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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

^{*} The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its fortieth session from 24 January to 4 February 2022. The review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was held at the 4th meeting, on 25 January 2022. The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was headed by the Executive Vice-President of the Republic of Venezuela, H.E. Delcy Rodriguez Gomez. At its 10th meeting, held on 28 January 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Cuba, Indonesia and Somalia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph $15 (c)^3$.

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

To be completed by 11 February 2022

A. Presentation by the State under review

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

5. During the interactive dialogue, 116 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

6. The following recommendations will be examined by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/40/VEN/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/40/VEN/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/40/VEN/3.

6.1 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as early as possible (Japan);

6.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons** from Enforced Disappearance (Peru);

6.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons** from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);

6.4 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons** from Enforced Disappearance (Slovakia);

6.5 Sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (Panama);

6.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Burkina Faso);**

6.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**

6.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

6.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);**

6.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

6.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

6.12 Comply with international standards for the use of force and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Norway);

6.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Lithuania);

6.14 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Poland);

6.15 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);

6.16 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);

6.17 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovenia); 6.18 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Costa Rica);

6.19 Pursue discussions with a view to ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);

6.20 Stop all forms of torture, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial executions, duly investigate all alleged cases, and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);

6.21 Reduce drastically the use of pre-trial detention, put an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);

6.22 Strengthen the protection framework by ratifying the remaining international human rights conventions, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Dominican Republic);

6.23 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Labour Organization Convention 189 on Domestic Workers (Paraguay);

6.24 Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Namibia);

6.25 Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Angola);

6.26 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);

6.27 Strengthen the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Croatia);

6.28 Continue the cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms and treaty bodies (Viet Nam);

6.29 Collaborate with the United Nations Human Rights System, in particular by submitting overdue reports to treaty bodies and cooperating with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (Luxembourg);

6.30 Engage with the UN human rights system, by submitting overdue reports to the treaty bodies and by cooperating with OHCHR and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (Slovakia);

6.31 Submit the initial report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Nigeria);

6.32 Cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and all its mechanisms, including relevant Special Procedures, and fully implement the recommendations made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her reports (Argentina);

6.33 Cooperate with international human rights instruments and mechanisms, including supporting regular and unrestricted UN Special Procedures visits (Australia);

6.34 Extend a standing invitation to all Human Rights Council Special Procedures (Ukraine);

6.35 Issue a standing invitation to the Special Procedures Mandate Holders (Georgia);

6.36 **Respond positively to all pending visit requests of the Special Procedures and extend a standing invitation to the mandate holders (Latvia);**

6.37 Continue cooperating with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, especially with the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures (Russian Federation);

6.38 Issue a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and respond positively to the requests of the Special Rapporteurs on extreme poverty, trafficking in persons and violence against women, in line with the commitment made in 2019 to allow 10 visits between 2020 and 2022 (Panama);

6.39 Continue cooperation and technical assistance with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international agencies to strengthen the promotion of these fundamental rights (Algeria);

6.40 Continue the constructive cooperation with the Human Rights Council Special Procedures, especially with the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (Belarus);

6.41 Continue cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on overcoming the consequences of the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Venezuela (Russian Federation);

6.42 **Redouble efforts of developing the actions provided for in the letter of understanding signed with the OHCHR for the purpose of strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the area of human rights (South Sudan);**

6.43 Intensify international cooperation on human rights, including by allowing a staff expansion at the OHCHR office in Caracas and granting effective country wide access (Germany);

6.44 Strengthen cooperation with OHCHR based on mutual understanding and consent (Ethiopia);

6.45 Accept and facilitate a permanent presence of the OHCHR (Iceland);

6.46 Continue the dialogue and cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN bodies (Turkey);

6.47 Establish an office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the country (Paraguay);

6.48 Agree with the establishment of an office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the country (Russian Federation);

6.49 Accept the prompt establishment in its territory of a country office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with enough staff, without any type of access limitation and with security guarantees (Uruguay);

6.50 Strengthen the existing cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner by establishing a permanent office in the country, equipped with the human and material resources to allow it to carry out its tasks adequately (Argentina);

6.51 Cooperate with OHCHR to establish a fully-fledged country office in Venezuela (Austria);

6.52 Continue the cooperation with OHCHR to promote human rights and especially to guarantee due attention to the prison population (Lebanon);

6.53 Expand the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and implement the recommendations contained in her report, as well as in the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (Chile);

6.54 Ensure good cooperation with relevant UN bodies, especially with OHCHR and the mechanisms of the Council, and to recognize and collaborate with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (Poland);

6.55 Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights system, among others, by allowing access to the country to the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (Ecuador);

6.56 Cooperate with the Mechanisms of this Council, in particular with the Independent International Fact Finding Mission and the Special Procedures (Paraguay);

