



UNIVERSIDAD  
NACIONAL  
AUTÓNOMA DE  
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# THE WEEK IN FOCUS



CENTRO  
DE ESTUDIOS  
DEL DESARROLLO  
*Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann*

**N.21**

A review of the leading news on Nicaragua  
from 5 - 9 september 2022



## Nicaragua to strengthen relations with Russia, India, China and South Africa

5 September



## Co-Chairs of the Russia/Nicaragua Joint Commission meet in Russia

6 September



## Nicaragua swears in Departmental and Regional Electoral Councils

7 September



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8 September



## Technical Assistance Program commences for Coffee Growing Families

9 September

NICARAGUA



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# Nicaragua to strengthen relations with Russia, India, China and South Africa

Monday, 5 September 2022

**O**n Monday, the Nicaraguan Minister of Finance and Public Credit Ivan Acosta, who is participating in the 7th Eastern Economic Forum, taking place in Vladivostok, Russia, told the Russian news agency TASS that Nicaragua is aware of the development opportunities provided by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) association and will deepen relations with its member states, *"We believe that BRICS is a viable option for a global partnership that provides numerous opportunities for growth in developing countries, particularly those with a different perspective on the global situation. We will continue to seek to strengthen ties with BRICS nations,"* assured Minister Acosta.

The 7th Eastern Economic Forum will be held from 5th – 8th September 2022 in Vladivostok on the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University.

The Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The theme of this year's Forum is "The Road to a Multipolar World". The EEF is being organized by the Roscongress Foundation.

Minister Acosta stated that Nicaragua has indicated that it is ready to discuss the use of the card payment system known as "MIR" with Russia.

"Right now, we are considering different issues relating to finance cooperation. I still don't know how the MIR card works. We are studying these issues. We are open to different options for banking and financial exchange," he said, referring to Nicaragua's readiness to begin using Russia's MIR card system.

After the financial sanctions against Russia in 2014, the National Payment Card System (known by the acronym NSPK) was created.

In December 2015, NSPK developed the commercial agreement and technical infrastructure to allow MIR (a government-sponsored local payment card issued in Russia) to be accepted by ATMs and points of sale.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

<https://radiolaprimerisima.com/noticias-generales/destacado/nicaragua-profundizara-relaciones-con-rusia-india-china-y-sudafrica/>



## Co-Chairs of the Russia/Nicaragua Joint Commission meet in Russia

Tuesday, 6 September 2022

A meeting of the Co-Chairs of the Russia/Nicaragua Joint Intergovernmental Commission for trade exchange and technical-scientific cooperation was held within the framework of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia, in which a delegation of the Government of Nicaragua is participating.

Dr. Veronika Skvortsova, Director of the Federal Medical-Biological Agency of the Russian Federation and co-Chairwoman of the Russia/Nicaragua Joint Commission, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Energy, wheat and fertilizer exporting companies, the St. Petersburg Institute of Vaccines and Serums and the MECHNIKOV Institute participated on behalf of Russia.

The participants from Nicaragua included Ivan Acosta, Minister of Finance and Public Credit and Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission Russia/Nicaragua; Laureano Ortega Murillo, Presidential Advisor and Special Representative of the President for Russian Affairs; Daniel Edmundo Ortega Murillo, Media Coordinator of the Council of Communication and Citizenship;

Alba Torres, Ambassador of Nicaragua to Russia and Claudio Arana, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Nicaragua to Russia.

During the meeting they discussed the progress made in the different programs and projects being developed and formulated in strategic sectors such as food security, health, agribusiness, transportation, energy, banking, media, [as well as] investment and trade in general.

Both Russia and Nicaragua reiterated the special attention given to bilateral cooperation by President Vladimir Putin, President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo, who exchanged greetings.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

<https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:132038-realizan-reunion-de-copresidentes-de-la-comision-mixta-rusianicaragua>



## Nicaragua swears in Departmental and Regional Electoral Councils

Wednesday, 7 September 2022

**T**he Magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Council of the Republic of Nicaragua, in keeping with activity number 14 of the calendar for the 2022 municipal elections, swore in the members of the 15 Departmental and 2 Regional Electoral Councils.

The President of the CSE, Judge Brenda Rocha, highlighted the functions that the Electoral Councils will perform after their swearing in and assured that the electoral process is being carried out in accordance with the Political Constitution and the relevant laws.

