



Republic of Nicaragua

Statement by

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55th Session of Commission on the Status of Women

ECOSOC

“Review of the implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, sharing of experiences and discussions in implementation of the Platform for Action with a view to accelerating the progress of women in the world.”

New York, Tuesday, 26, 2011.

(Check against delivery)

National Reconciliation and Unity Government (GRUN, by its Spanish acronym)

BEIJING PLATFORM

with the rise to power of the National Reconciliation and Unity Government (GRUN) on 10 January 2007, Nicaragua initiated a process of political and institutional reforms with the purpose of reinstating the rights of all Nicaraguan women and girls, which had been reduced to a minimum expression during the sixteen years of ineffective neo-liberal government.

Our Government has upheld all national judicial norms and all international human rights instruments generally, and in particular, the rights of women and girls, including, of course the Beijing Declaration and Program of Action adopted in the IVth World Conference on Women held in 1995, which is one of the most important programmatic instruments in the field of the protection of the individual and collective rights of women.

Our Government's commitment to implementing the Beijing Program is reflected in the following programmatic policies, judicial recommendations, and social advances.

1. First Reining Strategic Policy: Women and Poverty: Especially because of their multiplying effect, programs being implemented by the Government have had a decisive economic impact on Nicaragua's most impoverished, particularly on its women and girls.

Zero Hunger: This social program addresses the need, as stated in Beijing, of increasing women access to land, access to raw, processed and production resources. Up until the present a total of 46,248 women have benefited. We were able to create 110 new women's PPA units which group 6,448 organized women who have saved 1,991,253.11 córdovas. In terms of organization 798 units have been organized which integrate 65 per cent women, (26,150).

Zero Interest: The immediate objective of the Zero Interest Program is to make low interest credit accessible to women's in order to help them improve their businesses. Since it was established, this program has extended 592 million córdovas to 77,364 women organized in 10,700 collectives in 2,749 communities in 140 of the country's municipalities.

Project LOVE: This GRUN Program guarantees that girls and boys recognize their right to remain with their families, which is the primary child protection environment. Through this program 2,327 children have been able to rescue 1,070 girls, boys and adolescents from the street, and 8,760 of them have begun to go to school.

Child Development: Child Development projects, such as the ones in the rural areas, have been successful in allowing many women the possibility of employment because

they can be sure of their children's safety while generating and improving family finances.

Access to land and credit

The Government has also provided women with individual land titles and facilitated access to credit in private institutions. By 2008, 100,000 land titles were given, thus restoring land ownership rights to more than 200,000 Nicaraguans. Those most benefiting are the peasants that had historically been deprived of the right to own land. The women who have benefited can now access credit.

As a result of these poverty eradication programs, Nicaragua has been designated by the FAO as one of the 10 countries of the world that have been able to reduce their poverty rates during the last 10 years.

2. Second Beijing Strategic Policy: Education and Training: Education was

declared free of cost. As a result of this measure in 2008, 94 per cent of students stayed in school; this had not been the case in Nicaragua during the last 50 years. Further, through the National Literacy Campaign nearly 400,000 citizens learned to read and write which brought the illiteracy rate to 3.3 per cent, the lowest rate in the history of Nicaragua. In August 2009 the UNESCO declared Nicaragua a "Land Free of Illiteracy".

The Comprehensive School Nutrition Program distributed 120 million meals in 153 municipalities. This made it possible for 90 per cent of students to stay in school and for 80 per cent of the girls and boys to go to school.

A process has been carried out for the development of a new curriculum which includes gender equality practices and contents.

It should also be emphasized that Nicaragua has fulfilled MDG 3 related to the elimination of inequalities in primary and secondary education.

3. Third Beijing Strategic Policy: Women and Health: In the case of health, the

policy of declaring all health services free and the effective implementation of a Community Family Care Model has brought health services to women in every corner of the country. Some of the main results of this new health policy have been: reduction of the maternal mortality rate from 212 deaths per 100,000 registered in 2006 to 100 registered in 2009; this represents a 25.6 per cent reduction. Also, the neonatal mortality rate was reduced by 17 per cent.

Other advances towards guaranteeing women's health are the maternal homes, a 24-hour medical attention, shelter and meals until they return to their communities.

4. Fourth Beijing Strategic Policy: Violence against women. A Protocol for Attention to Family Abuse and Sexual Aggression Crimes was developed and

there are many laws for the prevention and punishment of gender violence crimes. All GRUPOBIS institutions have developed processes of consciousness development that will contribute to the prevention and attention to violence against women, the promotion and respect of their human rights and the promotion of values toward a culture of peace and family harmony.

we have implemented innovative strategies, including the creation of specialized offices to attend women and have suffered from violence as well as shelters for victims of domestic violence. We currently have 52 offices and 9 shelters.