6.57 **Facilitate a permanent presence of the OHCHR and allow access to the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (Italy);**

6.58 Allow the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to operate in Venezuela (Germany);

6.59 Give access to the country to the FFM and accept requests for visits from Special Procedures mandate holders (Spain);

6.60 Cooperate fully with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, granting it unhindered access to its territory, in accordance with its obligations as a member of the HRC (Brazil);

6.61 Fully cooperate with the Independent International Fact Finding Mission, including by granting its team unrestricted access to the country (Georgia);

6.62 Cooperate with the Independent International Fact Finding Mission and implement its recommendations (Lithuania);

6.63 **Expand areas of cooperation with the OHCHR, including by assuring** the free and safe movement of the OHCHR staff and their unhindered access to detention centres and other facilities, and promote cooperation with the International Criminal Court (Japan); 6.64 Fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court and its investigations, and ensure an independent and reliable witness protection programme (Finland);

6.65 Continue cooperating with and strengthening regional integration organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

6.66 Return without delay to the Inter-American Human Rights System (Uruguay);

6.67 Reverse its decision to withdraw from the American Convention on Human Rights (Georgia);

6.68 Continue to promote South-South cooperation and jointly promote and protect human rights (China);

6.69 Continue joint efforts with other countries affected by unilateral coercive measures to mitigate and eradicate the negative impact of these measures (China);

6.70 **Continue taking appropriate measures to strengthen the various institutions in charge of promoting and protecting human rights (Burundi);**

6.71 **Promote and strengthen legislative initiatives and public policies to combat the impact of unilateral coercive measures (Cuba);**

6.72 Strengthen the Venezuela National Human Rights Protection System and coordination between the Institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights (Somalia);

6.73 Continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights of its people by further strengthening coordination between relevant institutions and expanding channels of communication with civil society (Thailand);

6.74 Further guarantee human rights, in particular those of the most vulnerable groups, through effective public policies (Algeria);

6.75 Implement a comprehensive reform of security institutions and policies, to effectively address human rights concerns and provide redress to victims of human rights violations (Montenegro);

6.76 **Develop and adopt a new national plan on human rights (Lithuania);**

6.77 Continue the policies of confronting economic aggression and documenting unilateral coercive measures that violate the rights of the Venezuelan people (Syrian Arab Republic);

6.78 Continue implementing national plans for economic and productive recovery, based especially on the most vulnerable sectors of society, thus guaranteeing the promotion and protection of their fundamental rights (Islamic Republic of Iran);

6.79 Work with humanitarian organisations to design and implement a principled national plan addressing the ongoing humanitarian emergency, prioritising groups in vulnerable situations (Australia);

6.80 Work urgently with international agencies and local humanitarian workers to design and effectively implement a national plan to address the ongoing humanitarian emergency (Malta);

6.81 Revise its security policy so as to respect international standards and principles on the use of force and human rights, and to restore the civilian nature of police forces with the required internal and external oversight mechanisms (Luxembourg);

6.82 Speed up the process of developing of a new and sound national human rights plan for the 2020-2025 cycle that takes into account the progress and loopholes identified during the implementation of the previous one (Romania);

6.83 Adopt a national action plan to address violence against women and to ensure that necessary resources are allocated to implement this plan (Maldives);

6.84 Adopt a national action plan on addressing violence against women and girls (Iceland);

6.85 Ensure the effective implementation of the Law on Women's right to a life free from violence in all areas, including through the adoption of a national action plan for protecting women and preventing violence against women (Sweden);

6.86 Enforce the implementation of the Organization Act on Women's Right to a Life Free of Violence more strictly and to adopt a national plan of action to counteract sexual and gender-based violence, which increased during the COVID-19 pandemic (Liechtenstein);

6.87 Adopt a national action plan on combating sexual and gender based violence (Croatia);

6.88 Continue implementing its National Human Rights Plan 2016-2019, particularly with regard to the social protection programmes that support women, children and persons with disabilities (Malaysia);

6.89 Continue implementing the "Mama Rosa" Gender Equality and Equity Plan, 2019 to 2025 (South Africa);

6.90 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) to promote the social inclusion of young people, through the promotion of training programs for participation in the labour market, violence prevention, sexual and reproductive health, entrepreneurship, participation and youth citizenship (Panama);

6.91 Ensure the independence of the NHRI and its acquisition of the highest accreditation status (Ukraine);

6.92 Step up the efforts to bring the National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Burkina Faso);

6.93 Continue strengthening the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);

6.94 Adopt the necessary measures to bring the Ombudsperson's Office more into line with the Paris Principles concerning the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (Togo);

6.95 Consider implementing measures to upgrade the Office of the Ombudsman to a 'A' category institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);

