



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda items 4 and 113

### Election of the President of the General Assembly

### Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

## **Letter dated 15 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you to refer to the forthcoming election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the election of non-permanent members to the Security Council and the election of members of the Economic and Social Council, to be held simultaneously on 17 June 2020, in the General Assembly Hall.

In this regard, allow me from the very outset to reiterate that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is fully committed with the United Nations and all that it embraces and represents, the reason why it attaches great importance to the elections in reference.

That being said, I am obliged to refer to a situation that has been ongoing since late 2019 and which, today, is keeping our delegation from having the possibility to exercise its right to vote at the General Assembly, for reasons that are completely beyond our control.

As you are aware, since 1 January 2020, Venezuela has fallen in the list of countries in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions, under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations. Here, I must stress that our country, as a responsible member of the international community, has always had both the political willingness and the financial capacity to fulfil, in a timely manner, its dues with the Organization.

Yet, the application of unilateral coercive measures illegally imposed by the United States of America against our country have prevented us from successfully transferring the required funds to United Nations bank accounts located not only in the United States but also in other countries. Each and every time we have attempted to wire-transfer the resources, the transactions have been rejected or sent back to our bank accounts – in the best scenario – while in other instances they have been frozen or confiscated, pursuant to compliance with United States-imposed sanctions against Venezuela or threats from the United States Government to those financial institutions.



As you may recall, this situation has been brought to your attention since last year, when we first requested your good offices for engaging with relevant authorities of the United States of America, in order to both find and establish a financial route that would allow for the safe transfer of our resources for settling our dues with the Organization. In addition, the good offices of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country have also been requested, since early 2020, bearing in mind that this situation represents a clear violation of the host country agreement, particularly its section 27, as it prevents our delegation from “fully and efficiently” discharging its responsibilities. Bilateral engagements with representatives from the host country have also taken place, but no feedback at all has been received thus far.

More recently, this issue was brought to the attention of the President of the General Assembly and, through him, to the Committee on Contributions. In a letter dated 6 May 2020 we provided the members of the Committee with relevant information and evidence that proves that the failure of Venezuela to honour its payments and fulfil its budgetary responsibilities with the United Nations is the result of conditions that are well beyond its control, the reason why we requested the Committee at that time to provide us with the exemptions foreseen in Article 19 of the Charter. This was further elaborated in a presentation made via videoconference on 2 June 2020 before the Committee. However, we have been advised informally that our request has been blocked by the United States and the United Kingdom representatives in the Committee, which takes its decisions by consensus.

We cannot overemphasize that here we are not requesting debt forgiveness or a waiver from our international obligations. We have in our hands the financial resources to fulfil our dues with the United Nations, we have the money to make the minimum payment needed (\$21,552,932.00), and we are eager to do so, especially in order to be able to fully exercise our rights and privileges as a full State Member of the Organization, including to vote at the General Assembly. To do so, though, a financial route for the safe transfer of those resources to United Nations bank accounts needs to be established, for which it would be necessary for the United States Government not only to provide its assistance, but to abide by its very obligations as host country of the United Nations Headquarters.

Today, the establishment of such a financial route is key, since, as you can imagine, in the current juncture, when, as the rest of the world, we are grappling with the devastating impacts of the worst pandemic that humanity has faced in the past 100 years, we cannot allow to risk our funds and that they be confiscated because of illegal and arbitrary reasons, as these are resources definitely needed more than ever at home for tackling the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

To conclude, allow me to reiterate that our Government will continue making all necessary efforts to overcome this unfortunate situation as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we trust that your personal engagement on this matter, as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, will be fundamental for ensuring the defence of and respect for the rights and privileges of all States Members of the United Nations, without distinction, and that the host country of our Organization does not abuse its role as such and, instead, abides by both the letter and spirit of the host country agreement. We therefore call on you to redouble efforts aimed at ensuring that Member States not be deprived of exercising their rights and privileges at the United Nations, including to participate with voice and vote at the General Assembly, owing to reasons that are well beyond their control, even more when it is as a result of the application of an illegal policy of coercion that violates the very tenets of the founding Charter of our Organization and which we strongly denounce once again before the world.

Lastly, I respectfully request your good offices for circulating the present letter among the States Members of the United Nations for their due information, and that it be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 4 and 113.

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic  
of Venezuela to the United Nations

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