

## **NON OFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

# **51<sup>st</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM (SICA)**

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **Special Declaration on Nicaragua**

The Meeting of Presidents of the Central American Integration System (SICA), composed of the respective Heads of State and Governments of the Member States or their representatives, gathered under the Pro-Tempore Presidency of SICA, the Dominican Republic;

#### **CONSIDERING:**

The Peace Accords of Esquipulas, signed by the Central American Presidents in 1986 and 1987, were a watershed in the consolidation of the political decision to achieve a strong and lasting peace in the region, under the premise "That peace in Central America, can only result from an authentic pluralistic and participatory democratic process implying the promotion of social justice, respect for human rights, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and the right of all nations to determine their economic, political and social model, without external interference of any kind, this determination being understood as the product of the freely expressed will of the peoples", and that dialogue will prevail over violence and reason over rancour.

#### **CONVINCED:**

That Peace, Democracy, Development and Freedom constitute fundamental principles of SICA and, as such, form a harmonious and indivisible whole guiding the actions of the member countries and the organs that make up the Central American Integration System.

#### **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:**

The fundamental principles of the Protocol of Tegucigalpa to the Charter of the mobilisation of Central American States and the Framework Treaty for Democratic Security in Central America, that strongly promote of a culture of peace, dialogue, understanding and tolerance based on democratic values, and maintaining a flexible, active and comprehensive dialogue in order to ensure that democracy is irreversible.

## **BELIEVING:**

That the promotion of peace and democracy are basic to human coexistence in the region of the countries in the Central American Integration System (SICA), and, for this reason, it is essential to encourage the spirit of collaboration so as to strengthen peace, security, understanding, tolerance, and civil relations leading us to work decisively with a unity of purpose, cultivated by each of our countries among SICA's Member States.

## **AWARE:**

That the difficult situation that has caused bereavement for the Nicaraguan people due to political violence and intolerance must be solved peacefully, within the framework of the Rule of Law, guaranteeing all its inhabitants the right to life, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and the right to work.

## **DECLARES:**

1. Its condolences to the families of the victims, and reiterates that the preservation of the Peace we have achieved in the region after the Esquipulas Accords should be the responsibility of all social actors.
2. The urgent call for the immediate cessation of violence in all its forms, which has caused insecurity and death, as well as the destruction of public and private goods.
3. Its confidence in dialogue and agreement as necessary paths towards the construction and preservation of peace; we expect solutions via consensus of the problems that arise in our societies. In this regard, we salute the will of the government of Nicaragua and of the various sectors that make up Nicaraguan society to reaffirm their vocation for dialogue, aimed at seeking agreements, establishing social justice and people's well-being as the main objective, within the framework of respect for human rights and the rule of law.
4. That it recognises the accompaniment of the national dialogue process and the implementation of agreements by the Organisation of American States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations, the European Union, and the role of the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church of Nicaragua to continue as mediators and witnesses of that process, confident they will guarantee impartiality and objectivity, allowing trust among the parties to reach an integral solution to the crisis.
5. That it highlights the consent of the Government of Nicaragua to invite a Mission of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, as well as the European Union and the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (IGIE) as proposed by the recommendations of the preliminary report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and agreed with the Organisation of American States.

6. Its deep concern over the situation of freedom of movement for passengers and freight that is affecting the entire region, especially with regard to the transport of goods held up by roadblocks in Nicaragua, and urges efforts towards a peaceful solution as a matter of urgency to re-establish safe transit through the isthmus.
7. Its instruction to the General Secretariat of SICA to co-ordinate with the Central American Economic Integration Secretariat and the Executive Directorate of the Central American Maritime Transport Commission, evaluating alternatives to overcome transport problems, offering solutions to the Council of Ministers of the relevant branch enabling them as a matter of priority to adopt measures that help reach solutions to the demands of citizens within the institutional legal framework.
8. We instruct the Secretary General of SICA to continue giving special attention to the crisis in Nicaragua and, within the framework of the powers assigned in the Protocol of Tegucigalpa to the ODECA Charter and its complementary instruments, to accompany the national dialogue process.

*Given in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on June 30, two thousand and eighteen.*