



HRC38 – Item 2 General Debate
Statement by the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)
19 June 2019

Mr. President,

FIDH expresses its deep appreciation for the tireless work and dedication of the High Commissioner to promote and protect human rights around the world.

FIDH joins his assessment that the situation in **Nicaragua** requires the Council's scrutiny. We strongly condemn the excessive use of force, up to lethal force, by State security forces and pro-governmental armed groups against peaceful protesters. We also regret that the resumption of the national dialogue was marked by an ongoing repression by the police and an upsurge of violence by pro-government armed groups. We therefore urge the government to create conditions conducive to a credible dialogue and call on the HRC to ensure the necessary follow-up to the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which may take the form of an independent investigative body.

We welcome the recent OHCHR report on the human rights situation in **Kashmir**. We urge the Indian and Pakistani governments to support the report's call for accountability and to act upon its recommendations. Furthermore, we urge all parties to refrain from acts of reprisals against human rights defenders who provided information to OHCHR, as well as to cease all ongoing acts of harassment against civil society documenting human rights violations in the region.

In **Myanmar**, we decry the government's latest attempt to whitewash the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya in Rakhine State by appointing yet another commission of investigation that is likely to lack credibility, independence, and impartiality. The council must now, more than ever, lend its full support to the work of the international Fact-Finding Mission and other documentation efforts with a view to fostering accountability for crimes committed against ethnic minorities in Myanmar.

I thank you.