

**Nicaragua and the Sandinista Popular Revolution**  
**an essential factor for stability, peace and prosperity**  
**in Central America and the Caribbean**

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## Nicaragua as a regional model

Nicaragua plays an essential role in the development of Central America not only because of its geographical position in the center of the isthmus but also because of the success of its revolutionary model of socio-economic democratization. Nicaragua has demonstrated that public human development policies focused on the needs of the human person yield better results than a neoliberal focus on corporate profits. Nicaragua's productive economy is highly competitive with the economies of its neighboring countries while its public sector responds much better to the aspirations of the families of the vast majority of its population.

### The unquestionable success of revolutionary socio-economic development

To understand this reality it is necessary to look at the macroeconomic figures of the region:-

	<b>Población en millones</b>	<b>PIB US\$ miles millones</b>	<b>Productividad (PIB/Horas laboradas)</b>	<b>% deuda PIB</b>	<b>Indice del costo de la vida</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	5.1	95	27.5	74	52.9
<b>El Salvador</b>	6.4	35	11.8	59	39.6
<b>Guatemala</b>	19	113	15	29	40.4
<b>Honduras</b>	11	37	7.8	38	36.6
<b>Nicaragua</b>	7	20	9.3	39	34.2
<b>Panamá</b>	4.7	86	43.6	65	45.5

The obvious question given this data is how has it been possible for Nicaragua, being the geographically largest country in the region but with the smallest economy, to ensure its population's access to electricity coverage at 99.7% at the national level and access to drinking water at 95%, the best in the region. In addition, the government guarantees free health care for the entire population and free education from preschool to university, including technical education. At the regional level, among many other indicators, Nicaragua has the best roads, by far the largest number of hospitals in the public system, the best citizen security, the best agricultural and livestock health system and the best disaster prevention system.

The answer to the question, of course, is that all these extraordinary achievements are due to the good governance of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, led by Comandante Daniel Ortega and Compañera Rosario Murillo during almost 20 years of socio-económico advances. The most important component of this Sandinista model of good governance has been the fundamental concept of the People as President, expressed in the government's constant attention to the needs and aspirations of Nicaragua's people, of women and men of all ages, of all social classes and of all regions and ethnicities. Far beyond the reduction of poverty reflected in macroeconomic figures, what matters is the comprehensive socio-economic democratization improving the life of the human person in every way.

The nominal figures for poverty in Central America indicate that Honduras and Guatemala have the highest percentages, above 45% in each country, while Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica have levels of about 14%. In Panama, the richest country in the region, it is reported that poverty affects about 20% of its population. A fundamental element for reducing poverty is the full employment of the economically active population. With an unemployment rate of around 3% of its population, Nicaragua has the lowest unemployment level of the five main countries in the region, with the possible exception of Guatemala. El Salvador's level is 5%, Costa Rica almost 7% and Honduras and Panama more than 8%. In addition, the families with the lowest economic income are the principal protagonists of government policies which, for example, guarantee a low cost of electrical energy for households with a monthly usage of less than 150kW and effectively symbolic fares for the use of urban public transport.

### **The challenge of regional urbanization**

One of the challenges common to all Central American governments has been how to assimilate the growing movement of the rural population towards their countries cities. It has been calculated that by 2030, Central America will be among the most urbanized regions of the world with 77% of its population located in cities. The pressure will be tremendous on infrastructure such as housing, public transport, schools and hospitals from this rapid population movement, which is due to the desire of rural families to improve their standard of living. And in this aspect of comprehensive planning to respond to the challenge of demographic movement, Nicaragua has also been a model for the region.

The permanent investment of the government in innovative credit and technical assistance programs for agricultural producers has made possible a remarkable and progressive increase in the productive activity of rural families. In itself, this economic advance of the rural sector mitigates and decreases an accelerated movement of the rural population to the cities. And the better standard of living of the rural population due to their dynamic economic activity is complemented by better provision of health care and more local infrastructure for education and technical education. Now the University in the Countryside program reaches about 30,000 students among the country's rural population.

Distance Secondary Education is taught in 450 rural schools with 50,000 Students who also participate in special courses to foment productive vocations. A daily school snack that provides 30% of the daily food intake for 1.2 million students is guaranteed throughout the school year through more than 11,000 local community School Meals Committees. At the beginning of the school year, a payment is guaranteed from the presidency to strengthen the financial capacity of families and ensure their children's school attendance, which is of special importance to help ensure that rural families can realize their children's aspirations for a better life.

To reduce the gap in the supply of decent housing and guarantee enough houses for the population, the government promotes the construction of 8,000 houses a year along with programs to help families repair and build their own houses that have helped about 150,000 families since 2007. In the public transport sector, the public transport bus fleet has been completely renewed, with thousands of buses imported from Russia and China. The constant improvements and permanent maintenance on the highways and bridges throughout the country ensure the ability to absorb future increases in vehicles in circulation. Similarly, the spectacular urban highways in the capital Managua guarantee greater safety and more fluidity for the massive daily flow of vehicles essential to ensure the socio-economic development of the entire country

## **Nicaragua guarantees regional stability**

All this enormous public sector effort of the public sector led by Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario has ensured that Nicaragua acts as a strong influence for regional economic stability. In that regard, Nicaragua's good government has been exemplary in its efforts to promote regional integration based on mutually beneficial economic development, respect for the sovereign interests of each country and cooperation on health, environmental and common security issues against organized crime and drug trafficking.

In fact, as Salvadoran Vice President Felix Ulloa has commented, the Central American region "constitutes the fourth largest economy in Latin America, surpassed only by Brazil, Mexico and Argentina." MIFIC reports that Nicaragua receives 28% of its imports from Central America, which is also the destination of 16% of our country's exports. Nicaragua plays a crucial role in Central American economic integration because its central geographical position on the isthmus makes it an essential transit area for regional trade, transport and tourism.

Thanks to the regional stability promoted with so much effort by the Sandinista government as part of the commitment to regional integration of the FSLN's historic program, the economic growth of the Gross Domestic Product in Central America of about 4% per year significantly exceeds the average of Latin America and the Caribbean of only between 2% and 3% per year. For the moment, mainly due to the interference of the North American government in the region, the Central American Integration System has been paralyzed, but several important aspects of regional integration are still working.

