



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / January 14th 2022



**TOPIC OF THE WEEK**

## Venezuela expects to consolidate economic growth in 2022

2022 is destined to be the year of consolidation of economic growth for Venezuela, a country that in 2021 began to take firm steps towards the post-oil rentier era, with favourable results in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the brutal economic blockade imposed by the United States (U.S.) and its allies.

"Venezuela is relaunching its economy, boosting growth and opportunities for all," said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, during an interview with Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet.

He informed that the country registered a growth of 7.5% in the second semester of 2021 and that in the last months of last year it was possible to get out of the induced hyperinflationary scheme, as indicated by the Central Bank of Venezuela. As regards oil, the figure of one million barrels per day

was reached, with a view to doubling it this year.

This scenario is a product of actions such as the flexibilization of the exchange market and the implementation of the Anti-Blockade Law. "From suffering we have gone to resistance and now to growth," he said.

### Wealth for social investment

In this new year that is beginning - indicated President Maduro - a new productive model centered on the human being will be imposed, as prioritized by the Bolivarian Revolution.

"Very important elements of growth are going to be combined," key to turn that wealth "into education, health, housing, wages, income, social happiness. A transition towards a humanly gratifying socialist model."

Furthermore, the Bolivarian Government will continue to promote dialogue with all sectors, despite more than 440 illegal coercive measures by the U.S. and its allies, and the theft and kidnapping of assets abroad, valued at more than US\$ 30 billion, which the Venezuelan State is struggling to recover.

"In all circumstances I have called for political dialogue with all positions," said the Head of State, who ratified his willingness to talk with the government of Joe Biden.

### Alliances for development

In an interview granted to Al Mayadeen television channel, the Head of State indicated that he expects to reactivate financial, monetary, commercial and air ties with Arab countries.

"I think we can do a lot of things in the years to come (...) We have cultivated extraordinary relationships," he said.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## National Assembly at the service of the people

On January 5th, the National Assembly installed the 2022 session. In the first session, Jorge Rodríguez and Iris Varela were ratified as president and first vice-president, respectively. In addition, Vanessa Montero was elected as second vice-president.

In his speech, Rodríguez referred that it was in 2021 when it was possible to rescue the legality of the Legislative Power, which was in the hands of the right-wing, a sector that promoted the blockade against the country.

The current parliamentarians should be proud for "reweaving the institutional network of this Parliament (...) and now it has been recovered to put it at the service of the people," said Rodríguez.

President Nicolás Maduro congratulated the installation of the new plenary. "Deputies! There are great challenges for this year, of work and dedication," always accompanying "the popular struggles," he expressed.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## IN THIS EDITION

### DIPLOMACY

- Venezuela present at Celac

### NEWS BRIEF

- Consolidation of the energy market

### CAPSULES OF IDEAS

- "... a country at all costs ..."

### REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS

- Reinforcement against Covid-19

### UNBLOCK

- The biggest embezzlement

### VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

- Monument to a devotion

### BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

- Commitment to education

### HEROIC ROOTS

- Juana Ramírez, The Advancer

### UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

- Lying to hide the violence



## DIPLOMACY

### Venezuela calls on Celac to denounce the resurgence of coercive measures

At the 22nd Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Minister of Foreign Relations, Félix Plasencia, condemned the resurgence of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) and called on this important regional integration bloc to join forces to denounce these illegal actions.

“It is incomprehensible at this time” that there is “a resurgence of unilateral sanctions and blockade against brotherly countries,” the minister said at the event, held in Argentina on January 7th.

In his speech, he also called for the economic sector to be addressed “as a common space for prosperity, progress and real development, especially in the post-pandemic stage,” and reiterated

the Venezuelan proposal to create the General Secretariat of the organization.

He also thanked Mexico for its work, which handed over the pro tempore presidency of the organization to Argentina, a nation that presented a 15-point work plan, including aspects such as post-pandemic economic recovery and improvement of the operations of the bloc.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister also met with his Argentine counterpart, Santiago Cafiero, to evaluate the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and to extend, on behalf of President Nicolás Maduro, congratulations on the beginning of the pro tempore presidency of CELAC.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Venezuela and Nicaragua rekindle bilateral cooperation

The presidents of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, and Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, agreed to reactivate the high-level mixed commission between the two nations, to design a cooperation map in economic, agricultural, energy, cultural and social matters.

“We are brotherly peoples with a single sentiment: love,” said the Venezuelan Head of State in Caracas, who also rejected the imposition of illegal sanctions against the Central American country on the eve of the inauguration of Ortega for his fifth term in office on January 10th.

At the swearing-in ceremony, attended by the Venezuelan Head of State, the Nicaraguan president rejected the kidnapping of the diplomat Alex Saab and the withholding of Venezuelan assets such as the Citgo company, which provided energy to poor U.S. communities.

