**39th session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Item 2**

**Joint intervention**

**September 11, 2018**

First of all, we would like to congratulate the High Commissioner for this new responsibility and we wish her every success in her work.

I carry out this intervention on behalf of Argentina, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Romania, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Paraguay, France, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Estonia, Malta, Croatia, Slovenia, Ireland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Cyprus, Latvia, Iceland, Spain, Portugal and Australia.

Mr. President:

Our countries wish to express their deep concern about the violation of human rights in Nicaragua. The Report of the Office of the High Commissioner, published last 29th August, reports in detail the situation in that country. In this regard, we echo the Special Declaration on the situation in the Republic of Nicaragua, issued by the Foreign Ministers of a group of Latin American countries in Brussels on 16th July 2018; as well as the successive declarations and resolutions in the framework of the OAS that were issued in June and July of this year.

We demand the immediate cessation of disproportionate use of force, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal and arbitrary detentions, denial of access to medical services, violation of the freedoms of peaceful association and expression, criminalization of human rights defenders, human rights, journalists, students and protesters.

We urge to reactivate the national dialogue in Nicaragua, in a climate of respect for fundamental freedoms, involving all parties to generate peaceful and sustainable solutions.

We condemn the decision taken by the Government of Nicaragua that ordered the Office of the United Nations (OUNHCHR) to be expelled from the country, which represents a step backwards in the efforts being made by the international community to help finding a way out of the crisis. We urge the Government of Nicaragua to resume dialogue and cooperation with regional and international human rights mechanisms, including the Office of the High Commissioner.

Finally, we encourage the Office of the High Commissioner to continue reporting to the Human Rights Council with a view to defending and protecting human rights in Nicaragua.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.