Among the institutions of regional coordination in which Nicaragua actively participates are the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the Central American Monetary Council, the Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic, the Conference of the Central American Armed Forces and the Commission of Police Chiefs and Directors of Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean and Colombia.

There are constant exchanges on regional health issues and also on the development of education at the regional level. Nicaragua is recognized as a regional and international reference in education, as the then representative of UNESCO explained in 2023, "We say inside UNESCO, Nicaragua teaches us, Nicaragua teaches you with many topics. They are looking to Nicaragua for advice on education for other countries."

## **The moral and spiritual strength of the revolutionary model**

It is indisputable that only the Sandinista Popular Revolution would have made it possible for Nicaragua to achieve so many socio-economic victories in just 20 years after the catastrophe of 17 years of misrule by neoliberal administrations that served the North American empire. Even the international financial institutions dominated by the empire that continue to block new financing to the country paradoxically recognize the outstanding honesty and efficiency of the government of Commander Daniel and Compañera Rosario. What guarantees the integrity in the public administration that distinguishes Nicaragua from its neighboring countries is the commitment of our Government of Reconciliation and National Unity to social cohesion, patriotism and cultural identity.

Compared to the neighboring countries of the Central American region, Nicaragua has a highly developed moral and spiritual strength, as was expressed in the recent reform of the country's Political Constitution. Its preamble names national heroic forebears: the Caciques Diriángen and Nicarao, Father Tomás Ruíz Romero, General José Dolores Estrada, Andrés Castro and Emmanuel Mongalo, Rubén Darío, Benjamín Zeledón, Augusto C. Sandino and Blanca Aráuz Pineda, Rigoberto López Pérez and Carlos Fonseca together with Pedro Joaquín Chamorro and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and "all the generations of Heroes and Martyrs who forged and developed the liberation struggle for national independence."

No other country in the region recognizes its heroic forebears so passionately and is so committed to their example. Although all Central American countries have outstanding cultural and political figures in their histories, in truth, none have such outstanding historical figures worldwide as Rubén Darío and General Augusto C. Sandino. Honduras rightly celebrates Cacique Lempira and General Francisco Morazán and Guatemala celebrates Tecún Umán. But only Nicaragua celebrates its national heroes with a love of country that comes from centuries of resistance and sacrifice, of overcoming all kinds of aggression and foreign imposition, and which goes hand in hand with the commitment to ensure national reconciliation with all people of good faith. And only Nicaragua recognizes the contribution of all its generations of heroes and martyrs in defense of national sovereignty and independence, which is the cultural expression of the Sandinista revolutionary project to deepen a true democratization of Nicaraguan society.

## **Nicaragua's example of gender equality**

The fact that Nicaragua offers the region and the world a successful model of a revolutionary society necessarily implies that it also offers an example in terms of gender equality. Relevant to this issue are not only the outstanding representation of women in Nicaragua's legislature and in the other state and government institutions, but also the levels of equity and equality in all spheres of the country's socio-economic life and national culture. The advances in gender equality in Nicaragua have been essential steps in developing a true democratization of the country during the last 20 years.

They have been essential in the national emancipation from the heritage of colonial culture and the barbarism of the Somoza dictatorship serving US imperialism and also in overcoming the aftermath of the decade long 1980s war, followed by 17 years of neoliberal misrule by US aligned right wing governments. Now Nicaragua is entering the twentieth year of the second phase of the Sandinista revolutionary democratization process and it is evident that the commitment to equality between women and men and genuine gender equity are not simply slogans but a dynamic reality that is lived and developed in practice every day.

### **An evolving revolutionary process**

Compañera Rosario referred to this on Women's Day in 2021, "... we need to do more. It is a cultural change that we need to achieve. This is a very important aspect... The fact that the Constitution establishes equity and establishes that we must carry out equity, precisely, in all areas of life. Of public life. Of life in terms of the positions and responsibilities that exercising Power implies... because we have achieved it, with our presence, with our heroism in the struggles we have had to wage, so that Nicaragua, as Sandino says, 'is free because she has sons and daughters who love her.' "

Now the political Constitution refers specifically in its Preamble to heroic women like Blanca Stella Araúz Pineda, the Women of El Cuá, and the women students who have been protagonists in every struggle. Article Five recognizes that, "Women in Nicaragua are protagonists of our lives and we exercise rights in equality, through our capacity and effective presence, in all spaces, events and moments of our history. Women in Nicaragua have been and are forging ahead as direct and active participants throughout our history of freedom-loving, revolutionary and evolutionary struggles for Homeland and Freedom." And in its Article 25, "Absolute equality is established between men and women in the fulfillment of their duties and the exercise of their rights."

Perhaps less well known among the population is that in Article 73 "The State grants special protection to pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum" and, as part of this protection, the responsibility of men is integrated since "A man in marriage or in a stable de facto union shall have the right to no less than five calendar days with salary and without loss of any social benefit on the occasion of his partner giving birth."

This provision highlights the central focus of the Constitution on the family expressed in Article Four, "The family is the center of community coexistence and the forging of values and feelings that promote humanism, tolerance and harmony out of love" and is too an essential protagonist "in daily advances in the fight against the injustice of inherited poverty, seeking the human development of each and every Nicaraguan."

Thus, the essential gender equity that has been achieved in Nicaragua has been and continues to be an integral process of the evolution of Nicaraguan society towards ever higher levels of human development, social stability and poverty reduction to consolidate true economic and social democratization. Equality and equity between women and men in Nicaragua is a highly practical expression of our society's commitment to the revolutionary Christian, Socialist and Solidarity inspired values of its People as President. It is also the realization of the ambitious revolutionary program of the Sandinista National Liberation Front promulgated in 1969, in which point seven reads "The Sandinista Popular Revolution will abolish the odious discrimination that women have suffered with respect to men; it will establish economic, political and cultural equality between men and women."

### **Revolutionary women**

It is relevant as well to quote Sandino's words once more when he said that in his struggle against the Yankee empire "The heroic acts of the women who collaborated in the Army, are not only many, but also most of them require long stories to explain the sacrifices they suffered and the dangers they faced for the love of the Nation, and all of them, peasants, school teachers, nurses, housewives, and even ladies of society, made sacrifices without which our war would not have been possible." In the same way, there were thousands of women who gave their lives to achieve the Triumph of the Sandinista Popular Revolution on July 19th 1979.

