



WILPF Report

UPR Costa Rica

13th Human Rights Council session, March 19, 2010

**H.E. Mr. Manuel B. Dengo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN,
Geneva**

Mr. Manuel Dengo presents his country as one of the oldest and most stable countries in Latin America—it is the oldest democracy in the region. He adds it would be good to improve the UN mechanism and renew the UPR's functions. He insists recommendations should be made only on items the examined towards which the country has not yet shown attention, or implemented.

In Costa Rica, 102 recommendations have been accepted. Three of them have already been implemented, regarding:

- handicapped and disabled persons;
- discrimination against women;
- abolition of human trafficking;

Costa Rica struggles against violence towards women and children. The state has promulgated special laws on gender equality; reinforced its laws against sexual exploitation of children; taken measures against human trafficking; and improved its laws regarding migrants (theses being the first victims of human trafficking). Finally, Costa Rica has also ratified the Convention on cultural diversity.

Mr. Dengo and his delegation stress that of the countries in Latin America, Costa Rica has the best health insurance. Access to clean water has been improved, as has education—school desertion rates have been reduced—and ECOSOC Rights are being promoted. In February 2010, for the first time in the country's history, a woman was elected to the Presidency.

Observers:

Countries (Algeria, USA, Nepal, Morocco):

Most countries congratulate and approve Costa Rica's engagement, good will, and contribution to improve the UN mechanisms of the UPR. However, the USA stresses

that involvement and struggle against human trafficking is still insufficient, and reinforcement child trafficking and child protection laws should be given special attention.

[NGO's \(European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Federation\):](#)

This NGO stresses that efforts have to be made in Costa Rica regarding the rights of sexual minorities. Educational campaigns regarding on LGBT rights should be developed. It adds also, Costa Rica should conform to the Convention on Torture, as it is one of the most important mechanism regarding Human Rights. The NGO commends Cost Rica for the adoption of the Convention on Protection for Sexual Minorities.

[Costa Rica's response:](#)

Costa Rica restates its commitment to Human Rights, and ensures a strong governmental stance concerning the continuation of its policies promoting them.

The final resolution is being adopted.