6.96 Continue its efforts to promote the National Human Rights Council (Niger);

6.97 Continue efforts to strengthen the National Council for Human Rights (Egypt);

6.98 Continue to strengthen national mechanisms for follow-up and implementation of international human rights recommendations through broadbased consultation processes that are accessible to all (Barbados);

6.99 Implement measures designed to guarantee equal access to social assistance programs and investigate allegations of discriminatory access to them (Peru);

6.100 Step up its efforts to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those most in need (Timor-Leste);

6.101 **Continue efforts to reduce the digital divide among students (Oman);**

6.102 Continue to implement national policies to strengthen equality and non-discrimination, particularly of the most vulnerable groups (Sri Lanka);

6.103 Allow same-sex marriage by modifying the Constitution, the Civil Code, and the Organic Code of Civil Registration (Iceland);

6.104 Continue implementing public policies to ensure gender equality and the rights of LGBTIQ+ communities (Cuba);

6.105 Strengthen efforts to address violence against women and children, and against all persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including measures to prevent violence and support survivors, as well as by removing obstacles that prevent access to justice (Fiji);

6.106 **Take necessary measures to guarantee equal access to social protection programmes (Maldives);**

6.107 Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);

6.108 Continue its efforts in developing a National Plan on business and human rights (Malaysia);

6.109 **Promote equal participation in political and public affairs as a key** means of overcoming the current political and humanitarian crisis (Czechia);

6.110 **Resume inter-Venezuelan political negotiations in Mexico to allow a negotiated exit to the crisis, including the organization of free and democratic presidential and legislative elections (France);**

6.111 Take steps towards ensuring a peaceful solution to the existing crisis, leading to free and fair elections (Georgia);

6.112 Return to the negotiating table to continue discussions towards a peaceful, democratic and negotiated solution to the current crisis (New Zealand);

6.113 Reengage in a meaningful dialogue with all Venezuelan stakeholders aiming at the peaceful solution of the present crisis (Poland);

6.114 Conduct a review of the laws and regulations on terrorism financing, registration and funding that are imposed on civil society organisations, to ensure they are in line with international human rights standards (Ireland);

6.115 Strengthen national measures to combat criminal violence, especially as regards arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial executions, and the disproportionate use of force by civil and security forces (Holy See);

6.116 **Take measures to prevent human rights violations, such as torture and extrajudicial executions and ensure investigation and sanctioning of perpetrators (Poland);**

6.117 Eliminate the excessive use of force as a policy to repress peaceful demonstrations (Israel);

6.118 Combat impunity for violations and crimes, including extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention and torture, by examining responsibility and ensuring accountability at the highest levels of the chain of command (Canada);

6.119 Undertake independent investigations into all cases of human rights violations (Denmark);

6.120 Undertake independent investigations into all cases of human rights violations (Georgia);

6.121 Implement the call of the High Commissioner to conduct prompt, exhaustive, independent, impartial and transparent investigations into the allegations of human rights violations, bring the perpetrators to justice and guarantee adequate reparation to the victims (Argentina);

6.122 Take urgent measures to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations on excessive use of force and ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by State actors (Croatia);

6.123 Duly investigate all allegations of excessive use of force by security forces, arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions, torture and other grave violations of human rights (Ukraine);

6.124 Undertake independent, thorough and prompt investigations into all cases of human rights violations, particularly extrajudicial killings, attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, and bring perpetrators to justice (Austria);

6.125 Immediately and impartially investigate all instances of extrajudicial killing and excessive use of force by security forces, including in the context of protests (Belgium);

6.126 Strengthen capacities to conduct swift, exhaustive and impartial investigations into cases of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and excessive use of force (Mexico);

6.127 Ensure that judicial authorities conduct, in accordance with international law, prompt, independent and impartial investigations and prosecutions of extrajudicial executions, torture and arbitrary arrests conducted by the national police and security forces (Finland);

6.128 Hold accountable all Venezuela operatives, agents, and members of security forces or armed groups who are responsible for human rights violations or abuses - including those such as the FAES involving unlawful killings, forced disappearances, torture, and other physical and sexual abuse - by initiating investigations into credible allegations in the next six months (United States of America);

6.129 Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and conduct thorough and credible reforms of the police and judiciary, and in particular of the Special Action Forces (FAES) (Austria);

6.130 **Release persons detained or arrested for political reasons and refrain from, and prevent, violence and retaliatory action (Australia);**

6.131 Release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally and take immediate steps to end arbitrary arrest and detention (United States of America);

6.132 Strengthen the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Timor-Leste);

6.133 Strengthen the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, in compliance with international human rights norms, and guarantee the representation of all institutions as indicated by the law (Montenegro);

6.134 Halt all acts of torture and sexual and gender-based violence against detainees and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal);

6.135 Complete the development, with the support of OHCHR, of a protocol for the joint investigation of cases of alleged violation of the right to life and begin its effective implementation (Uzbekistan);

6.136 **Take urgent measures to put an end to human rights violations, combat impunity and punish those responsible (Ecuador);**

6.137 **Publish the national budget to allow for public oversight (Bahamas);**

6.138 Fully respect democracy, including by ensuring the separation of powers, due process, respect for human rights and a safe and enabling environment for civil society groups (Australia);

6.139 Address the presence of non-state armed groups and corruption linked to illicit gold mining in the Arco Minero and take action to stop human rights abuses reportedly taking place in the region (Canada);

6.140 Exert more efforts to continue educating and training law enforcement officials about human rights standards relevant to their field of work (Qatar);

6.141 Make further efforts to continue the implementation of training programmes on various human rights issues for public servants (Malaysia);

6.142 Ensure judicial independence, establish appropriate procedures for the appointment of judges, and end the use of military tribunals to try civilians (Norway);

6.143 Undertake reforms to strengthen the independence of the justice system (Peru);

6.144 Continue its efforts to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judicial system (State of Palestine);

6.145 Adopt the necessary reforms to restore the independence and impartiality of the judicial system, the Public Ministry and the Ombudsman's Office as internal instances to safeguard the rule of law, the defence of legality and the protection of human rights (Spain);

6.146 Continue the efforts made by the Judiciary to clarify the events occurred between 2017 and 2021, with special emphasis on those acts that violated human rights (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

6.147 **Reform the justice system in order to guarantee the independence and impartiality of judges and prosecutors, as well as restore the rule of law (Brazil);**

6.148 Ensure guarantees of a fair trial and compliance with constitutional requirements (Estonia);

6.149 Take effective steps to guarantee the independence, autonomy and stability of the justice system and judges, and to combat corruption, intentional political interferences in trials and impunity, as well as eliminate obstacles to grant everyone access to justice to instate the rule of law (Liechtenstein);

6.150 Take effective and immediate measures to restore the independence of the justice system and ensure the independence of its organs, in particular the Attorney General and the Ombudsman (Luxembourg);

6.151 **Restore the independence and impartiality of the justice administration system (Paraguay);**

6.152 Ensure the independence of the judiciary and enact a comprehensive review of legislation and practice aimed at guaranteeing the right to a fair trial for everyone (Czechia);

6.153 Continue defending the human rights of the Venezuelan people, through legal actions at the national and international levels in order to counteract the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States and other nations (Cuba);

6.154 Undertake independent, thorough, and prompt investigations into all cases of human rights violations and ensure perpetrators are held accountable (Australia);

6.155 Ensure the independent character of all aspects of the justice system and guarantee access to this system to all people so as to combat impunity and provide redress to victims (Holy See);

6.156 Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Italy);

6.157 Step up the efforts of promoting equality, inclusion and justice including the integral development of Afro-Venezuelan communities (Ethiopia);

6.158 Implement effective measures to restore judicial independence to ensure that the justice system is guided by internationally accepted legal principles (Ireland);

6.159 Ensure due process for persons arbitrarily detained in Government facilities (Botswana);

6.160 Take necessary steps to secure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, ensuring that judicial actions are guided by the principles of legality and due process (Republic of Korea);

6.161 Guarantee the independence and impartiality of the Judiciary and the rule of law, including by observing the existing rules for court hearings and reviews of remand orders (Germany);

6.162 Continue promoting the principles of independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and ensuring the right to adequate judicial protection and due process (Egypt);

6.163 Guarantee access to justice for all people, ensuring the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in accordance with international norms and standards, as well as ensuring the independence and impartiality of prosecutors in carrying out prompt, effective and transparent investigations of human rights violations, including those perpetrated by security forces in order to bring perpetrators to justice and offer adequate reparation to victims (Costa Rica);

6.164 Take effective measures to restore the independence of the judiciary and ensure the impartiality of the Office of the Attorney General and the Ombudsperson (Belgium);

6.165 Strengthen the independence of the courts by providing them with the necessary resources and by reforming the practice of free appointment and dismissal of judges and prosecutors (Switzerland);

6.166 **Take concrete steps to reinstall the independence of the judiciary and ensure accountability for human rights violations (Portugal);**

6.167 **Take effective measures to restore the independence of the justice system (Bahamas);**

6.168 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Azerbaijan);**

6.169 Guarantee freedom of expression and support a plural and safe communication environment (Slovakia);

6.170 Modify the Law against Hatred, for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance so that it cannot be used against journalists and human rights defenders (Slovakia);

6.171 Ensure that human rights defenders are protected from harassment, criminalization and persecution and to adopt policy for the protection of human rights defenders (Slovenia);

6.172 Guarantee the cessation of acts of criminalization, persecution and imprisonment of opponents, dissidents, human rights defenders and protesters, as well as guarantee their effective security and freedom, and offer reparation to victims (Spain);

