



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 59th Session

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the UPR outcome of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

1 July 2025

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance thanks the Plurinational State of Bolivia for its constructive engagement in the UPR process.

We welcome Bolivia's acceptance of recommendation to "Respect the autonomy, independence and freedom of expression of non-governmental organizations, including religious and human rights organizations."

We look forward to the implementation of this recommendation, especially with regards to the Catholic Church, which was targeted by unfounded accusations of conspiracy or cover-up that facilitated or provoked the alleged coup d'état in the context of the 2019 general elections.

However, we regret that Bolivia did not accept the recommendation to "Establish conscientious objection to military service in law and practice, and stop charging for military service records for those who are exempt from military service."

As highlighted in our joint submission, to date, no initiative or administrative measure has succeeded in expressly recognizing the right to conscientious objection to military service in the country.

We call on the Bolivian government to comply with its international obligations, to recognize this dimension of the right to freedom of thought and to include in the national legal system a regulation guaranteeing the right to conscientious objection to military service.

Finally, we call on Bolivia to review and modify Law No. 1161 and Supreme Decree No. 4054, as well as other administrative norms that regulate the registration of religious entities, in order to make both the process and the registration requirements of the different religious groups more flexible, so that the process does not become an obstacle for the development of their religious activities in the country.

Thank you.