

**Human Rights Council
Adoption of UPR outcome on Costa Rica, 19 September 2014**

Mr. President,

During the review of Costa Rica, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Iceland and Norway, recommended that Costa Rica take steps to guarantee full and effective recognition of sexual and reproductive rights, and emphasized the need to decriminalize abortion, particularly in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest.

Currently, in Costa Rica women are not able to access health services without discrimination as evidenced in two decisions from the Inter American Commission of Human Rights, Aurora and A.N., where women with pregnancies with malformations incompatible with life, were forced to carry to term those pregnancies regardless that abortion is legal in cases when the women's health is at risk. Specifically, Costa Rica has not defined healthcare guidelines, nor revised its law to ensure access to legal and safe abortion in cases in which the woman's life or physical or mental health are at risk.

A: The Center for Reproductive Rights welcomes Costa Rica's commitment in accepting the six UPR recommendations on reproductive health and rights, it is critical that Costa Rica takes urgent steps to implement those recommendations by taking all the necessary measures to guarantee access to abortion in cases where legal. We also request that the State address the following reproductive rights issues that remain of concern:

B: The Center for Reproductive Rights regrets that Costa Rica has ~~rejected~~ the recommendations made on reproductive health and rights. We continue to be deeply concerned about the access to health services, including sexual and reproductive rights without discrimination. We urge Costa Rica to address the following reproductive rights issues that remain of concern:

First, to amend the current law to legalize abortion in the case of rape.

Secondly, to adopt a healthcare protocol to regulate and guarantee access to legal abortion, taking into account not only the risk to the life and physical health of women, but also the risk to their mental health;

Finally,, to adopt the necessary legal measures to allow access to IVF reproductive health services for infertile couples, without discrimination, in compliance with the decision of the Inter American Court in the Artavia Murillo case, and;

Thank you very much for your attention.