



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela once again rejects the U.S. ruling elite's immoral and interventionist practice. The United States of America assesses the public policies implementation of other sovereign countries, thus showing the American nation's political interests and building a narrative based on convenience. On this occasion, the United States has included Venezuela on its false list of major illegal drug-producing or drug-transit countries in spite of the fact that it is widely known that the drug trafficking scourge is mainly encouraged in the United States by the unbridled consuming level and commercialization of illicit substances.

Venezuela is a country that firmly struggles against drug trafficking and whose role, in this regard, is performed within the framework of corresponding multilateral parameters. The Bolivarian Republic's vigorous action, based on State strategies to prevent cultivation, production, manufacturing, selling, traffic and distribution of illicit drugs, enabled us to seize 716,666 tons of drugs from 2005 to 2018, that is to say a record amount of 75% seized in the states bordering the Republic of Colombia. This has led the United Nations to reaffirm in its reports that Venezuela is not a producing country; it does not have an endemic drug trafficking problem; it is not a country with a high prevalence of consumption; that it is not a country where assets derived from drug trafficking are legitimated nor the financial system takes advantage of the legitimization of capital derived from drugs trafficking.

The Venezuelan Government rejects the attempt by Donald Trump's administration to politicize a problem that annually causes the death of thousands of Americans due to the absence of effective public policies on reduction of domestic consumption. According to data provided by the 2019 Annual Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),



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70,237 people died because of drug overdose in the United States last year.

Trump's administration reduces the figures provided by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) through its Cocaine Signature Program (CSP). Trump's administration affirms that more than 90% of the cocaine found in this country comes from Colombia and the cocaine consumption in the U.S. simultaneously raises with the increase of production in Colombia. Similarly, the report submitted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to the U.S. Senate in December 2018 warns that one of the causes of the increase in cocaine production and trafficking is the increase in demand in the United States of America.

Venezuela preserves and implements, at a world, regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels, within the framework of the National Anti-Drug Plan for the period 2019-2025 under the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility, respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity, non-intervention in domestic matters and respect for Human Rights. Since the expulsion of the DEA from Venezuela, the efficiency of the drug policy has significantly increased. In Caracas, we will never admit or give validity to assessments or controls from those responsible for the drug production and trafficking and deaths caused by drugs worldwide.

Caracas, August 10th, 2019.