



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA PEOPLE'S POWER MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hereby informs the international community and the Venezuelan people that on January 30th, 2018, it received a communication by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on the negotiation process of the territorial dispute with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

Through this communication, the UN Secretary General stated the following:

- After a brief overview on the negotiation process undertaken throughout 2017, he recommends the International Court of Justice as the following channel to be used for the settlement of the territorial dispute between Guyana and Venezuela related to the Essequibo territory. Likewise, he considered that the Governments of Venezuela and Guyana may be beneficiated of the continuity of the UN Good Offices process.

In this connection, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hereby communicates to the people of Venezuela and the world the following:

- Venezuela ratifies the full validity of the Geneva Agreement, signed and ratified on February 17th, 1966 by our country and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Government of British Guiana. This international treaty rules the **territorial disputes between the parties** and is lawfully recognized and registered before the United Nations; the only path to definitively solve this opprobrious inheritance of the British colonialism.
- Venezuela expressed in a timely manner its strong opposition to the letter dated on December 15th, 2016, signed by the former Secretary



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General, Ban-Ki Moon, warning that the criteria stated therein exceeded the capacities conferred upon him, thus contravening the spirit, purpose and reason of the Geneva Agreement and the principle of equality agreed upon by the parties.

- The communication of the Secretary General goes beyond the successive nature of the peaceful settlement means set forth in the Geneva Agreement, which constitute the methodology laid down for reaching an acceptable, practical and satisfactory solution to the dispute.
- During 2017, Venezuela maintained its historic position throughout the Good Offices process of the UN Secretary General, giving priority to the high national interest and constantly vindicating the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Venezuelan people over the territory of *Guayana Esequiba*.
- These negotiations were conducted with extreme confidentiality, since this is an essential rule of the Good Offices process agreed upon by the parties and with the United Nations.
- It is worth considering the reasons that prevailed in recommending the International Court of Justice to two States that do not recognize its jurisdiction, taking into consideration that the Geneva Agreement envisages the political means to settle the territorial dispute. In this sense, Venezuela strongly and unequivocally ratifies the negotiation process under such means.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, faithful to its historical tradition and in accordance with the Bolivarian Diplomacy of Peace, reiterates its firm willingness to defend the territorial integrity of our Homeland and maintain the political negotiation based on the Geneva Agreement of 1966, as the only path to achieve the satisfactory, practical and peaceful solution for both parties for the benefit of our Peoples.



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The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro Moros, ensures the defense of the sovereign rights over the *Guayana Esequiba* to the Venezuelan people and he calls for national unity to protect the most sacred interest of the Homeland.

The sun in Venezuela rises from the Essequibo

Caracas, January 31st, 2018