

**FORUM:** Human Rights Sub-Commission 2

**QUESTION OF:** Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela

**SUBMITTED BY:** Chad

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Amnesty International, Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Moldova, Peru, UN-Women, WHO, New Zealand, UNICEF, Bulgaria, Sao Tome and Principe, Niger, OCHA, UNHCHR, Turkmenistan, Dominica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Honduras, Ghana.

*Taking into account* that 4.5 million Venezuelans have left the country as of 2014, causing a refugee crisis at many border nations,

*Gravely Concerned* by the lack of resources refugees have access to, especially the lack of food, medicine, and safe drinking water,

*Appreciating* the recent willingness of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to accept humanitarian aid,

*Noting with deep concern* that reports written by the United Nations have shown information on recorded deaths caused by malnutrition and other diseases that could be prevented by vaccines which are not currently being provided,

*Further Recognizing* that the true governing body of Venezuela is disputed by countries around the world,

1. **Recommends** the implementation of new healthcare policies in Venezuelan schools according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Red Cross standards including the following measures:
  - a) Conducting health check-ups for children in schools to identify any medical issues, which would involve:
    - i. building a medical database on children that is only accessible to the school and medical professionals,
    - ii. a partnership with local NGOs, as was implemented in El Hatillo,
  - b) Education schemes to teach students basic healthcare and sanitary procedures, with an emphasis on the current epidemics within the nation,
  - c) Training schemes for teachers and school health officials which can be conducted via WHO and Red Cross officials both online and in-person;
2. **Calls for** mass vaccination of Venezuelan citizens in Venezuela, and routine immunization to be provided through regulations such as but not limited to:
  - a) Stockpiling of additional supplies (e.g Diphtheria antitoxin) that will be highly secured by the highest-level hospitals in order to prevent drug trafficking to assist in rapid response measures to an epidemic (outbreak),
  - b) Placing emphasis on the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and DTP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) 3/4 vaccines, as they prevent diseases that are the greatest current threat to Venezuela's population,
  - c) Supervising the healthcare system through United Nations officials to ensure the infrastructure is in place to prevent outbreaks and transmissions in areas with low vaccination coverage within Venezuela (areas where the extent of immunization is less than half of the herd immunity threshold) by:
    - i. improving surveillance for early case detection,
    - ii. enforcing the mandatory vaccination of high-risk age groups,
    - iii. strengthening of infection control practices in healthcare facilities which will be implemented with the aid of international health agencies,
    - iv. providing regulated health screenings in airports to prevent the contamination of

people entering and exiting the country to ensure the non-spreading of diseases;

3. Ensures access to basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services by:
  - a) Providing clean water and proper waste disposal facilities in public places, including: education centers, health facilities, protection centers,
  - b) Distributing resources for water treatment, such as: ceramic water filtration systems, chlorine tablets and life straws,
  - c) Distributing resources for water collection, such as:
    - i. equipment and personnel to drill boreholes to tap groundwater,
    - ii. desalination equipment,
    - iii. atmospheric water generators,
    - iv. rainwater harvesting,
  - d) Hiring water sanitation experts to inspect and maintain water distribution and treatment systems,
  - e) Creating rainwater collection facilities in areas identified to experience high rainfall, located near water treatment facilities, where water collected will be separated between drinking water (sanitised), and water for hygiene purposes (unsanitised), and these collection facilities may be placed on top of existing buildings in order to minimise land usage,
4. Suggests the reformation of the government controlled aid distribution system “Local Committees for Supply and Production” (CLAPS) following an enquiry by Human Rights Watch officials under the following terms which will:
  - a) Limit nationalization of industries for the purpose of commodity distribution,
  - b) Advertise the registration system for CLAPS via all media and physical platforms, with any civilian with adequate documental verification detailing financial necessity being permitted to enter the programme,
  - c) Ensure the routine investigation of CLAPS' proceedings, conducted by a team designated by HRW officials in order to:
    - i. ensure compliance to the aforementioned measures,
    - ii. ensure the quality of food in CLAPS' boxes,
    - iii. find, investigate and front companies that may be engaged in the illegal siphoning of money to the government or any other organization;
  - d) Distribute the aid based on a regional segregation system, remembering that:
    - i. Aid in each centre will only be available to members registered at the centre,
    - ii. The number of distribution centres will be increased to meet demand, the exact numbers for which will be determined by the investigation;
5. Urges the government to cooperate with international aid providers, to increase civilian access to humanitarian aid through the following measures:
  - a) Removing the blockade of aid channels via Colombia, Brazil, and Caribbean Islands to allow for the free flow of aid,
  - b) Allowing for the entry of all vehicles carrying humanitarian aid, which will provide documents of verification,
  - c) Distributing the received aid via a government based distribution systems, such as CLAPS;
6. Strongly Encourages IFAD and the WFP to work together to improve access to proper nutrition by providing food and food preparation equipment to families and individuals in need, and helping the country become self-sufficient over time, by:
  - a) Supporting local, small-scale, methods of food production to increase dietary diversity by:
    - i. creating community gardening programmes,
    - ii. encouraging backyard gardening,
    - iii. distributing seeds,
  - b) Educating the population on proper nutrition,