Along with the countless anonymous peasant women and women workers, heroines like Luisa Amanda Espinoza, Arlen Siu, Julia Herrera, Amanda Aguilar, Mildred Abaunza, Claudia Chamorro, Angela Morales, Silvia Ferrufino, Clotilde Moreno, Aracely Perez, Yelba Antunez, Aura Ortiz, Lina Herrera, Fátima Pavón are remembered as only a few of the women among the thousands of compañeras who sacrificed their lives to make the Sandinista Popular Revolution possible. It has been estimated that between 25% and 30% of the combatants in the insurrection were women, a very high proportion compared to the other armed struggles on the continent.

Then, during the first phase of the Sandinista government, compañeras like, for example, Dr. Concepción Palacios, Nora Astorga and Doris Tijerino stood out among the countless thousands of Sandinista women who strengthened that first period of the revolutionary process at almost all levels. Among the terrible threats and dangers of the terrorist war of the 1980s, women made possible the incomparable feat of the National Literacy Crusade, the massive mobilizations for the coffee harvests and the establishment and consolidation of national mass health campaigns. Women made possible the innovative development of the national education and public health systems and contributed greatly to the widespread development of sectoral business and farming organizations, trade unions and cooperatives.

It would not have been possible to resist the tremendous difficulties and pressures of the war imposed by the government of President Reagan without the steadfast dedication of women faithful to the revolutionary process. Even in the midst of the desperate difficulties of the war against counterrevolutionary terrorism sponsored by the US government, the Sandinista Front reaffirmed its commitment to equality between women and men. The 1987 proclamation on the issue affirmed the fight against machismo, the recognition of the role of women in the Revolution, the commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities and the abolition of discrimination against women in laws and institutional policies.

After the end of the war and with the arrival of Violeta Chamorro as president, Sandinista women played a fundamental role in defending the achievements of the Sandinista Front's first period of government. But they also ensured the unity of the party against insidious attempts at division before and after the historic FSLN congress of 1994. Throughout the years of neoliberal misgovernment, they made possible the accumulation of electoral strength which eventually made possible the victory of the FSLN led by Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario in the 2006 national elections.

### **A new phase of Peace, Reconciliation, Unity and Hope**

Since then, the momentum to promote gender equality and equity has intensified. The process of Reconciliation and National Unity required a true and firm commitment to the democratic decision of Nicaraguan women and a categorical respect for the country's culture, without imposing criteria alien to the values of Nicaraguan society. This process has been developed based on laws and government policies such as Law No. 648, the Law on Equal Rights and Opportunities, passed in 2008, which opened the possibility of a much broader participation for women in national public life.

Law 648 made possible the decree of the principle of parity in the candidacies of all political parties for the 2011 elections, which was consolidated by Law 331 with incorporated reforms of 2012 for all subsequent elections. In Latin America, only Cuba, Mexico and Nicaragua have achieved parity between women and men in their legislatures. But also, with 62.5%, Nicaragua is the Latin American country with the highest percentage of women government ministers. Since January 2007, the National Assembly has prioritized the issue of gender equity to ensure the approval of laws that prevent and punish crimes of gender violence and domestic violence.

Among others, figure Law No. 779 Comprehensive Law against Violence, the reforms to Law No. 641 of the Penal Code to update the penalties for crimes committed against women and also the Law against Human Trafficking. The National Assembly maintains Gender Policy among the five main institutional policies, which are reinforced through the guidelines of the national plans to combat poverty. For example, point five of the twelve guidelines of the National Plan to Combat Poverty and for Human Development for 2022-2026 includes gender equality and equity.

On this point the presentation of the Plan explains "Our President Daniel Ortega and Compañera Rosario Murillo have given us this mandate, it is one of the most important because, as there is greater equality and gender equity, it will have a greater impact on the economy and social development. Important resources were mobilized in previous years for women to capitalize on them and become protagonists in production, in trade. This support will be strengthened in the coming years." Since this policy's inception in the years after the 2007 electoral victory of Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario, programs aimed at women, such as Zero Usury for women in urban centers and the Productive Bonus Package for rural women producers, have promoted the inclusion of millions of women in the national economy.

It is estimated that Usura Cero has provided loans to more than two million entrepreneurial women and a similar or greater number have been protagonists of the Productive Bonus and related programs, such as the programs promoting domestic plant production for rural households, or for small family coffee producers, among others. These and other programs which have been key to the economic democratization and productive growth of the country continue. In recent years, great progress has also been made in the creative economy, which promotes many aspects of the national culture in which women figure as key socio-productive protagonists who energize the conventional economy with innovative new business ventures.

As regards women's socio-economic security, the issue of property titling has been fundamental. An important law was the 2010 Law 717, Creating the Fund for the Purchase of Land with Gender Equity for Rural Women. As the Attorney General's Office explains, a property title "means legal security, above all, it means the government's commitment to the People, restoring to Nicaraguan families this much-longed for document that was not a concern in previous governments." Between 2007 and 2025, the Office of the Attorney General has issued a total of 758,334 property titles for both urban and rural properties, benefiting almost two million women.

The strengthening of gender equity includes, among many other things, comprehensive preschool care. In Nicaragua, preschool care is provided by the Ministry of Education through more than 270 Child Development Centers nationwide which guarantee attention, care and educational development to more than 16 thousand infant girls and boys up to age 5. Another fundamental issue for Nicaraguan families is maternal health. Maternal mortality has been reduced by more than 80% since 2006 to 16 women per 100 thousand live births last year.

As part of its national strategy to care for pregnant rural women, the Ministry of Health now operates more than 180 Maternity Homes which care for more than 70,000 rural women every year prior to giving birth. In addition, among other important advances in women's health, now every hospital in the country offers mammograms and last year more than 1.2 million cervical cancer early detection exams were provided in 219 specialized clinics around the country, reinforced by 7 departmental chemotherapy centers and 23 pathology laboratories. The incidence of mortality due to this cancer has fallen by more than 16% since 2006 thanks to improved early detection.

