

Delegation from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the General Assembly (GA) are Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development and Disaster Risk Reduction. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is looking forward to work on these matters in order to reach the Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) set by the UN for 2030.

I. Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has severely suffered from the Covid-19 crisis, just like many other member states. The consequences of this global pandemic are still immeasurably dramatic.

The Venezuelan GIP has decreased more than 10% in the past two years, inflation has gone up and 75 percent of Venezuelan citizens suffer from extreme poverty. In the last five years, five million citizens have emigrated from Venezuela, our population decreases every year because living in Venezuela has become more difficult than ever, neither drinking water nor food security can be guaranteed anymore. We want to build back better and we want to provide healthier living conditions for all.

The biggest industries in the country are the oil corporations and wood companies. These are not able to supply more labour places hence they are not sustainably continuable.

Sustainable development, though, can be made possible by supplying more and easier access to ICTs in the whole country. With >85 percent of the population living in urban areas, we have the option of supplying access to the Internet for these citizens. During the pandemic offline activities (school, labour, social activities) could not be held at all anymore, making the need for Digital Inclusion, the closing of the digital divide more than a matter: it has become a right.

25 percent of the Venezuelans work as farmers, but the farming industry can be revived in order to guarantee food security for the country because even though the country's population has been shrinking, exporting goods will help our economy.

Recent projects in Kenya have shown that agricultural companies, farmers, are the working places and workers of the future. We can attract the youth by providing market informations, production techniques, new technologies and finance opportunities with a lower level of primary education and formation on the topics. Young farmers are trained at ICT centers that will be available for other farmers, making farming and agriculture more profitable than ever. They can share opinions and ideas online and will gain more knowledge over the years. With access to meteorologic data, they can plan ahead and can find out when to expect drought, floods or other occasional weather. Obviously, they need to be supplied with the right tools and skills for farming of the future - a great task that will pay back even better.

Those who work in the oil and wood companies right now can be trained to become farmers, securing their incomes and guaranteeing their prosperity.

Furthermore, the wage of a preschool teacher has decreased to around 2000000 Bolivars per month: this equals 7 dollars. For the future, Venezuela calls for projects supporting families and single mothers to make life better for the future generation. Since the year of 2002, many Venezuelans are leaving the country because they are well-educated and want to find jobs with higher wages elsewhere, especially on the American continents. In order to end this dramatic development, we want to build more schools and focus on projects like the UNICEF schooling project that helped over 300000 children. The United Nations Development System (UNDS) contributes on reaching the SDGs by financially supporting schools, universities and apprenticeship programs.

There is not one right solution for these matters. We have to tackle them altogether, Venezuela calls for support and humanitarian programs for the whole nation.

II. Disaster Risk Reduction

Climate-related disasters are increasing in frequency and severity, making it more obvious than ever that we have to start acting. With the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2015*, we have set big goals that will help us reduce their impact on international peace and security today and in the future.

The biggest disaster Venezuela has to face right now is the destruction and pollution of nature. We are confronted with several problems: pollution of Lago de Valencia and Lago de Maracaibo, deforestation, soil degradation and urban and industrial pollution. By committing to the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2015*, we also committed to protect nature from pollution, degradation and unnecessary and irresponsible mining operations.

A vast majority of mining and fracking is done illegally, the labour in the black market is still flourishing because housing and living in general have become too expensive. An average household in Venezuela has only seven dollars per month available for three to four people, making living hard and the flight into working in the black market almost necessary. Therefore, we call for action of the biggest oil producing countries: Russia and China to make it as sustainable and as safe as possible. With almost 50000 oil pipeline breakthroughs in just one year, our nature has suffered badly. Renewable energies need to become mandatory in order to decrease the amount of oil that is fracked every year.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is a great actor in this context, stressing the importance of our main issue. Public policies aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of natural ecosystems and efficient environmental management in urban and rural areas, comprehensive risk management, efficient and diversified use and energy production are supported by the UN since many years. We want to strengthen these capacities to ensure that this country with its many natural resources (oil and wood) can use it and becomes more attractive to new citizens.