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“From the fight against corruption to the fight against opposition”

- *“Government actions not only not contribute to the fight against corruption in the country, but they also criminalize citizen participation.”*

Nicaragua, October 13, 2021. The National Scenario in Nicaragua of the Citizen Forum of the Americas, along with the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) present the results of the follow-up report to the compliance of the Lima Agreement “Democratic Governance against Corruption”, signed at the VIII Summit of the Americas in 2018.

Despite the fact that Nicaragua did not attend the meeting or signed the agreements taken at the VIII Summit of the Americas, a group of the Civil Society with extensive experience in legislation, public policy and oversight made a follow-up to their compliance. Likewise, this analysis was done in 19 countries in the continent, by identifying the regulatory and practical developments in order to comply with the Lima Agreement.

The report presented today is a corruption analysis, done from April 2018 to May 2021, which by all means includes Nicaragua’s instability context, framed by human rights violations, suppression of freedoms, political prisoners, civil society and media oppression, shutdown of NGOs, the COVID-19 pandemic, and an electoral process.

Among the **findings**, the report reveals that:

- Despite the fact that there are regulations and proceedings to make the purchase and contracting processes transparent, they are the same as the ones of 2018, in reality, and there is very little information found at the government institutions’ portals that allow a proper follow-up.
- The democratic governance theme appears with the lowest score. In the chapter of Context, there is a good reference to the constant human rights violations of the Nicaraguan people.

Among the **recommendations**, the information gathered shows that when there can be a significant change in the government, then the legal framework and the public policy may be reviewed, at a **regulatory level**: it is necessary to move forward with aspects as the confidentiality regarding public information retrieval, protection to whistleblowers, political and financial autonomy of all the stages involved in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. **From the public policies** against corruption, the power must return to the population, the independent journalism and the non-profit organizations, which will allow the transition from a corruption instrumentalization used to hunt down opposing parties to a more just society, which allows competitiveness guarantees to the economic sectors.

About the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO):

The Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) is an alliance between civil society organizations and social actors of the continent, created with the purpose of allowing the follow-up to the agreements adopted by the governments of the hemisphere at the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru in 2018. It also promotes citizen participation in the fight against corruption.