In terms of women's security, it is worth highlighting that almost 40% of the officers of our National Police are women and now a woman officer shares the role as joint police chief in each of the country's 153 municipalities. More than 300 Police Units for Women and Children have been established throughout the country to receive complaints of gender-based violence, provide care and protection to victims and investigate cases. With Law 779, the judicial system now includes Specialist Courts Addressing Violence which are courts in the first instance aimed at resolving in an expeditious way the majority of cases of violence against women.

In all spheres of national life in Nicaragua, progress towards equality between women and men continues of which Nicaragua's Copresidency of Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario is the most obvious example. As Compañera Rosario has said "How much we have advanced in Gender Equality! We have in the National Assembly, Women and Men in equal numbers, and we have in the Municipal Authorities, in the Municipal Councils, and in the Government Cabinet, women and men complying with our Law of Equity, 50% for Women, 50% for Men, but all of us represent the Supreme Interest of Nicaraguan Families: Peace and the Joy of Living in Peace, in a Country of Faith, of Hope, of Family Values, of Community."

## **Nicaragua - Citizen security and regional containment wall**

The issue of citizen security in Nicaragua in its broad sense covers all aspects of national life. Apart from the essential role of the justice system, citizen security is in effect the common task of the various directorates of the Ministry of the Interior including the National Police, of the Nicaraguan Army and of the different ministries and institutions of the central government, for example, of Health, Education, Transport, the Family, the Attorney General's Office, INETER, SINAPRED, the Institutes for, Youth, Women Tourism, our local Municipal Authorities and, on the Caribbean Coast, the different levels of autonomous regional, territorial and community government. All these structures of central and local government contribute to guarantee the tranquility and well-being of Nicaragua's population.

As First Police Commissioner Francisco Díaz has commented, Nicaragua's citizen security model "is not a model just of the Police. This is a model composed of the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police, our brothers and sisters of the Nicaraguan Army, the Sandinista National Liberation Front with its political secretaries, with its territorial network, municipal authorities and the institutions of our Good Government." Nicaragua has a National Sovereign Security Policy and a National Strategy Against Organized Crime which are an essential part of the National Plan for Human Development and to Overcome Poverty which guarantees security, stability and Peace in Nicaragua.

### **The containment wall policy**

A fundamental element of citizen security since the return to government of the Sandinista Front in January 2007 has been the development of the containment wall policy against regional organized crime and especially against drug trafficking. As General Julio Cesar Aviles has explained "Central America is a narrow strip that unites North and South America. The estimates this year are that 3 thousand tons of cocaine will be produced, 80 percent seeking to be transferred to the United States, we are in the middle of that." The strategy of the containment wall operates not only against drug trafficking but also to prevent money laundering, human trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, illegal migration and smuggling.

Since 2012, an institution central to combat money laundering has been Nicaragua's Financial Analysis Unit which has worked to ensure the integrity of the national financial system and to control financial transactions that could indicate organized crime activity. As Compañero Francisco Bautista Lara has explained, "The presence of organized crime in a country, in addition to systemic criminal violence, facilitates kidnapping, selective extortion and contract murder, institutional corruption and dependence on public institutions on the dictates of cartels and crime bosses, and thus implies loss of sovereignty and the inability to preserve the common good."

Nicaragua's containment wall strategy helps to combat crime regionally because it prevents drug trafficking to the north. It is implemented in collaboration with the authorities of countries in the region such as Honduras, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and also with Russia and with the US authorities. General Julio César Avilés has noted, "We and the Hondurans have an Operation called Sandino-Morazán, which precisely aims to provide security to the populations, both Hondurans and Nicaraguans, who live near the border" and "we fight drug trafficking and organized crime, guaranteeing to contain, intercept and capture the largest amount of drugs that transit from South to North of the continent."

## **Citizen security**

In Nicaragua, the vast majority of crimes, about 97% of the total, are minor. The incidence of crimes endangering people's physical integrity is around only 3%. The homicide rate per 100 thousand inhabitants is 6% and the rate of robberies with violence and intimidation is among the lowest in the region. Nicaragua is very different from its neighboring countries. There are no planned assassinations or kidnappings because the country has no presence of gangs, criminal cartels or organized crime and drug trafficking cells. This reality allows the National Police to focus on the protection of the population and to protect mainly the poorest, the most unprotected, the most vulnerable.

To this end, community care models have been implemented such as the Inter-institutional Program for the Comprehensive Care and Development of Adolescence and Youth for a Culture of Peace that promotes social inclusion and the prevention of youth violence with the implementation of programs such as "My life without Drugs, Peace and Future" and "Addiction-free Neighborhood" and, to counteract domestic and sexual violence, the activities of "Women for Life, Women Well and in Peace". There are now more than 400 Police Units for Women and Children in every one of the country's 153 municipalities and police units are constantly being strengthened not only in the capital Managua and the departmental capitals but also nationally in all municipalities.

Safety in the rural areas is guaranteed all year round with special attention during the coffee harvest, which in recent years has reached a production level of more than two million quintals. So every year the Nicaraguan Army and the National Police carry out a coffee harvest security program in high-production departments like Jinotega, Matagalpa, Esteli, Nueva Segovia and Boaco and also in the coffee-growing areas of the south of the country. It coordinates security forces, communities, producing farmers, traders and transport operators in order to optimize the security of all harvest-related activities. Similarly, in rural areas, the security forces combat cattle rustling and ensure security for the sugar harvest and the production of all agricultural food products.

The same coordination model is applied in the case of security for schools, tourists and for environmental security, which are all very important aspects of citizen security. Sputnik has recently reported on how the protection of natural resources in Nicaragua is now treated as a national security strategy because "environmental degradation increases the vulnerability of the territory and increases the risk of disasters." Inter-institutional collaboration involves coordinated planning with the National System of Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention for National Exercises and preventive activities among firefighters, organized communities, the police and, especially in remote areas, the army.

## **A Police and Army of the People**

The National Police and the Army play an integral part in the Early Warning System on the Pacific and Caribbean Coasts. In times of hurricane or tsunami threats, they help local authorities with the evacuation of populations at-risk, supervising warehouse supplies and displaced people's shelters as well as ensuring the transfer of food and essential supplies. The community nature of our National Police is constantly reinforced through their direct presence, community assemblies and house-to-house visits and regular activities with local municipal authorities. Coordination with the schools and the Ministry of Education ensures the safety of the students in their educational centers. With the Ministry of Health, police accompany vaccination campaigns as well as actions to combat dengue and periodic Health Fairs.

