

**Statement by Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders
Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
closing the debate on the Resolution, The Situation in Nicaragua
on 15th August 2022
at a Special Session of the OAS Permanent Council**

Madam Chair, I take the floor to thank all the delegations that have supported this resolution today.

In particular, I wish to thank my colleague from the delegation of Ecuador for joining the other ten delegations that originally supported this resolution.

The fact that the overwhelming majority of delegations - twenty-seven of them - supported this resolution, sends a very strong and clear message to the Nicaraguan government which we sincerely hope they have heard.

And in hearing what we have had to say, we hope that they will at last accept our offer to receive a high-level mission to engage them in ways in which democracy and human rights can be restored in that very distressed country.

Particularly, we hope that they have heard our call for the release of the prisoners now detained, and to stop the harassment and intimidation of the media, the church, and civil society. They are consuming their country in an atmosphere of fear and intimidation for which its development will suffer for many generations to come unless they act to stop it now.

Madam Chair, we have stood-up for right and justice today.

We have shown the constructive capacity of the Organization of American States (OAS); and if we do not believe it has that capacity, then, we, the member states of this organization have it within us the power to make sure it does.

But, to stand on the sidelines and simply say it does not have the capacity, cannot be good enough. We did not become members of this organization because it is an empty drum. We became members of this organization to beat the rhythms that will uphold the pillars on which we say we are dedicated, and that we must continue to do.

Madam Chair, I give notice that a group of us will request that the situation in Nicaragua be placed on the agenda of the General Conference in October, and we will do that shortly.

We hope by that time, the Nicaraguan government will have taken positive action to free the political detainees, and to end the atmosphere of fear that now permeates that country.

Madam Chair, colleagues, I believe that we all did the right thing today.

We stood up for human rights.

We stood up for people who are part of our family.

We have shown that this organization means something.

Thank you very much.