

**JOINT STATEMENT UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10 OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 36th SESSION.
GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 2017**

I deliver this joint statement, on behalf of the 63 Members and Observers of the Human Rights Council, regarding the events in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

1. We acknowledge the imperative of all States to respect the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in compliance with the Universal Principles of Non-Interference in domestic affairs enshrined in the United Nations Charter.
2. We believe that it is the Venezuelan people's task, exclusively, to determine their future without foreign intervention, thus their sovereign will, in accordance with the National Constitution must be respected.
3. We acknowledge the sovereign right of the countries to hold electoral processes, including the election of Constituent Assemblies, based on their legal framework and national constitutions.
4. We hope that the Constituent process carried out in Venezuela promotes the call for an inclusive dialogue, through mutual political recognition, national unity, reconciliation, and the cooperation amongst Public Powers, as a guarantee of a full functioning of the democratic State.
5. We reiterate the support to the Constitutional Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in its commitment to maintain peace and democratic institutions in the country, as well as, its determination to ensure the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Venezuela.
6. We support the continuous call made by President Nicolás Maduro to a political dialogue amongst the different sectors in Venezuela, to maintain peace and guarantee the stability of the democratic institutions in the country.
7. We are of the view that the international community should provide capacity building and technical assistance and cooperation based on the request of the concerned country, in addressing human rights challenges of the country.
8. We condemn in the strongest terms, the unilateral coercive measures imposed against the Venezuelan people from abroad, which are in flagrant violation of international law and human rights, as well as an unacceptable interventionist implementation, whose only purpose is to directly hinder the Bolivarian people and government of Venezuela to push for regime change.

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9. Likewise, we reject the arbitrary and illegal sanctions imposed by the Government of the United States against Venezuelan citizens, including the constitutional President of the Republic Nicolás Maduro Moros.

10. We value the Declarations made by the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures in the enjoyment of human rights, as well as, those of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; who expressed that the sanctions are not an appropriate response to the situation in Venezuela. Likewise, they expressed that imposing unilateral coercive measures are disruptive and endanger the peace in the region, furthermore, Venezuela's situation can only be solved by finding a political solution based on dialogue and commitment.

11. We condemn any action that disrupts the peace, tranquility and democratic stability of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and threatens its sovereignty, including the recent threats made by the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, on a possible military intervention in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in violation of International Law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, regarding the threat or use of force against its political independence and self-determination.

12. We believe that the Venezuelan people can handle their domestic affairs accordingly, in a framework of sovereignty and self-determination, to maintain national stability and encourage development to promote peace and reaffirm the values of social justice, thus, any military intervention would undermine the successful human rights model that we have achieved in Venezuela in the last 18 years.

Thank you