6.173 Ensure that the state institutions are not used to persecute political opponents, journalists and other media workers, union leaders and other perceived opponents of the government (Sweden);

6.174 End the systematic repression of, and ensure the protection of human rights defenders, including environmental defenders, by revising repressive legislation (Sweden);

6.175 **Provide enabling democratic environment for activities of political opposition, journalists and human rights defenders (Ukraine);**

6.176 End immediately all undue interference with freedoms of expression, religion, association, and peaceful assembly. Allow all independent media, religious institutions, civil society organizations, and humanitarian organizations to operate without undue restrictions or threats (United States of America); 6.177 Take urgent measures to guarantee full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and of the press (Uruguay);

6.178 **Review the restrictive legislation that criminalizes the work of human rights defenders (Uruguay);**

6.179 Cease the intervention of Universities and other higher education institutes, and transform without delay the parallel system of non-autonomous Universities so that they achieve full independence and academic freedom (Uruguay);

6.180 Ensure media freedom by bringing national legislation in line with Venezuela's Constitution and international standards and reinstate all media outlets that have unwarrantedly been closed (Austria);

6.181 Take all necessary measures to prevent acts of persecution and targeted repression, including based on political affiliation, and ensure that human rights defenders are protected without discrimination on any grounds (Bahamas);

6.182 **Refrain from attacks and arbitrary arrests of people, especially** journalists, exercising their right to freedom of expression, and end impunity in the case of violations of this right (Belgium);

6.183 **Expedite investigations and criminal proceedings on the remaining cases of deaths in the contexts of protests (Botswana);**

6.184 **Protect and promote freedom of expression, ensure the safety of journalists, and respond to alleged violations (Bulgaria);**

6.185 Cease all harassment, criminalization and persecution against journalists, human rights defenders and civil society organizations, guaranteeing a safe and enabling environment for their work (Canada);

6.186 Ensure a free environment that enables the work of civil society organizations and adopt a policy for the protection of human rights defenders (Côte d'Ivoire);

6.187 Fully respect freedom of expression and halt and prevent all acts of repression against members of the democratic opposition and civil society (Denmark);

6.188 Put an end to the persecution and criminalization of human rights defenders, humanitarian workers, journalists and civil society activists (Costa Rica);

6.189 Establish a free and enabling environment for the work of civil society organizations and ensure that human rights defenders and civic activists are not persecuted, harassed or publicly stigmatized (Czechia);

6.190 Cease acts of persecution and intimidation against dissenting voices and political opposition, and guarantee the effective exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and of peaceful assembly and association (Ecuador);

6.191 Improve the situation of civil and political rights, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and annul restrictions to civic and democratic space (Estonia);

6.192 Create a safe non-discriminatory environment for the press, civil society and humanitarian organizations and ensure the safety of people working in these areas (Estonia);

6.193 Ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and guarantee the freedom and security of all political opponents (France);

6.194 **Guarantee freedom of expression (Georgia);**

6.195 **Prevent all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation,** gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (Iceland);

6.196 Intensify efforts to improve the guarantees and provisions provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights regarding the exercise of fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life (Dominican Republic);

6.197 Guarantee freedom of expression and opinion on- and off-line and access to justice for victims of these violations, ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers can operate in a safe environment (Italy);

6.198 Take concrete measures to ensure freedoms of opinion and expression as well as freedom of media, taking into account reports submitted by human rights treaty bodies and institutions (Japan);

6.199 **Promote and protect the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as the safety of journalists (Latvia);**

6.200 Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment (Latvia);

6.201 Conduct full and impartial investigations of all threats and attacks against and killings of journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders, and hold the perpetrators accountable (Latvia);

6.202 Cease harassment and criminalization of civil society organizations and independent media (Lithuania);

6.203 Ensure respect for freedom of assembly, opinion, and expression for peaceful demonstrators or protesters (Lithuania);

6.204 Ensure respect for freedom of assembly, opinion, and expression for individuals engaging in peaceful demonstrations, in accordance with the Constitution (Malta);

6.205 Harmonize the national legal framework with international human rights standards to remedy inaccuracies that could restrict the fundamental freedoms and work of human rights defenders (Mexico);

6.206 Take appropriate action and measures to guarantee a safe working environment for civil society, including Human Rights Defenders, civil society organisations, educators, and healthcare and humanitarian aid workers, free from fear of threats, reprisals, persecution and arbitrary imprisonment and unwarranted limitations to the freedom of association (Netherlands);

6.207 Take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression, free access to information and press freedom, including by guaranteeing independent investigations in all allegations of crimes against journalists (Netherlands);

6.208 Ensure respect for democratic rights such as freedom of assembly and expression, and full participation in electoral processes by all parties (New Zealand);

