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## ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner for Human Rights report on Nicaragua

### NICARAGUA: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST LAUNCH INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-ninth regular session  
28 February – 1 April 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for her update and share many of her concerns over the further deterioration of the human rights crisis in Nicaragua.

Over the past year, Amnesty International has been alarmed by the [arbitrary detention of dozens](#) of political opponents, journalists, activists, and other perceived critics of the government, and the use of [enforced disappearances](#) as a tactic for repression in the country. Further attacks on freedom of expression and association have included arbitrary raids of independent media outlets and the cancellation of the legal registration of dozens of civil society organizations.

This continued deterioration of the human rights situation is fuelled by rampant impunity in Nicaragua. Meanwhile the government continues to refuse to engage constructively with the regional and international human rights systems or to cooperate with the mandates established to address and improve the situation.

Mr President,

It is time for this Council to take a stand. “Business as usual” cannot continue in the face of such flagrant violations of international law and the continued refusal to cooperate or engage meaningfully to address the crisis.

We urge the Council to establish an international accountability mechanism for Nicaragua this session, with a mandate to investigate, collect evidence and establish responsibility for crimes against humanity and human rights violations that have taken place since 2018. This is essential to send a strong message to perpetrators that they cannot continue to act with impunity; and to the victims and survivors of the crisis that they do not stand alone in pursuit of justice and accountability.

Impunity must not be allowed to prevail in Nicaragua.

Thank you.