Grupo Cocibolca

Articulación de Movimientos Sociales

San José, Costa Rica

October 8th, 2019

WORLD BANK
Delegate to the PRE-COP
UNFCCC

Mr./Ms. Delegate,

With reference to the Caribbean Coast Emission Reduction Programme of Nicaragua (ER-PD), submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and provisionally approved by the Resolution CFM/20/2019/4, issued during the 20th meeting of the Carbon Fund (FC20), the Cocibolca Group would like to express its concern regarding the inability of the government of Nicaragua to appropriately carry out the program due the gravity of the human rights and social crisis that the country is facing since April 2018.

The current crisis has been generated due the progressive weakening of the country's democratic institutions and the elimination of the mechanisms of citizen participation and accountability established in national laws. This situation, together with repeated violations of human rights and civil liberties, accumulated tensions that emerged as social mobilizations of different sectors (mainly youth, women and farmers organizations), many of which took place in the areas of intervention of the ER-PD Nicaragua.

Moreover, the deficient government response to the forest fire that affected the core zone of the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve in April 2018, and the reforms to the Social Security System without any consultation, also decided in April, resulted in a series of civil demonstrations which then have been brutally repressed by the regime of Nicaragua through the national police corps and paramilitary shock forces, using disproportionate violence against civil and peaceful demonstrations.

These events have been widely documented and reported by the *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*[1], the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)[2], and Amnesty International (AI)[3]. These reports agreed that the national authorities' response to the wave of citizen protests, through joint actions between police, paramilitary forces and other pro-government armed groups, has been using excessive violence and has been continuously violating international law and human rights.

Among the broadly documented human rights violations currently taking place in Nicaragua are: murders, extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, obstruction of access to medical care, ill-

[1] https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A_HRC_42_18_EN.pdf
[2] https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Nicaragua2018-en.pdf
[3] https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AMR4392132018ENGLISH.PDF

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treatment, torture and sexual violence in detention centers, violations of the freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, as well as the criminalization of social leaders, students, human rights defenders, journalists, medical personnel and farmers, many of whom live in the Program's intervention areas.

Nicaraguan regime actions have also been condemned by a series of resolutions of regional and international bodies, including at least four resolutions of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), two resolutions on "The Situation in Nicaragua" approved by the OAS General Assembly and one resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua".

The actions of the regime also include the arbitrary cancellation of the legal status of nine non-governmental organizations, out of which two are environmental civil society organizations working for the protection of the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve.

The resolution CFM/20/2019/4 was provisionally approved with the support of four delegates from donor countries, while two delegates didn't support the provisional incorporation of Nicaragua into the pipeline of the Carbon Fund. The organizations subscribing this letter, appreciate the governments' of Germany and the United States of America commitment to the restauration of human rights and democracy in Nicaragua, which was expressed by their rejection of the approval of the ER-PD Nicaragua; we would also kindly request the governments of Canada, France, Norway and the UK to suspend their support of the ER-PD submitted by the government of Nicaragua, until the conditions for democratic governance and guarantees for the proper implementation of human rights in Nicaragua have been restored.

Sincerely,

Cocibolca Group

Member of the Articulation of Social Movements