“Neither Nicaragua, nor Venezuela, nor Cuba are



enemies of the United States,” stressed Ortega, who also repudiated the double standards of the White House and the European Union on Human Rights, by sponsoring economic blockades.

The inauguration was also attended by the presidents of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, and Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, as well as representatives of Iran and China, among other authorities.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## CAPSULES OF IDEAS

*“Lets form a homeland at all costs and anything else will be tolerable.”*

Simón Bolívar, letter to Luis Brión. Port-au-Prince, Haiti. January 2, 1816

## NEWS BRIEF



### Consolidation of the energy market

The OPEC + has contributed to the recovery of prices and the consolidation of the energy market, by overcoming the difficulties of 2020, and ending 2021 with stable prices and a projection of fair prices for 2022, which will allow “to continue increasing production capacity,” Tareck El Aissami, Vice President for the Economic Area, affirmed at the 24th Ministerial Meeting of this mechanism.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Congratulations to the new Secretary General of OPEC

The Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Félix Plasencia, congratulated Haitham al-Ghais on behalf of Venezuela for his appointment as the new Secretary General of OPEC, a position he will assume on August 1. The Minister also thanked Mohammad Barkindo, outgoing secretary, “for his excellent performance at the head of the bloc during the last 6 years.”

### Rejection of interference

The Government of Venezuela rejected through a statement the interventionist actions of the U.S. State Department, which seeks to legitimize “the operation of a transnational criminal group,” known for usurping State functions to steal the nation’s assets. This type of maneuver, the text adds, seeks to put the peace and development of the Venezuelan people at risk.

### Venezuela-Benin Cooperation

The Ombudsman of Venezuela, Alfredo Ruiz, and the Mediator of the Republic of Benin, Pascal Essou, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Caracas to establish exchange, training and investigation mechanisms for the effective protection of the rights of the inhabitants of both nations. To this end, educational and training programs will be promoted, both with the Ombudsman’s Office and with the Attorney General’s Office.



January 14th 2022 / Page 3

## UNBLOCK



### National Assembly will investigate the largest theft registered against Venezuela

The Venezuelan extreme right, in complicity with the United States (U.S.), has carried out the largest theft of the Venezuelan people through the blockade of assets, denounced the president of the National Assembly, Jorge Rodríguez, during the act of installation of the legislative period of 2022.

“With the euphemism of ‘asset protection’ they perpetrate the largest robbery against the Republic that the history of this country has known and, I dare say, of the history of this continent,” said Rodríguez, who explained that former member of Parliament Juan Guaidó, under the protection of a false parallel institutionality, appropriated 3.1 billion dollars, part of the assets of Venezuela kidnapped by Washington.

According to figures released by the right-wing itself, Guaidó handled 382 million dollars between 2020 and 2021, in addition to another 841 million that he received as supposed “humanitarian aid,” for a total of 1,223 million dollars.

To that amount is added 1,900 million dollars more, which the U.S. has disbursed to Guaidó.

Faced with this embezzlement, Rodríguez instructed the Special Commission that investigates the actions perpetrated by the National Assembly (NA) elected in 2015 to address these irregularities.

“Today, Venezuela faces the fiercest pandemic in 100 years, completely blockaded, without any type of access to resources,” denounced the President of Parliament, who appreciated the efforts of the Bolivarian Government, having managed to vaccinate 92% of the population.

Along these lines, the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, urged the Legislative Power to activate the necessary mechanisms to bring justice against this looting. “This NA has to stand up firmly and ask the Public Powers for justice against these thieves,” he said.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



### Venezuelans receive booster doses against Covid-19

Venezuela, which has 92% of its population immunized against Covid-19, began on January 3rd the application of an additional dose to anyone over 18 years of age who completed the immunization scheme against the virus six months ago.

For this stage, there are more than 18,000,000 units of Sputnik Light, made in Russia, and 12,700,000 of the Chinese drug Sinopharm that will be arriving in the country during January. Starting in the second quarter of 2022, production of the Cuban vaccine Abdala is expected to begin.

“We finished 2021 well, and we must start well and develop all of 2022 with the country open and functioning,” said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, who announced that the general flexibility will be maintained. Only if necessary, will the 7 + 7 scheme be resumed, which alternates a week of relaxation with another of quarantine.

#### Progressive reinforcement

The vaccination plan, developed with the support of sister countries such as Cuba, China and Russia; as well as the Covax mechanism, which has sent 8.9 million doses, began the reinforcement phase among medical personnel on the front line of combat against Covid-19. Progressively, priority sectors will be included, such as the elderly, and in February the rest of the population will be addressed.

“The best way to take care of ourselves is with vaccination,” said the Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez, on January 3rd, who indicated that the people’s conscience has been key to controlling the contagion curve.

