



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-second session

9–27 September 2019

Agenda item 2

### Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 26 September 2019

#### 42/4. Strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant international human rights instruments,

*Reiterating* that it is the primary responsibility of the State to respect, protect and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of its people,

*Reaffirming* the respect for the universal principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the free determination of peoples, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States enshrined in the Charter and numerous international legal instruments,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,

*Recalling also* in particular that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has, inter alia, a mandate to play an active role in removing the current obstacles and in meeting challenges for the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world,

*Recognizing* that unilateral coercive measures are exacerbating further the effects of the economic crisis, and thus the humanitarian situation,

*Welcoming* the technical mission conducted by the Office of the High Commissioner to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 11 to 22 March 2019,

*Welcoming also* the visit of the High Commissioner to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 19 to 21 June 2019 and the commitments agreed with the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to improve the situation of human rights in the country,



*Noting with satisfaction* the presence of officers from the Office of the High Commissioner in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

*Welcoming* the memorandum of understanding signed on 20 September 2019 between the High Commissioner and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the development of cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights through the permanent presence of the Office of the High Commissioner in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the full implementation of its mandate, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993,

*Taking fully into account* the recommendations contained in the report of the High Commissioner submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session,<sup>1</sup>

*Affirming* its strong conviction that to reach a peaceful, democratic and constitutional solution to the current situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it is necessary that the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela themselves find it without any military, security or foreign intelligence interference, and in this regard encouraging all relevant diplomatic efforts, inter alia, the facilitation by Norway and the work of the International Contact Group and the Montevideo Mechanism, aimed at promoting negotiations and political dialogue between the Government and the opposition to find a peaceful, democratic and constitutional solution in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

*Recognizing* the political willingness shown by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to cooperate with the High Commissioner and the Office of the High Commissioner,

*Taking into consideration* the fact that the High Commissioner reiterated her willingness to continue to provide the necessary technical cooperation and support to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, including to institutions and victims, and to report on the situation,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,<sup>1</sup> and calls upon the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to fully implement the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Also welcomes* the commitments made at the end of the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to address concerns with regard to the situation of human rights in the country, and calls upon the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to implement them fully and to continue to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner;

3. *Further welcomes* the permanent presence of the Office of the High Commissioner in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the terms established in the memorandum of understanding signed on 20 September 2019, including unlimited access to all regions and detention centres, and the strengthening of the judicial system and of institutional mechanisms for the protection of human rights existing in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

4. *Calls upon* the Venezuelan authorities to cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the fulfilment of their respective mandates, and to extend an invitation to mandate holders, as agreed upon with the Office of the High Commissioner;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to implement the recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, and encourages the State to continue to collaborate with the mechanism;

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/41/18.

6. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to gradually authorize humanitarian assistance from the United Nations and other relevant international organizations;

7. *Further welcomes* the United Nations humanitarian response plan for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela launched in August 2019, requests Governments to facilitate its implementation, and calls upon the international community, States and United Nations agencies to support this important initiative;

8. *Expresses its concern* at the imposition of extraterritorial unilateral coercive measures on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which have exacerbated further the effects of the economic crisis, and thus the humanitarian situation of the Venezuelan people, as stated by the High Commissioner when presenting her report to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session;

9. *Urges* the Venezuelan authorities to take all measures necessary to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights to food, water and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to essential medicines and health services, without discrimination;

10. *Encourages* both the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the opposition to continue to advance down the path of genuine political dialogue to reach a peaceful, democratic and constitutional solution that will allow the full respect, protection and promotion of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

11. *Requests* the High Commissioner to present to the Council, at its forty-third and forty-fifth sessions, as well as before the end of 2019, an oral update on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and a comprehensive written report on the situation of human rights at its forty-fourth session, including the outcomes of the investigation on the ground into allegations of possible human rights violations of the human rights to life, liberty and physical and moral integrity in the country, to ensure the accountability of perpetrators and redress for victims.

*38th meeting  
26 September 2019*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 18 to 6, with 23 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay

*Against:*

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ukraine

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland]