



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / February 25th 2022



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Venezuela exceeds vaccination goal and reinforces preventive measures against COVID-19

One year after beginning mass vaccination against COVID-19, Venezuela has completed the immunization objective on the population over 18 years of age, which has received the first and second doses full. Likewise, 56% of children and young people between 2 and 17 years of age have been inoculated.

"A year later I can say: we have complied," the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, affirmed during a health conference held at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas. There, he celebrated that our country, despite the financial obstacles caused by the U.S. blockade, has been able to

obtain antivirals and vaccines.

"Thanks to China, Russia, Cuba, the people of Venezuela have their complete vaccines and we have vaccines for 2022 and beyond," he said.

He also valued the success of the 7+7 voluntary method, which combines a week of quarantine with another week of activities, following biosafety protocols. This scheme, in addition to shielding health, allowed the expansion of the economy and the social life of the people, which since last November has remained in general flexibility.

In recent weeks, Venezuela went from registering

41 cases per 100,000 inhabitants to 18 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, one of the lowest rates in the region. To maintain this figure, the Therapeutic Committee of the Presidential Commission against COVID-19 considered shortening the interval for placing booster doses to 4 months, due to the high contagiousness of the omicron variant.

"We have evaluated studies from European countries and it is preferable to reduce the vaccination time after the second dose," said Executive Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, who heads the Presidential Commission.

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Communique

Venezuela expresses its concern about the worsening of the crisis in Ukraine

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses its concern at the worsening of the crisis in Ukraine and laments the mockery and violation of the Minsk Agreements by NATO promoted by the United States of America.

The derailment of these agreements has infringed International Law and has generated strong threats against the Russian Federation, its territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as impeded good relations between neighboring countries.

Venezuela calls for a return to the path of

diplomatic understating through effective dialogue between the Parties involved in the conflict to avoid escalation, reaffirming the negotiation mechanisms contemplated in the United Nations Charter, in order to preserve life, the peace of inhabitants of these countries and the stability of the Region.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in accordance with its constitutional diplomacy of peace, expresses its best wishes for the peaceful resolution of this conflict while rejecting the application



of illegal sanctions and economic attacks against the Russian people that massively affects the enjoyment of their human rights.

CARACAS, FEBRUARY 24, 2022.

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DIPLOMACY



Venezuelan government backs actions to strengthen gas market

The Minister for Foreign Relations, Félix Plasencia, ratified at the VI Summit of Heads of State of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum the commitment of Venezuela to strengthening the market for this natural resource and to a sustainable energy transition.

At the meeting held in Qatar, the Doha Declaration was signed, which will set the course to be followed so that, through the sovereign use of natural gas, “we can build a promising future for our peoples,” said Plasencia.

The minister also indicated that the forum has the challenge of becoming a multilateral platform that contributes to maximizing the income of its members, stabilizing markets and promoting international cooperation in the gas industry, which this year expects an increase of between 1.8% and

2.4% in the demand for this fuel.

In this context, Venezuela is working to reverse the effect of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on its oil and gas sector “obtaining today a more resilient and solid industry.”

A meeting place

In Qatar, the Minister for Foreign Relations met with the Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, Mohamed Hamel. He also held meetings with the presidents of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang; Iran, Ebrahim Raisi; Mozambique, Felipe Jacinto Nyusi; as well as with ministers from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Malaysia and Nigeria.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed with Iran to expand bilateral cooperation.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Venezuela urges Guyana to reach a practical agreement on Esequibo

The Geneva Agreement, signed 56 years ago, is the only legal instrument to settle the controversy over the Esequibo. Therefore, Venezuela ratifies its adherence to said mechanism and urges Guyana to reach a practical and satisfactory agreement on said territory.

It is essential to seek a calm understanding, the historical truth and the path of equity, adhering to “a legal and historical international instrument, registered in the most genuine evolution of law,” said the Minister for Foreign Relations, Félix Plasencia.

In an online forum, he recalled that Venezuela presented before the United Nations (UN) in

1962 the arguments supporting the legitimacy of the claim. Four years later, the Geneva Agreement was signed to settle the territorial dispute, originated by the interference of foreign powers.

“They bequeathed us difficulties and conflicts that still generate damages and harm to the peoples,” added the minister, who recalled that Venezuela has never given its consent for any judicial instance to hear this controversy.

This position is also supported by the National Assembly, which unanimously approved an agreement in support of the actions for the defense of the sovereign rights over the Guayana Esequiba.

CAPSULES OF IDEAS

“Economic integration and multilateral politics hold the key to a future where the world can be a safer place. We need to build world institutions and effective associations within the framework of a fair and open trade, as well as fortifying support for the progress of those most neglected.”

Néstor Kirchner. Discourse at the United Nations. September 25, 2003

NEWS BRIEF



Investigations of invasion plan

The Minister for Defense of Venezuela, Vladimir Padrino, thanked his counterpart of Argentina, Jorge Taiana, for initiating the inquiries regarding the invasion plan against our country designed during the government of Mauricio Macri (2015-2019). Likewise, the National Assembly will request the Argentine Parliament to investigate the plan, revealed in a journalistic work.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Rejection of statements made by Colombian Foreign Minister

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Félix Plasencia, rejected the statements made by his Colombian counterpart, Marta Ramírez, against Venezuelan migration. It is shameful that this matter is used “so that (Iván) Duque and his henchmen have a petty cash for their outrages,” said Plasencia, who called for auditing the resources received by the neighbouring country on behalf of the migrants.

Solidarity with the people of Brazil after the rains

The Venezuelan government expresses its solidarity with the Brazilian people for the consequences of the torrential rains that affected the city of Petrópolis, in the south of the state of Rio de Janeiro, which left at least 186 dead, 69 missing and more than 800 people affected.

Tribute to Sandino

Venezuelan authorities and diplomatic representatives of Nicaragua in our country paid tribute in Caracas to Augusto César Sandino, leader of the struggle against the U.S. occupation in the Central American country, who was assassinated on February 21st, 1934. In this regard, President Nicolás Maduro stressed that the Great Homeland “keeps alive the Sandinista thought.”



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UNBLOCK



Venezuela makes first export of green coffee to Turkey

In mid-February, the first container of green coffee of Venezuelan origin left the port of La Guaira for Turkey, an example of robust exchange based on instruments such as the Trade Development Agreement, in effect between both nations since August 31, 2020.

“The idea is that this container opens an export path to be able to generate a commercial flow between Turkey and Venezuela,” said the Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion and President of the International Center for Productive Investment (CIIP), Héctor Silva.

Thanks to the agreement in force for two years, coffee harvested by producers from the Andrés Eloy Blanco municipality of Lara state, in the center of Venezuela, reaches a foreign market. The federal entity, in addition to being one of the main producers of the sector in our country, has the Puerto Seco G/D Jacinto Lara Intermodal Terminal, dedicated to facilitating the transfer of merchandise by rail to other terminals.

This good transfer network is an example of the productive potential of Venezuela, which seeks to diversify its exports with the sale of raw materials and finished products in international markets. Thus, paths are opened to overcome the impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures and contribute to the economic recovery that began in 2021, when exports grew by 33%.

As part of efforts to build a new economy, 5,200 tons of food items have been exported to markets in Vietnam, India, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey, among other nations, to date.

PHOTO: COURTESY

REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



International alliances boost Venezuelan tourism

Weekly, 1,700 tourists from Russia arrive in Venezuela, thanks to the air connection with the Eurasian country and the work of tour operators, in coordination with the national Government. Thus, these visitors enjoy destinations such as Margarita Island, an attraction of eastern Venezuela, and Caracas, the Venezuelan capital.

With the promotion of these places, in the midst of Unilateral Coercive Measures and COVID-19 restrictions, tourism has advanced along a complex path, but also one of great opportunities. “Every time I see a foreign tourist, I say: we are beating the empire, the sanctions, the stateless,” Tourism Minister, Ali Padrón, said in a recent radio interview.

According to the Minister, as from march the frequency of flights with Russia will be increased and the reception of tourists from Cuba will be activated, so that they can enjoy the various destinations offered by Venezuela. In addition to the sun and the

beach, “we also offer jungles and mountains. We are a megadiverse country.”

Along with the strengthening of the exchange with sister countries, work is being done on the recovery of attractions such as the Mukumbarí Cable Car, in the Venezuelan Andes, and the training of personnel for the attention of tourists is expanded.

Connection with Iran

The President of the Venezuelan state air company Conviasa, Ramón Velásquez, announced that in March the reception of tourists from Iran will begin, with the support of 50 tour operators from the Middle Eastern nation and the activation of commercial flights between Caracas and Tehran, which until now only had air cargo transfers.

“Linking Tehran with Caracas is a strategic destination and here tourism will have great importance,” he told an international agency.

