

Human Rights Council – 41st session

Item 2 oral update on Nicaragua and Item 10 oral update on Georgia
[for delivery under Item 10 General Debate]

10- 11 July 2019

Australian Statement

Thank you Mr. President,

We also underline the critical role of technical assistance and capacity building in addressing human rights. We thank the OHCHR for its important work and call on all states to cooperate effectively in the spirit of open dialogue with the OHCHR.

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral updates on Nicaragua and Georgia.

[Nicaragua]

We express serious concern at ongoing human rights violations and abuses in Nicaragua.

We urge the Government of Nicaragua to respect and protect the rights and security of its citizens, and to cease immediately the unlawful arrests, arbitrary detentions and repression of public protests.

We call on the Government to honour the agreement signed at the National Dialogue and immediately release, as the agreement states, those who have been imprisoned.

We call on the Government to resume its cooperation with the OHCHR and adopt independent mechanisms to investigate reported violations and abuses particularly since the commencement of protests on 18 April 2018.

[Georgia]

Australia acknowledges the efforts of the OHCHR to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in Georgia.

We welcome efforts by the Government of Georgia to work with the OHCHR to bring national laws, policies and procedures in line with international human rights standards.

We also commend the Government's cooperation during last year's visit by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We encourage the Government to consider carefully the recommendations in the Independent Expert's report.

Australia is a strong and consistent supporter of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We do not recognise the claims to independence of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali [Ts-hin-VA-li] / South Ossetia. We are concerned by the lack of information about the human rights situation in these regions.

We support the OHCHR's call to authorities in control in these regions to grant access to international and regional human rights mechanisms.

274 Words (2.5mins)