6.209 Ensure that the principles of peace and freedom are the only dignified mechanism for living this life (Nicaragua);

6.210 Guarantee that NGOs, journalists, trade unionists and human rights defenders can carry out their work without risk of persecution and remove the legal requirement for NGOs to register with the National Office Against Organized Crime (Norway);

6.211 **Respect freedom of assembly, opinion, and expression for individuals engaging in peaceful demonstrations (Poland);**

6.212 Continue to release political prisoners and create an enabling environment for political opposition, human rights defenders and journalists (Portugal);

6.213 Enhance efforts to expand civic and democratic space, with a special focus on the protection of journalists, human rights defenders, and political actors from intimidation and attacks (Republic of Korea);

6.214 Ensure that detention conditions comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Lithuania);

6.215 **Promote national reconciliation by releasing political detainees** (Lithuania);

6.216 Cease the repression of independent Venezuelan civil society (New Zealand);

6.217 Continue efforts to improve legal regulations to promote and protect fundamental freedoms (Iraq);

6.218 Continue its efforts aimed at reforming the prison system in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (South Africa);

6.219 Broaden opportunities for participation in the economic and political space (Nigeria);

6.220 Channel social, political and institutional conflicts through democratic participation and dialogue, and put an end to legal, financial and administrative barriers that hinder the work of civil society organizations and reduce their space (Spain);

6.221 Revoke legal or administrative regulations that threaten the functioning of civil society organizations, such as Administrative Decision 002-2011, and refrain from issuing new ones (Switzerland);

6.222 Ensure all conditions for holding free, fair, peaceful and independent elections, with a view to restoring democracy in the country (Brazil);

6.223 Eradicate all forms of repression and persecution on political grounds (Chile);

6.224 Adopt measures preventing reprisals against individuals and groups cooperating with international human rights mechanisms (Czechia);

6.225 **Promote democracy through strengthening of democratic institutions** and citizen's right to participate in political and public affairs, including with possible bilateral cooperation with friendly countries (Indonesia);

6.226 **Present its new and modern electoral system to the international community as a positive experience of political participation (Belarus);**

6.227 Hold immediately free and fair elections and restore democracy (Israel);

6.228 Continue efforts aimed at facilitating sincere and open dialogue with all stakeholders and promoting national reconciliation, including at the local level (Holy See);

6.229 Continue to search for peaceful and inclusive solutions through negotiations for the benefit of the Venezuelan people (Norway);

6.230 Continue pursuing national reconciliation as a means to advance the realization of human rights (Pakistan);

6.231 Take all the necessary steps to ensure free and fair electoral process (Ukraine);

6.232 Safeguard the freedom of peaceful assembly and refrain from the use of excessive force against peaceful protestors (Republic of Korea);

6.233 Launch a process that will enable the holding of free, fair and credible elections, with an independent national electoral council and an impartial Supreme Court, ensuring the participation of the opposition (Chile);

6.234 Respect political parties' independence, lift arbitrary disqualifications of dissident leaders and cease to override Venezuelans' will through court decisions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

6.235 Undertake legal and administrative measures for addressing the recommendations made for ensuring the freedom of expression, opinion and association and of the press, the right to peaceful demonstration, the rights to food and education, as well as the public access to health services and medicines (Romania);

6.236 Continue with the dialogue process initiated in Mexico under the facilitation of Norway in order to guarantee the constitutional rights of Venezuelan citizens (Turkey);

6.237 Maintain and consolidate peace, increase opportunities for overcoming differences, and advance dialogue and national reconciliation to protect human rights (Yemen);

6.238 Continue promoting and supporting the work of organizations and social movements (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

6.239 Implement the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the 2021-2025 period, thus developing a comprehensive policy in the area of trafficking in women, children and adolescents and smuggling of migrants (Romania);

6.240 Redouble its efforts in conducting training programs for duty bearers to enhance identification and referral of victims of trafficking in persons especially women and children (Philippines); 6.241 Strengthen institutions and policies on trafficking in persons and provide comprehensive assistance and protection to victims (Mexico);

6.242 Establish specialized institutions and policies to document cases of migrants, women, children and the most vulnerable becoming victims of human trafficking, forced prostitution and sexual slavery, and to protect them from such occurrence (Liechtenstein);

6.243 **Pursue the efforts undertaken to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly the sexual exploitation of children and women, by strengthening the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);**

6.244 Step up efforts to fight against human trafficking, especially when it comes to women and children (Congo);

6.245 Take specific measures to protect women and children against human trafficking (Angola);

6.246 **Take urgent steps to end forced labour, sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the Arco Minero del Orinoco (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.247 Strengthen its efforts in combating trafficking in persons, in particular women, children and Venezuelan migrants, and effectively implementing the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Thailand);

6.248 **Properly address the identification and accompaniment of victims of trafficking (Serbia);**

