, ensuring their legal security.

At a general level, from 2007 to 2021, the State has guaranteed the restitution of property rights and legal security for 551,793 people through the delivery of 552,288 Property Titles.

The Government, committed to the promotion, protection and realization of human rights in an integral manner, restored the right to free health and education for all Nicaraguans,



equity and empowerment of women and youth, the reduction of poverty and inequality, the application and development of a new economy for a new society, the rights of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples to construct their own development, the right to basic services as public goods for human well-being and development, the protagonist role of families and local communities in their own development, and we continue to advance until we reach better and higher standards of living.

When a people achieve health, education, drinking water and electricity, among other things, life is transformed. The previously excluded and discriminated, find inclusion, redistribution, prominence and empowerment, as a practical realization of the principles of our Project of Christian and Socialist Solidarity, in which human rights are for everyone, and not only for

a minority, as it was in the past, when an elite governed in Nicaragua, subordinated to imperialist interests. Now the people are firmly advancing in the construction of their own destiny.

Thank you very much.