

108th Session, Geneva, June 2019

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**Committee on the Application of Standards**

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*Following the decisions made during the informal tripartite consultations on the working methods of the CAS in March 2019, governments appearing on the preliminary list of individual cases have now the opportunity, if they so wish, to supply on a purely voluntary basis, written information before the opening of the session of the Conference.*

## **Information on the application of ratified Conventions supplied by governments on the preliminary list of individual cases**

### **Nicaragua**

#### **Social Policy (Basic Aims and Standards) Convention, 1962 (No. 117)**

**Nicaragua** (ratification: 1981). The Government has provided the following written information.

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity considers it appropriate to provide information to the ILO Member States concerning the application of and compliance with the Social Policy (Basic Aims and Standards) Convention, 1962 (No. 117), the ratification of which was published in Official Gazette No. 111 of Saturday, 23 May 1981.

Through the **National Human Development Programme** covering the 2014–18 period, the Government of Nicaragua has implemented public policies through socio-economic projects whose advances reflect the spirit of Convention No. 117. For this reason we do not agree with the reasons for our presence before the honourable Committee on the Application of standards.

Nicaragua continues to work and to fulfil the commitment to make progress in the reduction of poverty and the elimination of extreme poverty by:

- Developing programmes and projects that ensure access to information and technical and vocational guidance for women, for people in rural areas and for persons working on their own account.
- Implementing the labour policy for the restoration and protection of men and women workers' labour rights by continuing to strengthen tripartism, trade union freedoms, dialogue, partnership and consensus between the Government, workers and employers.
- Continuing to ensure labour stability in the different economic sectors of the country.
- Establishing a model of family and community health that guarantees free universal health coverage with quality and warmth.

- Continuing to ensure free education at all levels with fairness, quality and development of values in accordance with implementation of the Education Plan 2017–21.
- Ensuring the social security of affiliated workers through the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute, providing financial benefits in relation to invalidity, old age, death and occupational risks, and providing health services.
- Continuing to make progress in reinforcing public safety at the national, regional and international levels, taking account of the fact that Nicaragua is recognized as the safest country in the Central American region and a benchmark in terms of security in Latin America, being its third least violent country. It has a Sovereign and Public Security Strategy and a National Policy interlinked with the social fabric as regards solving problems of community safety.
- Providing access to electrical power for the most vulnerable sections of the population in rural and urban areas of the country.
- Moving ahead with the development of infrastructure for land and sea links (bridges, roads and ports).
- The Government has ensured the fair and universal provision of drinking water and sanitation services in urban and rural areas of the country.
- The Government of Nicaragua, through the Department for Migration and Foreign Nationals at the Ministry of the Interior, has compiled statistical data disaggregated by sex and age on the number of Nicaraguan workers who have gone abroad for work purposes and the number of workers of other nationalities who have entered Nicaragua to work. Between 2014 and 2018, a total of 794,160 workers (247,694 women and 546,466 men) left the country to work abroad.
- The Ministry of the Economy for Families, Communities, Cooperatives and Associations (MEFCCA), as the state entity responsible for keeping the National Registry of Cooperatives, has registered 524 cooperatives that provide financial intermediation (credit and/or savings) services for their associates, which comprise a total of 123,862 members, including 52,588 women.

These organizations have the autonomy to design their own lending policies and the services that they provide to their associates, which, in turn, adopt intermediation regulations through their cooperative governance and management structures.

Work on women's integration continues through gender mainstreaming in public policies, plans, programmes and projects that guarantee the restitution of rights and the full and active participation of women in decision-making forums.

Nicaragua has risen four places to occupy sixth position in the global gender equality index, while being ranked highest for gender equality in the Americas. It is also the country with the fifth highest rate of women's participation in parliament and the highest number of women in public office.