6.249 Continue its efforts to improve access to essential services (State of Palestine);

6.250 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, and improve people's living standards (China);

6.251 Continue its efforts to guarantee effective enjoyment of economic and social rights (Turkey);

6.252 Take further steps to improve the level of well-being and social protection of the population (Belarus);

6.253 Continue to work to enhance the protection and inclusion of the most vulnerable populations (Oman);

6.254 Continue to implement and expand its social protection plans (Kuwait);

6.255 Continue developing actions to protect the human rights of all people in the face of the economic situation in the country (South Sudan);

6.256 Continue to develop social protection mechanisms for people through the monthly subsidies system to confront the economic war and coercive unilateral measures (Syrian Arab Republic);

6.257 Continue its efforts to counter unilateral coercive measures in order to eliminate the negative effects of these unlawful measures on human rights of Venezuelan people (Islamic Republic of Iran);

6.258 Continue its efforts to promote sustainable economic and social development while protecting population from the systematic and continued aggression by the foreign forces against the people and institutions of Venezuela (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

6.259 Strengthen measures to stimulate sustainable economic growth by raising national productivity levels in the public and private sectors (Azerbaijan);

6.260 Strengthen programs on women's economic empowerment including on enhancing their access to credit and financial services and technical and vocational education and training (Philippines);

6.261 Allow for the expansion of the operation of humanitarian organizations like the World Food Programme and a safe environment for their work (Germany);

6.262 Continue to support public services, in particular those related to electricity, water and telecommunications (Kuwait);

6.263 Implement policies to ensure the right to food, water and health of the Venezuelan population (France);

6.264 Continue to develop people's living conditions, including improved access to electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation (Bangladesh);

6.265 **Reinforce policies to ensure access to essential services, including food supply, medical assistance, and the right to quality, holistic education (Holy See);**

6.266 Investigate allegations of discrimination in access to food assistance and other social protection programmes, guarantee equal access to such programmes and make transparent the criteria used to determine eligibility (Bahamas);

6.267 Continue seeking international assistance to secure essential supplies of food, medicine and electricity (Pakistan);

6.268 Take concrete and immediate action to ensure the availability of essential needs including food, electricity, clean water and medicine (Indonesia);

6.269 Take practical measures to improve food security in local communities (Angola);

6.270 Continue efforts to promote the right to food, to ensure national food production and to promote urban and family farming (Saudi Arabia);

6.271 Take appropriate measures to continue the re-launching of food production (Congo);

6.272 Continue to take all necessary measures to guarantee the right to food, in particular for children and adolescents (Egypt);

6.273 Continue taking adequate measures to positively guarantee the right to food of the Venezuelan people (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

6.274 Continue to strengthen public policies to eradicate extreme poverty, including addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic (Bangladesh);

6.275 Pursue the efforts to effectively fight poverty and improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations by strengthening measures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (Djibouti);

6.276 Continue to intensify the ongoing efforts towards inclusive economic growth and further poverty reduction (Cambodia);

6.277 Strengthen ongoing programmes designed to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of vulnerable and marginalised groups in society (Zimbabwe);

6.278 Strengthen further the implementation of national poverty reduction measures with the conduct of inclusive periodic assessments (Philippines);

6.279 Pursue the implementation of sound public policies aiming at eradicating extreme poverty (Lebanon);

6.280 Strengthen measures aimed at reducing poverty and improving living conditions (Qatar);

6.281 Continue efforts made to reduce poverty and inequality through the provision of quality education and improved social programs (United Republic of Tanzania);

6.282 Continue implementing its national policy to alleviate poverty in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

6.283 Continue to combat inequality and poverty by maintaining efforts to subsidise public services attacked by illegal coercive measures unilaterally imposed by foreign governments (Nicaragua);

6.284 Maintain efforts to reduce the number of families affected by extreme poverty due to economic barriers (Sri Lanka);

6.285 Continue efforts to improve the living conditions of the population and promote economic and social development (Iraq);

6.286 Intensify efforts to guarantee access to basic health services for all sections of the population (Senegal);

6.287 Continue with the awareness campaigns within your country in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, continuing with the vaccination processes for all its inhabitants (South Sudan);

6.288 Carry on stepping up efforts to ensure that its citizens fully enjoy good health, including mental health and access to healthcare and support (Brunei Darussalam);

6.289 Improve access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services, in particular to antenatal, delivery and postnatal services (Fiji);

6.290 Address the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls (New Zealand);

6.291 Guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services, including maternal health care, for all women, including those with disabilities (Finland);

6.292 Guarantee respect for the rights of women and girls, particularly in terms of sexual and reproductive health and the fight against gender-based violence (France);

6.293 Continue to provide basic education and free health care to all (Kuwait);

6.294 Continue to improve prenatal and postnatal care services (Oman);

6.295 Ensure universal access to health care for all, especially for the most vulnerable communities and groups (Saudi Arabia);

