**Nicaragua Core Group statement - Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights - February 24, 2021**

Madam President,

I make this intervention on behalf of Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Canada.

We thank the High Commissioner for her report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua, about which we remain very concerned.

In particular, we are troubled by ongoing reports of repression against citizens, journalists and Indigenous peoples, as well as the five-year high for violent crimes against Nicaraguan women in 2020.

We once again call on Nicaragua to guarantee all victims of human rights violations access to truth, justice, reparation, and non-repetition.

We also urge Nicaragua to investigate, promptly and impartially, the widespread human rights violations perpetrated since April 2018, and to resume cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms without delay.

We are equally concerned that Nicaragua recently enacted laws that could be used to restrict political participation and curtail freedom of expression in the upcoming elections.

Nicaragua should resume dialogue with opposition groups, and take immediate action to implement reforms guaranteeing fair and transparent elections.

We would also encourage Nicaragua to avail itself of multilateral and regional support mechanisms available to this end.

We encourage Nicaragua to engage with the international community to help address these important issues.

Thank you.