



CANCILLERÍA



Embassy of Colombia in the United States

Update on the Situation in Venezuela

As a key stakeholder in the U.S.-Colombia bilateral relationship, we wanted to share with you the Lima Declaration, which was released Tuesday, August 8, 2017, by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Representatives from 12 countries after they met to explore ways to restore peace and democracy in Venezuela.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru gathered in Lima, Peru, on August 8th, 2017, to address Venezuela's critical situation and explore ways to contribute to the restoration of the democracy in that country through a peaceful and negotiated solution;

Encouraged by the spirit of solidarity that characterizes the region and convinced that negotiation – that is undertaken with due respect to the norms dictated by International Law, is in accordance with the principle of “No Intervention” and does not violate human rights and the principles of democracy – is the only tool to assure a lasting solution of the differences;

Do hereby declare:

- 1. Our condemnation of the rupture of the democratic order in Venezuela.*
- 2. Our decision neither to recognize the Constituent National Assembly nor the acts that emanate from it, due to its illegitimate nature.*
- 3. Our full support and solidarity to the democratically elected National Assembly.*
- 4. That the legal acts, which according to the Constitution require authorization from the National Assembly, will only be recognized when said Assembly has approved them.*
- 5. Our vigorous rejection of violence and any option that involves the use of force.*
- 6. Our support and solidarity to the Attorney General and the members of the Public Ministry of Venezuela, and demand for the application of the precautionary measures issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.*
- 7. Our condemnation of the systematic violations of human rights and fundamental liberties, violence, repression and political persecution, the*

existence of political prisoners and the absence of free elections under international independent observation.

8. *That Venezuela does not meet the requisites and obligations of the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council.*
9. *Our deep concern with the humanitarian crisis faced by the country and its condemnation toward the government for not allowing the entry of food supplies and medicine to support the Venezuelan people.*
10. *Our decision to continue applying the Inter-American Democratic Charter on Venezuela.*
11. *Our support for the decision of MERCOSUR of suspending Venezuela in the application of the Ushuaia Protocol on Democratic Commitment.*
12. *Our decision to abstain from supporting any Venezuelan candidacy to regional and international mechanisms and organizations.*
13. *Our call to stop weapon transfers to Venezuela, in light of Articles 6 and 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty.*
14. *That, bearing in mind the current conditions, it will be requested to the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the European Union to hold back the CELAC-EU scheduled for October 2017.*
15. *Our commitment to keep monitoring the situation in Venezuela, on a Minister of Foreign Affairs level, to the full reestablishment of democracy in said country, and to meet at the latest during the United Nations General Assembly, which will give an opportunity for other countries to join.*
16. *Our willingness to support, in urgent manner and framed by respect to Venezuelan sovereignty, any believable and guided by good will efforts of negotiation, that is consented to by all parties and is oriented toward reaching the peaceful reestablishment of democracy in the country.*

Lima, August 8th, 2017

We will continue to update you as the situation progresses.

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