6.296 Step up efforts to further develop the health care system, in particular to ensure a further progressive reduction in the maternal mortality rate (Uzbekistan);

6.297 Accelerate efforts to establish a legal framework to reduce maternal mortality (Bahrain);

6.298 Ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including maternal and newborn health care and safe abortions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

6.299 Consider measures to ensure the continuity of education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic (Singapore);

6.300 Continue guaranteeing the right to education at all levels (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

6.301 **Continue to improve the quality of education (Eswatini);**

6.302 Take all necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the right to education for all children (Indonesia);

6.303 Continue efforts to improve the quality of education at every level (Bangladesh);

6.304 Continue prioritizing human rights education and training of State security forces in line with international best practices (Pakistan);

6.305 Continue the implementation of intercultural schools at the national level, in order to provide bilingual intercultural education to students, taking into account the cultural specificity of each indigenous people (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

6.306 Continue to provide resources and develop strategies for the achievement of greater access to higher education, especially for persons with disabilities (Brunei Darussalam);

6.307 Continue to expand its legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, the rights of women, especially with regard to gender-based violence (Viet Nam);

6.308 Continue endeavours to increase women's participation in public affairs and economic development (Cambodia);

6.309 Continue measures to promote gender equality and counter all forms of discrimination (Nepal);

6.310 Continue its programme to strengthen gender equity, which is essential for the equal development of society (Nicaragua);

6.311 Increase efforts to protect the rights of women and girls and take urgent measures to eliminate all forms of violence against them, especially those deprived of liberty (Chile);

6.312 Develop an institutional framework dedicated to reinforcing the existing efforts to eradicate violence against women and children (Bahrain);

6.313 **Combat all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination (Italy);**

6.314 Redouble efforts to combat all forms of violence against women, especially those deprived of their liberty (Peru);

6.315 Adopt a regulation implementing the law on the rights of women to a life without violence (Gabon);

6.316 Continue efforts to combat all forms of violence against women (Qatar);

6.317 Develop a national action plan to comprehensively address genderbased violence (Namibia);

6.318 **Provide effective remedies to victims of human rights abuses and adopt urgent measures to address gender-based violence (Canada);**

6.319 Combat violence against women and girls through coordinated and comprehensive preventive measures, and ensure access to justice and remedies for victims (Algeria);

6.320 Continue to pursue initiatives to enhance the education of children and adolescents at all levels (Singapore);

6.321 Continue its efforts to protect unaccompanied minor and to combat violence against them (State of Palestine);

6.322 Continue to develop policies and programmes that protect the rights of children and adolescents (Barbados);

6.323 Strengthen institutions and mechanisms for the protection of unaccompanied minors and combat all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse against them (Bulgaria);

6.324 Strengthen the Specialized Comprehensive Protection Unit to enhance protection to children and adolescents with disabilities (Sri Lanka);

6.325 Continue to implement policies and procedures aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities fully and independently exercise their abilities and ensure their inclusion in the family and the community (United Arab Emirates);

6.326 Continue to develop training programs to enhance the capabilities of the teaching staff of children and adolescents with disabilities, including the award of a certificate in Venezuelan Sign Language, as well as a certificate of full proficiency in Braille, orientation and mobility techniques (United Arab Emirates);

6.327 Continue improving the rights of women and girls, especially those living with disabilities (Eswatini);

6.328 Continue taking measures towards combating all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities (India).

7. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was headed by the Executive Vice-President of the Republic of Venezuela, H.E. Delcy Rodríguez Gómez, Executive Vice-President of the Republic of Venezuela and Minister of People's Power for Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Mervin Enrique Maldonado, Sectoral Vice President of Social and Territorial Socialism, and Minister of Popular Power for Youth and Sports;
- Mr. Félix Plasencia, Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Mirelys Contreras, Minister of People's Power for the Penitentiary Service;
- Ms. Alana Zuloaga, Vice Minister of Internal Policy and Legal Security of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Peace;
- Ms. Lusmialit Perdomo, Vice Minister of Productive Development for Women of the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equality;
- Mr. Rubén Dario Molina, Vice Minister for Multilateral Issues of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Juan Luis Ibarra, Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice;
- Mr. Hector Constant Rosales, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Leonel Parica, Deputy Rector of the National Electoral Council;
- Mr. Franscisco Torrealba, Deputy to the National Assembly;
- Mr. Larry Devoe; Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Council;
- Ms. Karin García, General Director of Human Rights Protection of the Public Ministry;
- Ms. Elsie Rosales, Professor / Advisor;
- Mr. Carmelo Borrego, Professor / Advisor;
- Mr. Félix Ramón Peña Ramos, Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Manuel Enrique García Andueza, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Emilio Segundo Barroeta Guillén, Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.