



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

The People's Power Ministry for Foreign Relations makes public to the Venezuelan people and the International Community that it sent a Diplomatic Note to the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on March 28th, 2018, whereby establishes its position concerning the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, dated January 30th, 2018, which proposes the judicial settlement as a method for the peaceful settlement of the territorial dispute between our country and Guyana, since the arbitral award of 1899 regarding the border between Venezuela and the then British Guyana is null and void.

In this regard, the Guyanese authorities have been made aware that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela disregards the content of such letter, and so it was made known to the UN Secretary-General on February 25th, 2018, as it exceeds the powers granted by the figure of Good Offices –mutually agreed upon by the parties– and contravenes the spirit, intent and purpose of the Geneva Agreement of February 17th, 1966.

Likewise, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has stated that it expressly objects the judicial settlement as a means for peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute on the Guyana Essequiba, since it violates the preamble of the 1966 Geneva Agreement, which strictly establishes that such dispute must be “amicably settled in a mutually acceptable manner”. The aforementioned mechanism also violates Article 1, given that it does not lead to “satisfactory solutions for the practical settlement of the dispute”.



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Furthermore, it has been reiterated to the Guyanese government that resorting to the judicial settlement to resolve such dispute is unacceptable, unfruitful and unenforceable, given that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not recognize the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice as binding, and in this framework, Venezuela has always been consistent with its historical position of expressly reserving or not signing any international legal instrument containing arbitration clauses that may grant compulsory jurisdiction to such Court.

Lastly, in order to make progress in the choice of the peaceful dispute settlement mechanism, by mutual consent, under the Geneva Agreement of 1966, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has proposed to the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to resume diplomatic contacts, allowing to reach a practical and satisfactory solution of the territorial dispute. Such contacts will also allow to jointly assess the possibility of continuing with the Good Offices figure, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, all this within an environment of cordiality and constructive and peaceful dialogue.

Caracas, March 30th, 2018