To reduce the number of people killed and injured due to traffic accidents, the National Police implements the National Road Emergency Plan. First Police Commissioner Diaz has observed “Can traffic accidents be avoided? Yes, they can be avoided, and it is simple, through responsible behavior from whom?, from drivers, pedestrians and the passengers. The condition of roads, lighting conditions of the roads, as well as the behavior of drivers, pedestrians as Human Beings, have a great deal to do with avoiding traffic accidents.”

The security of airports and seaports is another among many issues of national life that impact on citizen security. In Nicaragua, all ports and airports are safe and certified by the corresponding international organizations. Last year, a system of Port Captaincy Infrastructure was inaugurated to promote greater attention for industrial fishing companies and artisan fishing families. In 2025, the Nicaraguan Army conducted more than 50 search and rescue missions and rescued more than 170 people.

All these measures characterize our Army, as General Avilés has commented“ "The Nicaraguan Army, the People's Army!, the uniformed People themselves working for their own benefit! From Civil Defense, from the Humanitarian and Rescue Unit and detachments of the land, naval and air units, we serve as we have always done throughout these 46 years ”to stay close to and serve the entire population in general in the different geographical spaces of our Nation, on Land, along Coasts, and at Sea.”

## **Conclusion**

Beyond the prevention of crime and delinquency, Nicaragua’s model of community, police and State prevention with the participation of all the institutions of our government and the State ensures that Nicaragua remains a country with high levels of security for its population. This atmosphere of stability and tranquility greatly encourages national and international investment in the economy’s productive activities. A symbol of what this reality means is the conversion of dozens of trucks seized from drug trafficking into mobile clinics to promote the health of the population in their own communities.

Our Copresidents constantly emphasize the primacy of stability and security so as to confront all challenges and threats. Compañera Rosario explains that in Nicaragua "Life is a struggle, yes it is a struggle, but in Tranquility, in Security, in Stability, working, and in constantly better and better conditions. Working with Health. Working with Education, in all its forms... Working Blessed, Prosperous and Victorious! And our Comandante Daniel has affirmed “We have the duty to continue striving for Peace, no matter how much enemies may provoke us, no matter how much they threaten us... we are not going to take a step back, we will continue to bring Benefits to the People, and for that Peace, Peace and still more Peace is essential.”

## **Nicaragua - Sandinismo and national identity**

The contemporary history of nations around the world demonstrates that a broadly agreed humanistic sense of national identity is absolutely fundamental to strengthen the dynamic and democratic socio-economic development of peoples. National identity promotes love of country, a steadfast sovereign conscience and a strong sense of national dignity which ensure the victories of peoples even in the face of the most sinister threats and the most difficult challenges. Otherwise, nations become vulnerable to all kinds of betrayal, the abandonment of values and the surrender of national interests, subversion of the democratic will of their people and submission to foreign impositions.

Around the world there are many examples of countries where the ruling elites superimpose their interests over the needs and aspirations of the families of their peoples or where governments submit to the demands and interventions of the imperialist powers. But the quisling classes almost always have to fight against the determined will of their peoples to affirm who they are and where they come from. The history of Latin America and the Caribbean offers many examples of the superhuman courage of peoples who defend the memory of their struggles, their sense of national identity and their historical aspirations for emancipation against the miserable surrender of traitorous elites.

At this moment, the Cuban people are once again demonstrating how their revolutionary identity allows the country to face an even greater intensification of the genocidal US blockade. In Venezuela, after the violent kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores, the government and people face the complex task of defending and sustaining their sovereign independence in the face of the ruthless gangster extortion of their oil by the regime of President Donald Trump. By contrast, in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, their ruling elites exploit the facade of electoral democracy to impose the will of their foreign masters on the well-being of their populations. They undermine popular unity, promote corruption and arbitrary repression and pervert the patriotic sense of the national Common Good.

### **Nicaragua**

A robust national identity has always been an essential resource to defend the legitimate aspirations of peoples while sustaining their resilience in the face of the incessant assault of psychological warfare aimed at colonizing the mind and imagination of resistant populations. In Nicaragua, the triumph of the Sandinista Popular Revolution was achieved precisely thanks to the determination of the people to free themselves from a terrible dictatorship and reverse the betrayal of the assassination of General Sandino and his comrades in 1934 on the orders of the Yankee government. The Triumph of 1979 was not only a moment of political and economic emancipation but also a moment of cultural, spiritual and emotional revolution that Sandinismo as a movement has managed to turn into a continuous process, developing a sense of identity and national dignity.

It is a process that involves all spaces and aspects of national life from the most fundamental elements such as language, clothing and gastronomy to the most complex cultural, socio-economic and political expressions. The first phase of the Sandinista Popular Revolution emphasized the political anti-imperialism of Sandino's legacy, but what allowed the Sandinista Front to overcome the 17 years of nihilist obscurantism of the neoliberal governments was its complete integral commitment to the entire national heritage so completely expressed in Sandino's struggle. Since January 2007, the governments of Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario have confirmed and consolidated this commitment in an exemplary way.

As the poet Jeremy Cerna has noted, Sandinismo “is a national identity that articulates the memory of indigenous resistance, the anti-imperialist struggle, popular spirituality and the revolutionary project of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). It is the result of a historical process that has managed to integrate faith, culture and social justice...” And as Xavier Díaz Lacayo has affirmed, “The restitution and certification of the true independence of our population in the category of a Sovereign Nation today allows the Revolutionary State to dignify the paths of sacrifice that we have historically waged against negative external influences in order to preserve our original social and cultural structure; with harmony, respect, indissoluble unity with nature and – above all - love for all expressions of life.”