5. Fifth Boiling Strategy. Policy: Women and armed conflict. Although there is no armed conflict in our country, we do have a policy for service to the women and their who have been victims of an armed conflict since the 1980s. There is a Veritas Verification, Reconciliation, Peace and Justice Commission which deals with negotiations between government institutions and plaintiffs. This contributes to peace and reconciliation within the Nicaraguan family.

we have distributed 4,136 certificates of service to the Demobilized (from armed conflict, and to peasants who were plaintiffs lawsuits regarding rural land).

6. Sixth Boiling Strategy. Policy: Women and the economy: Proactive job creation policies: A basic principle of labor policy is: "The promotion, protection and reinforcement of the right to employment and dignified work" which can be in the form of self employment or women's benefits. Through the labor intervention of the public sector 5,058 posts have been created, which is 139 per cent more than the previous government created. Women occupy 34.3 per cent of the new posts. Women constitute 52 per cent of those benefiting from the project entitled "My first job".

Within the Ministry of Labor, the Office for Job Equality and Non Discrimination was created. The institutions created include the Inter-Institutional Network for Job Equality and Non Discrimination. Further, the Ministry of Labor issued a decree prohibiting that pregnancy and HIV/AIDS tests be a precondition for applying for a job.

Small and Medium size businesses: Another sector in which women have played a fundamental role is in small and medium size individual and collective (cooperative) businesses. Equality in the sector is in arts and crafts and bread-baking. In these spheres women have received technical assistance regarding training, self-esteem, marketing and leadership, brands and patents, trade fairs, and other areas.

Businesswomen's Professional Apprenticeship: The main of the beneficiaries of the support extended by the INPYME and the Infocon. Up to 2009 almost 35,000 small and medium size businesspeople benefited, 52 per cent of them women.

The GRUN is working on addressing the main demands of businesswomen by adopting a series of measures that favor women, by having created the Davalo Bank for the urban and rural MIPYME. The Zero Hunger and Zero Profit Initiating Programs have been the antecedents of this bank.

7. Seventh Beijing Strategic Policy: Women's exercise of power and decision making

The government promotes citizenship participation in general and women's participation in particular. Urban women participate in the community, in local government and in the Citizenship Power Committees, recognized an order to empower them and take an active impact in the decision making process, thus also enabling them to fulfill their own demands and to be more enterprising.

The Government of Nicaragua promotes the policy that women should occupy 30 percent of the public office positions in all state entities. It has promoted the bidding for government contracts and the development and promotion of public offices with the same opportunities for women as for men in order to ensure that women and men receive equal pay for equal work.

8- Eighth Beijing Strategic Policy: Institutional mechanisms for the promotion of women

The GRUN's National Human Development Plan for Women and Children, under policy and its twelve strategic policies for the integration of gender practices, Law 648 regarding Equal Rights and Opportunities, and the 2009 State Plan on the Equality between Women and Men, are its tools for promoting the participation of women in all spheres of Nicaraguan society. The Nicaraguan Women's Institute is the institution in charge of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women for the full exercise of their citizenship in order to improve the quality of life. The Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children is responsible for promoting and orientating the rights of girls, boys and adolescents through a model that offers comprehensive attention to the family unit and the community.

9- Ninth Beijing Strategic Policy: Women's Human Rights

Regarding the rights and opportunities, it is part of the legal framework that permanently promotes and protects women's human rights by improving their situation as regards equality between men and women.

This law establishes the measures necessary for the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women, taking in mind the objective of closing the gaps regarding inequality which persists in the economic, social and sexual spheres by reasons of gender.

One of the main commitments of the GRUN Government Plan is the design and implementation of a gender policy for the strategic development of women.

and men as a human right which would guarantee non-discrimination by reason of gender, aimed to broaden representational and participatory democracy.

We also have the 2020-2030 National Human Development Plan which entails a development strategy and a human rights perspective allowing no discrimination whatsoever and which which integrates a national welfare and social equality system.

10 Tenth Beijing Strategic Policy: Women and the mass media of communication: The policy of the National Reconciliation and Unity Government is joint rejection of publicity messages of bad announcements that sexual objects or that justify or incite violence against women.

11-11-11 Strategic Policy: Girls

Within our legal system of social protection, girls, boys and adolescents enjoy all the rights their status requires. In that context, the State promoted the Children's and Adolescents' Legal Code, which implements a new criminal justice model for adolescents which guarantees due process of law and is oriented to the integration of adolescents into the family and the society.

There are 117 Adolescent Counsellors with a team of social workers and psychologists that follow up on measures for adolescents that do not contemplate incarceration. When the new Penal Code went into effect, Nicaragua went from a justice system that considered adolescents as adults to a juvenile penal justice system that considers adolescents should be penalized based on the fact and not as a result of the reasons that led to violation of the law.

All this demonstrates that we have advanced. But we still have a long way to go and we will not rest until we achieve full and absolute equality between men and women, and now between the adult generations and the new generations.

Thank you!