At the beginning of 2022, Venezuela registered one of the lowest rates of contagion in the region, with 6 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, a figure that contrasts with Colombia, which by January 9th registered 408 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

### The greatest fervour to the Divina Pastora

In Barquisimeto, Lara state, in the centre-west of the country, is the Manto de María Monument, erected in 2016 in homage to the Divina Pastora (Divine Shepherdess), a religious image venerated every January 14th in one of the most numerous

processions in the world, limited in recent years by Covid-19. The work, made with 3,772 aluminium tubes, measures 62 meters in height and is the largest kinetic sculpture ever built.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## HEROIC ROOTS



### Juana Ramírez, at the forefront for independence and freedom

The desire for freedom always led her to be on the front line of the struggle for the independence of Venezuela. Daughter of a slave and declared in rebellion from a very young age, Juana Ramírez, “La Avanzadora”, is a symbol of the commitment of the women who fought to conquer the freedom of our country.

Although there are discrepancies surrounding the place of her birth, which occurred 232 years ago, there is a place that saw her skills as a warrior shine: Maturín, a town in the east of the country. There, between 1813 and 1814, she joined the Liberation Army fulfilling tasks such as the mobilization of the wounded, with a fervour that led her to get directly involved on the battlefield.

According to historical data, on one occasion she took a sword from a royalist soldier fallen in combat and raised it pointing towards the sky, a gesture considered a call to follow the path of freedom. But her most extraordinary feat occurred at the forefront of the “Batería de las mujeres” (women’s battalion), a key factor for the patriotic triumph at the Battle of Altos de los Godos, on May 25, 1813.

In recognition, Juana received the title of “La Avanzadora”, for being at the front line of combat and opening the way to the liberating troops, led at that time by Manuel Piar.

That vanguard role is recognized today by the Venezuelan feminist movements and by the Bolivarian Government, which instructed the entry of the symbolic remains of the heroine into the National Pantheon on October 23, 2015. As President Nicolás Maduro has said, the legacy of Juana Ramírez, with her mettle and seasoned character, “guides the new battles for the Homeland.”

IMAGE: COURTESY



## BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

### The commitment to educate triumphs over the pandemic

This January, more than 8 million students were called to resume activities in Venezuela’s schools, thanks to a biosafety scheme implemented since last October that allows them to learn in the classroom amid the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a model that summarizes the experiences and expectations of students and parents, guided by teachers, whose role underwent great transformations in almost 21 months.

After the declaration of a State of Emergency, in March 2020, the classroom was moved to the houses, appealing to digital platforms and traditional media. Where technologies were limited, ingenuity made its way: in remote locations like Puerto Ayacucho, in southern Venezuela, educators taught classes through radio stations. In areas where mobility is fluvial, they organized to bring

educational content to remote communities.

The accumulated experience contributed to outlining a comprehensive scheme of face-to-face classes, with a program that has already renovated more than 5,000 schools. In addition, 8 million students are expected to be immunized, while booster doses are given to teaching staff.

These actions are strengthened on the eve of Teacher’s Day, this January 15, when the role of educators as agents to face changes and face new situations is recognized, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

The goal, as President Nicolás Maduro has said, is for 2022 to be “a year of profit, study, proper functioning of schools, rehabilitation of infrastructures and 100% vaccination,” to move towards a new normal.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

### Duque’s lies to disguise violence in Colombia

The first massacre that occurred in Colombia this 2022 left more than twenty dead, after clashes between armed groups in the area of Arauca. But, instead of going to the root of a conflict that originated decades ago, the Government of Iván Duque intends to involve Venezuela in the problem, to hide its political and social reasons.

The Defence Minister of the neighbouring country, Diego Molano, insisted that the confrontation originated in Venezuelan territory, but testimonies reported by international media indicate that the murders occurred on Colombian soil.

As a result of the violence, authorities estimate that more than 2,000 people were forcibly displaced, with Venezuela being one of the destinations. “The international community must observe this conflict with a humanitarian vision,” said Venezuelan Defence Minister, Vladimir Padrino.

Continuing to point out our country of the violence brewed in Colombia “will never exculpate them until the tortilla is flipped over and the Colombian oligarchy is replaced by a government of social commitment,” he added.

#### Rebound effect

Up until January 10, there were 4 massacres in Colombia, where 96 occurred last year, according to the Institute of Development and Peace Studies. “If this continues, 2022 will be the bloodiest in recent Colombian history,” warned Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Félix Plasencia, who has rejected manipulation on that issue.

“Colombia, trying to attack its neighbours, seems to denounce itself, in the face of so many human rights violations committed in 2021” by the Duque Government, “whose only legacy will be to have torpedoed the Peace Agreements.”