

## On the situation in Nicaragua

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Rome, Italy on 11 December 2021:

### Recalls:

- on 7 November 2021, sham presidential and legislative elections were held in Nicaragua amid allegations of fraud, and the incumbent president, Daniel Ortega, who has ruled the country since 2007, re-elected himself for a fifth term – his fourth consecutive term – with approximately 75 % of the votes cast and 65 % turnout, according to the Supreme Electoral Council;
- Daniel Ortega eliminated all credible electoral competition and crushed the integrity of the electoral process through the systematic arbitrary incarceration, harassment and intimidation of presidential pre-candidates, opposition leaders, student and rural leaders, journalists, human rights defenders and business representatives;
- those arbitrarily arrested face fabricated, politically-motivated and ambiguous criminal allegations without any evidence in a process marred by serious violations of procedural guarantees, which demonstrates the lack of independence of the judiciary.

### Calls for the ALDE Party and its member organisations to:

- condemn the undemocratic, shameful election process in Nicaragua that violated all international democratic standards for credible, inclusive, fair and transparent elections;
- reject the legitimacy of the results of the illegal elections and to not recognise any institutional authorities that emerged from the rigged vote and support statements affirming that this election completes the conversion of Nicaragua into an autocratic regime;
- call for the holding of elections in accordance with international standards and the standards of the Inter-American Democratic Charter to ensure that the democratic aspirations of the people of Nicaragua are realised, and for international organisations and civil society organisations to be allowed access to the country;
- condemn the violence, the systematic crackdown on political opposition leaders, the suppression of civil society actors, human rights defenders and media and the widespread impunity for crimes committed against them, and the persistent corruption practised by Nicaraguan government officials.

### Calls for:

### Resolution:

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- the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and for their human rights, fundamental legal safeguards, and civil and political rights to be ensured.

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