*"This collegiate body has started the process of the 2022 sovereign elections, the municipal elections where political parties have [now] presented their proposals under equality and gender equity principles. That is why, for the first time, in our country, 77 female and 76 male mayoral candidates will be chosen. It is important to point out that these municipal elections mark a historical milestone because they will be applied in accordance with the reforms to the Electoral Law, which aim at strengthening gender equity within the political parties. That is to say, we are ensuring the equitable participation of women in all the spaces and levels of our electoral structures and bodies", proclaimed Rocha.*

"With the conformation of the Departmental and Regional Electoral Councils, 9 women presidents and 8 male presidents are being appointed, and of the 51 proprietary and alternate positions, these will be made up of 25 men and 26 women", she added.

### **A Process in compliance with the law**

The participating Political Organizations must comply with the provisions of the Political Constitution and applicable laws, such as the electoral law, the law on foreign agents and the law in defense of the rights of the people to independence, sovereignty and self-determination for peace; and of course, with the ethical norms and resolutions of the CSE.

*"You, members of the Electoral Councils, are being appointed at the behest of your own political party, however, from the moment you are appointed and sworn in, you have the duty to defend the right to suffrage with full self-determination in accordance with our Political Constitution. It is up to all of us to safeguard our independence", remarked Brenda Rocha.*

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:**

<https://diariobarricada.com/2022/09/07/nicaragua-juramenta-a-consejos-electorales-departamentales-y-regionales/>



## 6.7 million córdobas to boost the economy of small producers

Thursday, 8 September 2022

**T**he Government of National Reconciliation and Unity, through the "Adelante" [Move Forward] program, delivered the first 100 fair credit loans to Nicaraguan entrepreneurs and producers.

Justa Pérez, Minister of the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy, MEFCCA, said that *"we are witnessing a very important event. We are making the first delivery of more than 100 loans to entrepreneurs, as well as male and female producers, to women start-ups throughout all of Nicaragua, to the tune of more than 6.7 million córdobas"*.

Perez emphasized that *"we are complying with the mandate to continue promoting production and adding value in all socio-productive areas"*. This is a program that responds to the political commitment of the Government of Nicaragua to empower the men and women, owners of small and medium-sized businesses in all the socio-productive sectors, to promote the economic development of the country.

One of the benefits of this program is that it has an interest rate of 15% on the balance, with terms ranging from 1 to 6 months and from 3 to 36 months.

*"The Adelante program has two fundamental components. The first is the line of credit as a fundamental tool for the impact of our stakeholders [protagonists or producers]. The second component is the technical assistance that we, from MEFCCA, will provide to ensure that the financing is successful in improving the production of our protagonists"*, said Gustavo Zapata, Director of the Adelante Program.

Heydi Martinez thanked the Government of Nicaragua, for the opportunity they provided to acquire the credit.

*"We as beekeepers will use the credit to purchase inputs and refurbish the equipment we have. This is thanks to the support of the MEFCCA who is providing us with follow up. These programs promoted by our Government [of Good Governance] are very positive because they support the small producer or merchant, something we cannot get from the microfinance institutions,"* she said.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

<https://diariobarricada.com/2022/09/08/6-7-millones-de-cordobas-vendran-a-impulsar-la-economia-de-pequenos-productores/>



## Technical Assistance Program commences for Coffee Growing Families

Friday, 9 September 2022

**T**he National Commission for the Transformation and Development of the Coffee Industry (CONATRADEC) and the SNPCC are inaugurating a technical accompaniment program for families of coffee growers within the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Coffee Culture with an aim of contributing to increased productivity and profitability.

Among the main components to be developed are: 450 field workshops, which would train at least 12,000 male and female producers in integrated pest and disease management, good agroecological practices and techniques such as the use of bio-inputs, harvest management, post-harvest, wet mill management, marketing and farm management. A second component includes conducting field visits to 5,000 coffee farms for direct agroecological technical accompaniment. A third component involves a Soil Fertility Study Program for Coffee Plantations in conjunction with INTA, through which we will carry out 1,000 soil and nematode analyses this year [alone] on an equal number of coffee farms in the Departments of Jinotega,

Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Estelí, Boaco, Managua, Carazo, Granada, Rivas and Masaya, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Estelí, Boaco, Managua, Carazo, Granada, Rivas and Masaya. With the results from the study, we will prepare guidelines on the type and quantities of inputs to use in order to improve crop nutrition levels [and better] satisfy the soil requirements of each municipality. We will also identify and quantify the nematodes present in the soil and crop, in order to promote the implementation of appropriate techniques and treatments for their elimination.

Already during the first week of September we have reached more than 2,000 coffee producers through field visits and encounters in 21 coffee-growing municipalities.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

<https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:132171-inicia-programa-de-acompanamiento-tecnico-a-la-familia-cafetatera>

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*"A la libertad por la Universidad"*