

**CUBA****STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation categorically rejects the attempt of the Government of the United States of America to manipulate the OPCW for its own interests with the imposition of its imperialist policy against the nations of the world, when it has no foothold in international law nor any mandate to do so, and no right to do so according to the Organisation's procedures.

What is being decided today in Venezuela is the sovereignty and dignity of Latin America and the Caribbean and the nations of the South. Also being decided is the survival of the standards of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. These define whether the legitimacy of a government emanates from the express and sovereign will of their people or by the recognition thereof by foreign powers.

The Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba denounces the escalation of pressure and actions of the Government of the United States in preparation for a military foray disguised as a "humanitarian intervention" in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and calls for the international community to act to prevent this from happening.

Following the Bolivarian and Chavista people's resistance to this blow—an attempted military intervention with a humanitarian pretext this past 23 February and the act of terrorism of a State against the electronic system of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela—the Government of the United States continues to intensify its international political and ostentatious campaign against Venezuela even further, using every possible means in every available space, such as intensifying each time its coercive unilateral economic measures against Venezuela.

In addition to this cruel and unjustifiable encroachment, the United States aims to provoke, to create a humanitarian pretext to initiate military aggression against our sister Venezuela. High-level United States officials recall each day with arrogance and audacity that when it comes to Venezuela, "all of the options are on the table, including military options".

It is critical in these moments that we do not forget the similar behaviour and pretexts adopted by the United States right before the wars that were launched against Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya, the price for which was paid with immense loss of human lives, destruction, and enormous suffering. Could it be that the world has not learned from these horrible lessons?



The Revolutionary Government of Cuba calls for international mobilisation in defense of peace in Venezuela and the region based on the principles of the Declaration of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States as a Zone of Peace, which was adopted with the solemn signatures of the CELAC Heads of State and Government in 2014.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba also reiterates its firm and unwavering solidarity with Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros. The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cuba to the OPCW expresses its unwavering support for the legitimate Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Organisation, H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, and her role as Coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement here today.

Cuba will continue to defend peace, multilateralism, and the sovereign equality of all States against imperialism.

Thank you.

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