

People's Power Minister for
Foreign Relations
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Caracas, July 5th, 2016

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in order to express our most sincere gratitude for your careful dedication to our communication of March 15th, 2016, which clearly says the position of Venezuela regarding the continuation of the good offices to address the territorial dispute on *Esequibo* with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

It is well known that our Government turn to you convinced of your opportune action and highly valued your efforts to help us find a *practical, satisfactory and mutually acceptable arrangement*. This being the spirit, purpose and reason for the Geneva Agreement.

In order to facilitate negotiations between the Parties, the good offices mechanism has been experimented in recent years through the appointment, assisted by the Secretary-General, of three successive *Good Officiants*, who, due to various circumstances beyond the control of the Parties, interrupted its continuation, including the death of the last one in 2014.

For this reason, at the present stage of the negotiations, we are grateful for the notable support of that Secretariat General in continuing the good offices process through the appointment by His Excellency of a new personal representative who, pursuant to article 4.2 of the Geneva Agreement, will continue that task and facilitate, through intensive contacts with both parties, assistance for a practical and satisfactory settlement of the dispute.

Venezuela *reiterates its* firm decision to seek a negotiated solution to the territorial dispute with *Guyana* on *Esequibo*, with the good offices of the Secretary-General, and in this regard is willing to support this initiative, within the strict framework of the Geneva Agreement.

His Excellency Mr.

Ban Ki-Moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York.-

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In that *regard*, we believe that the Ambassador nominated to exercise the personal representation of the Secretary-General has a profile that reflects his rich diplomatic experience. However, we consider it necessary in order to improve the performance of the good offices, it would be useful and prudent to have the option of a group of candidates to exercise this delicate and important role, taking into consideration as a main issue that such a representative should meet conditions of honesty, technical, legal and political capacity, impartiality and above all, with evident experience and skill in the management of conflict resolution, in order to better contribute with the choice of the most suitable one.

With regard to the work agenda for such demanding and valued action, we must confirm our committed dedication to the facilitation of these good offices, and in good faith, we predict a timely and consequent report that will contribute to reaching *a practical, satisfactory and mutually acceptable arrangement for both parties*.

Once again, we thank you for your understanding, as well as for your attention to finding a solution to such an important territorial dispute within the legal framework of the Geneva Agreement, a valid instrument that inspires your dignified action.

Delcy Rodríguez Gómez
Minister