In fact, the policies of the government of Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario rooted in true love for the Nation have facilitated the exploration and celebration of all facets of Nicaraguan national identity and spirituality. The essential influence of the cosmovision of Nicaragua’s native and Afro-descendant peoples has been recognized, how it has survived the ruthless cultural assault of Spanish colonialism and has been syncretized with the Christian religion in many traditional festivals from the Maypole to the Immaculate Conception. Sandino's spiritual vision fits fully and naturally into the syncretic cosmovision of Nicaraguan culture, when he wrote in his manifesto Luz y Verdad that “the beginning of all things is Love: that is, God. He can also be called the Creator Father of the Universe. The only daughter of love is Divine Justice.”

## **Revolution and Culture**

The revolutionary claims and affirmations of Nicaraguan culture follow the imperative of achieving the democratization and inclusive modernization of the country's society. Along with new public infrastructure throughout the country, the traditional architecture of the colonial era is preserved and restored. The fashion initiatives of the Nicaragua Designs program go hand in hand with the celebration of traditional clothing such as Huipiles. While state-of-the-art medical equipment such as linear accelerators for cancer treatment are being installed, natural medicine and traditional healing practices are also actively promoted.

Far from being tourist curiosities, folk dances, traditional music and cultural expressions such as the gigantonas are a common part of our political and social activities. Likewise, the varies gastronomy of Nicaragua is widely enjoyed and reflects the popular roots in the national life of the native and Afro-descendant peoples, from rondón, patís and the coconut bread of the Caribbean Coast to the güirilas with cream cheese, quesillos with tiste, nacatamales, vigorón, baho and indio viejo of the peoples of the Pacific. All these traditions are actively promoted with the constant holding of competitions, festivals and forums organized by the Creative Cities network and all the institutions of the Creative Economy Commission

The government has made it possible for Nicaragua now to have more than 200 Centers of Culture and Creativity, which promote activities and classes of music, dance and art throughout the country. The love of all the cultural expressions of Nicaragua, interculturality, is an integral part of the national educational system. Compañero Johnny Hodgson, Presidential Delegate for the Caribbean Coast, has noted how in Nicaragua “We are proud that the National Commission on Interculturality has been created which includes the National Council of Universities, the Ministry of Education, the National Technology Institute, and Regional Governments so as to ensure that the issue of interculturality is not a topic that one only begins to know about as an adult but that since childhood, children begin to appreciate the issue of Interculturality.”

No other political movement in the region has had the vision and practical capacity that Sandinismo has shown to build a culture of love for the Nation so rich in its various expressions. In these months of January and February we celebrate the great national heroes Rubén Darío and Augusto C. Sandino not only for their incomparable works and deeds, but for being figures who synthesize Nicaraguan culture for the whole world. As Comandante Daniel explained "Darío and Sandino proudly claimed that Indigenous Blood ran through their veins, and we are all proud that Indigenous Blood runs through our veins."

In fact, in Nicaragua, all the outstanding exponents of music, dance and the plastic arts, ceramics and crafts, literature and theater, merge with the resistance struggles of the people to achieve their full political, socio-economic, moral and spiritual emancipation from the centuries of colonial and neocolonial oppression. Sandinismo, led by Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario, has created the conditions to guarantee the preservation, evolution and transformation of all expressions of national culture, ensuring their transmission to new generations in order to continue deepening the revolutionary democratization of Nicaraguan society.

Compañera Rosario has explained the utmost importance for Nicaragua's revolutionary identity of the vision of Comandante Carlos Fonseca when she commented on November 8, the anniversary of his transition to immortality, "How much we owe to Carlos Fonseca for that Thought and that Vision that made the synthesis that managed to translate, into an infinite idea and a multiplying practice, Nicaraguan Identity, Identity that is Thought, Identity that is Tradition, Identity that, as Darío says, is Vigor, is Glory and Victories... Identity that is permanent struggle, not a senseless struggle, not a useless struggle, but a permanent struggle to build the Future we all deserve. Permanent Struggle to live, as we should live: As fulfilled human beings!"

## **Nicaragua - revolution and innovation**

In Nicaragua, different but intertwined processes of political, socio-economic and technological innovation have progressively deepened since 2007, driven by the initiative and creativity of the people coordinated by the FSLN government's commitment to promote human development for the Common Good. The Sandinista Popular Revolution has advanced the democratization of Nicaragua by making progress in ways similar to the development of the Communist Revolution in China, "crossing the river by feeling the stones". As in China, the innovation processes in Nicaragua differ categorically from the innovation characteristic of capitalist countries where innovation does not promote the Common Good but obeys the business imperative of maximizing profits and dominating commercial competition.

### **Varieties of innovation**

In a capitalist society that responds mainly to the interests of monopolistic corporations, innovation implies a constant struggle between the processes of creation and the processes of decomposition and disruption. The period of the Great Depression before the Second World War made famous the concept of creative destruction as a natural process of the economic cycles of the capitalist market. According to this model, it is natural that innovation brings benefits for some social sectors and negative consequences for others, which indicates the decisive importance of the question of who controls the social acceptance of innovation.

The capitalist market controlled by a small group of large companies allows the management of innovation processes to reinforce inequalities caused by the power and influence of these same fascist corporate elites. They set the rules and norms in favor of their interests and against the needs and interests of their countries' majorities. This reality can be clearly seen in the responses of the elites of Western countries and their allies to urgent global challenges such as Climate Change, pandemics such as Covid-19 or the vertiginous development of Artificial Intelligence.

In the context of international relations, the emergence of a new balance between different poles of world power and the relative decline of the old empire signals an intense period of geopolitical and geo-economic innovation. The profound changes in international relations underway are an example of the concept of paradigm shifts, that is, when a theory or a system no longer satisfies the demands of scientific or political reality. The Sandinista Popular Revolution has been a supreme expression of this type of paradigm shift and its consequent innovation processes.

Popular revolutions promote and prioritize the human development of their peoples while market capitalism prioritizes the greed of its ruling elites who suppress and manipulate the aspirations of the majorities at national and global levels. This reality is what drives the economic, psychological and military aggression of the collective West against the revolutions of China, Democratic Korea, Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua and Venezuela, among others. Another aspect of this reality is the collapse of the moral and intellectual authority of the Western elites implicit in their application of increasing censorship and repression of the free exchange of information and freedom of expression on the Internet and digital platforms.