PHOTO: COURTESY



VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

An inspiring space for art

The Municipal Theater of Caracas, inaugurated 141 years ago, is a reference for the culture of our Capital. Designed by the Frenchman Esteban Ricard and finished by Jesús Muñoz Tébar, it hosted opera shows for decades. The neoclas-

sical building, which since 1979 has been a National Historic Monument, in recent years has received musical shows, theatrical festivals and meetings of intellectuals.

PHOTO: COURTESY



BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE



People's Power optimizes local governance through Community Governments

In Venezuela, popular organizations such as communes and communal councils are key to the construction of participatory and protagonist democracy established - by constitutional mandate - in the Bolivarian Revolution. To optimize this direct method, Community Governments were formed. Through these organizations, social leaders address a specific territorial area and work linked, without any obstacles and bureaucracy, with the different levels of government. The objective is to immediately approve projects in different fields, such as public services, security, entrepreneurship and sports.

"They are part of the renewal process, which is being born to solve and face the problems of the communities," explained the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, when meeting with members of these instances in Miranda, La Guaira and Caracas, entities that make up the capital region of the country.

These territories are pioneers in the formation of Community Governments, which will now work under the model of Resistance, Rebirth and Revolution to respond to a new stage of transition to socialism, a scheme known as 3R.Nets, and with the 1x10 mechanism that strengthens the community work with the State.

To meet these objectives, the Bolivarian Government granted resources. In the case of La Guaira, a regional fund was created with an initial amount of 750,000 bolívares for 155 projects presented by 607 Community Governments. The President, for his part, approved 14,380,000 bolívares to said instance.

"It is necessary to launch a great plan at all levels, a plan made together with the people from the grassroots, from the community," highlighted the Head of State.

PHOTO: COURTESY

UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

The lie lost the Battle of the Bridges

Three years ago, former Member of Parliament Juan Guaidó starred in one of the most embarrassing invasion attempts in our republican history. On February 23rd, 2019, he promised his White House bosses to make way for the foreign invasion using trucks that would cross bridges on the Colombian-Venezuelan border with supplies to provide "humanitarian aid."

Guaidó directed everything from Cúcuta, where he illegally moved with the help of the paramilitary gang and drug trafficker Los Rastrojos. He was received by the presidents of Colombia, Iván Duque; Chile, Sebastián Piñera, and Paraguay, Mario Abdo Benítez, in a media operation that also included a concert on the Colombian side on February 22nd, which supposedly raised 2,500,000 dollars. Until today, nothing is known about that money.

On the Venezuelan side, a free concert was scheduled, called Hands off Venezuela, while popular organiza-

tions in union with the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB, Spanish initials) articulated themselves to neutralize the seditious actions on the Simón Bolívar and Las Tienditas bridges on February 23rd. When they were defeated, violent groups on the Colombian side set several trucks on fire, an act that they tried to attribute to the FANB.

Media corporations admitted, sometime later, that Molotov cocktails thrown by supporters of Guaidó caused the fire. Likewise, the Latin American television station Telesur found that the vehicles were carrying supplies for the violent actions neutralized in a civic-military union.

As the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, has said, the impressive "moral, spiritual, psychological and political strength of the people of Venezuela was demonstrated in the Battle of the Bridges. This is the Venezuela that the world must recognize and respect!"

HEROIC ROOTS



The Caracazo, rebellion born of the historical conscience of the people

February 27th, 1989 represents the most violent chapter in recent Venezuelan history. The people, betrayed by the ruling elite of that time, rebelled against the neoliberal measures negotiated between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the government of Carlos Andrés Pérez (CAP).

The set of provisions, applied under the tutelage of the United States, sacrificed social policies, further aggravating the economic situation of the time, marked by poverty of more than 60%. The worst part was carried by the people, with cuts and hoarding of basic items, initial consequences of that neoliberal "shock therapy."

On February 27th, the first protests were registered in Guarenas, 25 kilometers from Caracas, which later spread throughout the country. In response, the bullets of the repressive forces arrived under orders from CAP, leaving more than 3,000 murdered.

The repression did not stop the popular awakening that would mark the 1990s. The Caracazo "was not an irrational act (...) it was a rebellion born from the depth of the historical consciousness of this people," said Commander Hugo Chávez, who considered that this popular insurgency "was the spark that ignited the engine of the Bolivarian Revolution," which would lead him to the Presidency 10 years later.

The Caracazo marked the first popular insurrection in the world against neoliberalism, and as President Nicolás Maduro has pointed out, "opened the way to the end of oligarchic domination in these lands. The rebellious people of Bolívar, tired of years of betrayal, that February 27th sowed the seed of a Free Homeland, with social justice."

PHOTO: COURTESY