- c) Supporting farmers who grow nutrient-rich foods, to decrease Venezuelan dependency on imports;
  - d) Requesting Venezuelan government simplify the customs checking process;
7. Encourages the Venezuelan government to concentrate government spending on the improvement of infrastructure under the following terms:
- a) Funding for the same will come from sources including the IMF, WHO, private investment, and government revenue,
  - b) Routine verification of progress in construction of the aforementioned infrastructure will be conducted by audits of the financial documents and annual checks by UNDP,
  - c) Specific programmes within 'infrastructure' that should be prioritized include:
    - i. medical infrastructure,
    - ii. transport infrastructure,
    - iii. commercial infrastructure,
    - iv. water and electric infrastructure;
8. Further recommends that the member states of the Quito Process work towards enhancing regional cooperation and cross-border management to ensure the well-being of migrants and refugees from Venezuela by:
- a) Establishing stay permit systems, such as the 'Permiso Especial de Permanencia', at a national level that provides migrants and refugees legal documentation to enable their access to employment, education, healthcare, that will include:
    - i. an open time-frame to avail these passes,
    - ii. the option of a renewable temporary stay pass ,
    - iii. the requirement of a valid passport to apply for a permit
  - b) Immediately implementing the plan of action devised at the Quito II,
  - c) Allowing for VISA applications at destination countries, rather than only in embassies in Venezuela,
  - d) Developing online application schemes on asylum seekers in neighboring countries,
  - e) Setting up information booths at borders, tasked with providing refugees full information regarding housing, job, and health facilities, and refugees' applications,
  - f) The protection of the local community from disease which will be ensured through:
    - i. health screenings conducted at the borders by officials to be decided by the nations involved,
    - ii. informing refugees about the necessity of meeting destination countries' vaccination policies and the ways to acquire the required vaccines;
9. Further Encourages the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to create and maintain migration centres by taking the following measures:
- a) Implementing basic child-care and education programmes in the centres, funded and staffed by UNICEF, international volunteers, and relevant NGOs,
  - b) Providing special protection and medical services through the creation of support spaces in camps to groups such as:
    - i. unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC),
    - ii. pregnant and breast-feeding women,
    - iii. migrants living with HIV,
    - iv. migrants with other chronic health conditions,
    - v. disabled migrants,
  - c) Installing Health Check-up outposts within and near camps,
  - d) Installing 'Necessities Drives' which provide refugees with the preliminary necessities to settle into the new camp,
  - e) Working with governments of countries taking in Venezuelan migrants and refugees to establish work schemes to ensure their employment and integration into society;

10. Requests the two majority parties of Venezuela (Voluntad Popular and PSUV) resume exploratory talks, mediated by the UN, held between the two parties which were called off on 7 August 2019 with the aim of:
  - a) Establishing a parliament or interim government recognized by both parties in the upcoming 2020 parliamentary elections (elaborated further in clause 11),
  - b) Preparing for a new, unbiased presidential election with all due speed following the parliamentary elections to make sure that there is no dispute in the country with the hope that:
    - i. Nicolas Maduro will be guaranteed immunity from prosecution and protection for alleged past criminal action as Head of State if he loses this election,
    - ii. all parties involved, both political parties in Venezuela and UN member nations will recognise these elections as legitimate and to recognise the winner of this election as the true president of Venezuela;
11. Strongly Recommends that the UN forms an Ad Hoc committee to supervise the upcoming National Assembly elections in 2020, so as to encourage opposition parties in Venezuela to support the election as legitimate and that:
  - a) Officials will supervise vote counting to ensure that the count is done accurately,
  - b) Random checks will be conducted at voting booths to ensure that voters are not being pressured into voting one way by officials manning the booths,
  - c) The committee is responsible for designating guards at booths to prevent political violence;
12. Endorses the restoration of relations with the International Monetary Fund in order to obtain the funding necessary for economic reform, including the following processes:
  - a) The provision of required economic data by the government to the IMF,
  - b) Allowing for the IMF to conduct an annual audit of the economic scenario in Venezuela, as is the protocol with all other members,
  - c) The appointment of technical advisers by the IMF in Venezuela to suggest policy recommendations and determine the size of loan required, if necessary;
13. Further suggests that the government to boost private investment into the oil industry to stimulate the Venezuelan economy and decrease the scarcity of hard currency by:
  - a) Fostering domestic investment by modifying existing regulations on domestic investors to resemble those applicable to foreign investors, which offer a greater degree of protection,
  - b) Institutionalizing the use of electronic payment systems as far as possible which will enable traders to pay in a more feasible and efficient manner,
  - c) Designating a new board for the state run oil organization, Petróleos de Venezuela SA, including oil industry veterans in order to use their credibility to attract investment,
  - d) Using private investment received to expand oil production and to invest in oil industry related infrastructure,
  - e) Ensuring that UN-Energy can be used to survey crude oil reserves and form a plan of action,
  - f) In the long term, using revenue from the oil industry to diversify the economy into other sustainable fields and decrease reliance on the oil industry.