## **The Sandinista Popular Revolution**

The governments of Comandante Daniel Ortega and Compañera Rosario Murillo have demonstrated the high integrity and validity of socialist planning based on extensive local and national consultations which in effect decentralize and democratize the decision-making process. The National Plans for Human Development and Poverty Reduction, developed on the basis of constant exchange with the different sectors of national life, incorporate a constant process of innovation. The aftermath of the failed coup attempt of 2018, the devastating hurricanes Eta and Iota of November 2020 and Covid-19, demonstrated the agility of Nicaragua's government team to adapt to new realities and urgent challenges.

Since January 2007, the innovation processes initiated by Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario have progressively deepened the implementation of Sandinismo's historic program. Its development has been most evident first in the agricultural production sector and the inclusion of rural families with programs such as the Productive Bonus, in the exploration of non-traditional crops and the wide application of new techniques. Institutions such as INTA and IPSA and the National Agrarian University have facilitated the healthy development of ways to reduce the adverse impact of diseases on plants and animals, to sustainably increase the yield of crops and fruits, for the healthy development of new derived products and, in the case of fisheries, best practices to increase the catch and to process and market fishery products.

Programs such as Usura Cero have ensured the increasing inclusion of women entrepreneurs in urban areas, an inclusion consolidated by initiatives such as the different Creative and Entrepreneurial Economy programs and the promotion of national, regional and international tourism. Advances in these sectors have improved marketing techniques, online business development, the creative design of new artisan products from materials such as bamboo, new ideas for textiles and greater use of recycled products. These initiatives are constantly promoted at the local and national level through municipal fairs and national Scientific and Technological Research and Innovation days.

The biggest national festivals have been the Hackathons that promote technological entrepreneurship based on the learning and implementation of new technologies. Since 2020 there has been the National Innovation and Technology Center and INATEC has inaugurated different Innovation Centers and Innovation Laboratories in the national technical education system. The national strategy of the Ministry of Education with activities of innovation and creativity in learning and to do with the training of teachers has shown how to take optimal advantage of new technologies to increase the scope and quality of its education programs.

The most obvious example in this sense has been the development of the University in the Countryside that has been possible thanks to the creative capacity of the MINED in adapting innovation so as to ensure a truly revolutionary education in the country. The openness to new ideas has facilitated the updating of the curriculum at all levels and the strengthening of teacher training to achieve greater coherence in curriculum content and greater continuity in education processes. The adaptation to new technologies and scientific perspectives has also fostered greater coordination and exchange between the educational system and the productive sector and with private enterprise in general.

Public health is another sector of national life that demonstrates how innovation processes enrich and strengthen the restitution of rights to the Nicaraguan people. The installation of linear accelerators for the treatment of cancers and other sophisticated equipment of all kinds, the recent advances in intrauterine fetal surgery and in cardiovascular surgeries and neurosurgeries among others, show that MINSA maintains a quality of health care among the best in the region or the world. The consolidation of the Maternal Prenatal Center system, the national vaccination system and the volunteer brigade system all result from MINSA's commitment to opening up to constant exchange at community level.

Nicaragua's Family and Community Health Model has been exemplary as an innovative model in the region and was recognized in 2024 by the Pan American Health Organization for its innovation in digital health. PAHO said, "Nicaragua stood out among 24 other countries, due to its leadership in working with the population, its demonstrated ability to mobilize resources, general and specialized knowledge, the challenges faced, the obstacles overcome and the novelty of the strategy's approach, which serves as an example to other countries."

Providing better services to the community is a fundamental element for the Sandinista government and is reflected in the introduction of administrative practices such as one-stop processes to be able to make payments more quickly and access online services more efficiently. The authorities at both central and local levels in Nicaragua are working to become modern institutions integrating new technologies to serve the population in an increasingly better way and to respond to their priority problems. This requires innovative and efficient coordination between municipal authorities and the institutions of central government via their departmental delegations, for example, from the Attorney General's Office, MARENA, the General Directorate of Revenue or INETER.

In fact, the commitment of the government of Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario to innovation with the objective of consolidating and deepening Nicaragua's revolutionary democratization was expressed in the reform to the Constitution that created the figure of the Co-Presidency. Compañera Rosario constantly emphasizes the importance of this revolutionary spirit, for example when she explains "This is the meaning of the creative, family, community, victorious economy, this economy of the majority, which is fundamentally, basically, essentially and spiritually democratic, because it is the economy that encourages all of us as protagonists to move forward, to make our way learning, undertaking and prospering in our forever free Nicaragua"

## **Nicaragua - a Revolution of Security and Peace**

Nicaragua is among the very few countries in the world, if not the only one, with a State policy for a Culture of Dialogue, Reconciliation, Security, Work and Peace. Law 985 of January 2019 established the legal framework to promote this culture of peace in various ways. As the Law specifies, these are changes that allow the people of Nicaragua to learn to live together in a harmonious and respectful way in order to eliminate violence in Nicaragua. Textually, the Law says that "this culture of peace is achieved when we recognize the diversity and differences human beings have and we make our best efforts to solve conflicts harmoniously, sharing what unites all people, families and communities."

Nicaragua's commitment to Peace and Security is a principle rooted in the people's determination to never return to the times of the 1980s war imposed by the US government. And this principle was further strengthened after the failed coup d'état of 2018, also fostered by the US government's permanent policy of interference. When Comandante Daniel returned to government for the second time in January 2007 he declared of the presidential band in his speech, "This band belongs to the peasants, to the workers, to the youth, to the women...The whole of Nicaragua!" to promote Reconciliation and National Unity.

In the following ten years, an inclusive model of government was promoted based on consensus composed of all national sectors with representatives of the different sectors of the popular economy, trade unions, private enterprise and the government. With this model, Nicaragua overcame the crisis of the global economic collapse of 2008 and 2009 and sustained growth rates of 5% per year in the subsequent decade until 2018. The basis of security and stability in Nicaragua during this period was the policy of Reconciliation and National Unity promoted by Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario which guaranteed progressively better levels of prosperity and modernity.

Ensuring peace has always been an imperative constantly promoted by the Sandinista government. In 2010, President Comandante Daniel decreed June 27th 2010 "National Day of the Former War Combatants of Nicaragua and of the Reconciliation of the Nicaraguan Family". Then, in 2012, the National Assembly approved Law 796 that ratified June 27 as "The Day of Nicaraguan Resistance, Peace, Unity, Freedom and National Reconciliation." So from the beginning of this second stage of the Sandinista Popular Revolution, the country's authorities have emphasized the imperative of reconciliation and unity as the bases of the nation's prosperity and human development so as to achieve poverty reduction.

