



## Resolution demanding democracy and an end to the crisis in Nicaragua

### The Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI),

Whereas almost a year ago, on April 19, 2018, the serious crisis affecting Nicaragua deepened further following the *"dismantling of the democratic system"* carried out by the administration headed by Daniel Ortega, who came to power *"through a dishonest electoral process that offered no guarantees, and excluded the real opposition"*. During this period, thousands of people have been forced into exile, as well as *"hundreds of lives lost, thousands wounded, captured, tortured and missing, as a result of the severe reprisals by Daniel Ortega's government, causing immense pain and suffering to thousands of families"*.

Whereas the majority of crimes and indignities recorded between April 18 and May 30, 2018, were investigated by an Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts - GIEI, Grupo Interdisciplinario de Independent Expert - (set up by the Organization of American States, OAS, with the consent of the State of Nicaragua). In its report published last December, the GIEI *"considers that the State's response to the protests and demonstration [...] amount to 'crimes against humanity'". This entails certain legal consequences, such as the inapplicability of statutes of limitations, the impermissibility of amnesty laws or similar provisions that intend to prevent criminal investigations or convictions, the possibility of intervention by tribunals of other States pursuant to the principle of universal jurisdiction, as well as the eventual jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, in the case that the United Nations Security Council submits the situation to the ICC or if the State of Nicaragua accepts its jurisdiction"*

Whereas the GIEI's report confirms that:

1. **"Crimes Against Humanity" were committed in Nicaragua,**
2. **Daniel Ortega and police commanders must be investigated for the massacre,**
3. **There is no evidence of a "coup d'état" (as Ortega and his wife alleged),**
4. **There was not an "organisation leading the protests" (as Ortega claims), since the protests were carried out by citizens exercising their constitutional rights,**
5. **The repression has had a profound "psychosocial impact",**
6. **There is no separation of state powers in Nicaragua, and**
7. **OAS and UN countries should investigate.**

Whereas on 28 February, in an attempt to resolve the country's crisis, the Dialogue resumed between Ortega's regime and the "Civic Alliance", the dictatorship nonetheless continued to repress and violate human rights, to the point of effectively



banning raising the national flag in public and singing the national anthem of Nicaragua. As a result of this lack of good will, the dialogue stagnated once again.

Whereas on 14 March, the European Parliament (EP) approved a resolution calling for sanctions to be imposed against the officials of Daniel Ortega's regime who were responsible for the crackdown. Its application lies in the hands of the EU Foreign Affairs Council, composed of the 28 EU Foreign Ministers. For its part, the OAS began the process of implementing its "Democratic Charter", which amongst other sanctions, calls for the suspension of the State of Nicaragua.

### **The Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI) agrees to:**

- Reiterate its condemnation of Daniel Ortega's regime for continuing the repression and violation of Nicaraguans' human rights.
- Urge international bodies to initiate proceedings to punish crimes that violate national and international law and to seek appropriate redress.
- Support the resumption of the National Dialogue, which must take place in good faith and in which the government must demonstrate its willingness to meet the demands of the Nicaraguan people. They include the immediate release of political prisoners, putting an end to repression, disarming and dismantling paramilitary groups, the unrestricted exercise of public freedoms, especially freedom of the press, of expression and of peaceful assembly, as well as establishing a fair, open and competitive electoral system, and organising early elections to allow for the democratic expression of popular sovereignty.
- Reaffirm its support for the citizens of Nicaragua who, despite the repression they endure, continue to strive through civic and peaceful channels for a renewed '*Democratic System with Sustainable Integrated Development and Social Justice*'.
- Recognise the courageous, patriotic, and supportive conduct of Nicaraguan political prisoners, who are loyal to their principles despite the repression they suffer in prison, as well as that of the Belgian final-year medical student Amaya Coppens and Costa Rican journalist Lucía Pineda Ubau.
- Offer its support and solidarity to the initiatives backed by the OAS, the European Union, the Catholic Church, and the UN, for a prompt, civic and integrated solution to the crisis plaguing the Nicaraguan people.