This reality has been recognized by the leaders of the former Nicaraguan Resistance. For example, on June 27th 2023, deputy to the Central American Parliament and former Contra leader Élide María Galeano Cornejo commented that June 27<sup>th</sup> 1990, for Nicaraguans, "Was the day of Peace, of reuniting among brothers and sisters, because the war had divided us, the war divided us, because in the war there were families that had two sons in the Contras and two in the Sandinista Front... we returned to reunite with our families, to fight for true reconciliation." Among the generation that managed to bring about the end of the war, several key figures stand out who greatly influenced that peace process and also consistently during all the subsequent years consolidating the process begun in 1990.

This past February 9th at the Ceremony of Awarding the Reconciliation and Peace Medal “Cardinal Miguel”, the contribution of compañero Jaime Morales Carazo was recognized as key not only as the head of the 1988 Peace negotiations in Sapóa for the Resistance, but also later throughout the long reconciliation process. As Vice President of Nicaragua between 2007 and 2011, he worked closely with President Comandante Daniel and later served as a deputy in the Central American Parliament.

Jaime Morales recognized Cardinal Obando y Bravo as “a great Teacher who enjoyed the confidence of everyone. I remember that once we visited him together with the Comandante, we spoke several times with him, and he was always clear, always affectionate, always friendly to the Comandante, to Rosario, and with all of us who were collaborating at that time directly....That was a great lesson so that conflict would never happen again, and that the way of Dialogue is always the way of Peace and Understanding, between Peoples and between people.”

On the anniversary of July 19th 2015, Cardinal Miguel commented how, on that date, “We celebrate Peace, Reconciliation, Love. 36 years later, the Youth are facing other struggles; a struggle to preserve the Peace that cost the youth of that time so much; a struggle to achieve a change, as Pope Francis says, a positive change, a redemptive change.” At another moment the Cardinal commented “We must ask God not to allow the culture of hatred to settle in our society, let us work together as brothers and sisters that we are.” On March 2nd 2016, Cardinal Miguel Obando was declared by the National Assembly a “National Hero of Peace and Reconciliation”.

Shortly after, in August 2017, in a conversation with the director of the World Trade Organization, Comandante Daniel remarked, “The main challenge here is, first, to guarantee Peace; because the greatest threat the world has right now is against Peace. We already see how Countries that have been destroyed for different reasons have disintegrated, and those are chaotic areas... So, Nicaragua and Central America, which cost us so much to achieve Peace, not only because of the wars that were known at the end of the last century, but war in all Eras, achieving Peace is combined with Reconciliation.”

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo was the most prominent figure of national reconciliation in Nicaragua, from the times of the dictatorship, to the negotiations to end the war of the 1980s and, apart from Comandante Daniel and Compañera Rosario, especially during this new stage of the Sandinista Revolution since 2007. The Cardinal died on June 3rd 2018 in the midst of the failed coup d'état attempt promoted by the traitorous mercenary quislings, full of hatred and bad faith, in the pay of foreign powers. That failed coup attempt was also a warning against the culture of Peace and Security built with so much effort, sacrifice, goodwill and love for the Nicaraguan people during the thirty years since the Sapóá agreements.

However, as Comandante Daniel said in 2019 at the Ceremony of the XXII Graduation of Cadets of the National Police “Despite the damage that the Empire with its terrorists here have caused to the economy, this is a People that knows how to take on challenges firmly, and knows how to climb the highest mountains.” And in the six years since those words of Comandante Daniel, Nicaragua has truly overcome all the socio-economic challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Hurricanes Eta and Iota and their aftermath and remains the most secure country in the region.

It is worth quoting the words of Aliya Haer, a Canadian who visits Nicaragua several months every year. She has written, "Nicaragua is an extraordinary country, to which I have become strongly attached during the last twelve years of coming here without having a single bad experience... Nicaragua is a great place for women! Women are powerful in Nicaragua. Women are involved and visible in all spheres of life... most Nicaraguans are aware of the situation in the neighboring nations of Central America and feel lucky not to have those same problems of unemployment, growing wealth inequality and crime, to name a few."

In fact, a comparison with the citizen security situation and the levels of violence in our neighboring countries confirms the testimony of Aliya Haer. The price of citizen security in El Salvador has been a very high level of repression, countless cases of unjust imprisonment, the routine use of excessive force and the effective militarization of society. A recent report on Costa Rica reports a "significant increase in criminal groups in the country, increased links with international clans, strong corruption and an increase in extortion."

A recent report on Honduras concluded that "Honduras is one of the most violent and crime-ridden countries in Latin America. The violence is perpetrated by local drug trafficking groups, gangs and corrupt security forces working mainly with transnational criminal organizations from Colombia and Mexico". A recent report on Guatemala warns that "The country is facing an unprecedented convergence between drug trafficking, weapons, migration and money laundering, which are no longer separate phenomena but pieces of the same criminal mechanism that weakens governance, corrupts institutions and erodes the rule of law."

So as Comrade Denis Moncada Co-Chancellor of Nicaragua said last week at the weekly on line meeting of our party and the municipalities "Nicaragua is like a blessed oasis in an immense global desert, we must all take care, as we do, of our Beloved Nicaragua, which is a haven of Peace". And a little more than five years ago in the above mentioned XXII Graduation of Cadets of the National Police, Comandante Daniel also said, "We are Lovers of Peace, we want Peace, we have always said this, we have always sought Ways to Peace, and today more than ever we are committed to Peace."

And also in the event honoring Cardinal Miguel and Jaime Carazo this past February 9<sup>th</sup>, Co-President Compañera Rosario affirmed of Nicaragua's people that, in a determined way, "The decision is Concord, Peace, Brother and Sisterhood. The decision is Love, and Love is Faith, it is Strength, it is the Great Spirit that manifests itself in each of us and that calls us to be Better... Better Citizens, Better Revolutionaries, Better Neighbors, Better Students, Better Men and Women, Better Workers. To be better at everything we do."