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BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC
OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENTS BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SELF-PROCLAIMED
LIMA GROUP AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to express the position of the State on the statement by the United States of America as set out in document C-24/NAT.9, which was distributed yesterday, 28 November 2019, on the Organisation's website.

The notorious lies expressed in that document, which features an attempt at a distorted interpretation of our Constitution in order to justify the flagrant interference of the Government of the United States of America in the domestic affairs of the Venezuelan people, constitutes a blatant attack on the sovereignty of our country.

In a deceitful and malicious way, the delegation of the United States is once again repeating a lie questioning the legitimacy of President Maduro and trying to use it to fraudulently install the puppet that has proclaimed himself president in the square without being elected by anyone.

On the subject of elections, the representative of the United States is not exactly a shining example, as his country's Government is run by someone who did not win the majority vote; it is for that reason that Ms Hillary Clinton, who won 2.8 million more of the popular vote than Trump, is not the president of that country.

The delegation of the United States to the OPCW has the audacity to refer to my delegation as fraudulent. On this note in particular, it is necessary to recall that what is fraudulent is to use a lie to deprive and deceitfully rob, with brash impunity, an entire nation of its assets, confiscating its investments and money on international accounts, as the Government of the United States is doing to the people of Venezuela; 30 billion dollars that have been stolen from the people of Venezuela, and that is the reason for Ambassador Kenneth Ward's obsessive insistence to install here the representatives of his subservient lackey Mr Guaidó.

Likewise, my delegations wishes to refer to the joint document distributed yesterday, 28 November 2019, on behalf of the group of countries that has proclaimed itself the "Lima Group", as document C-24/NAT.11.



As we have asserted repeatedly at this Organisation, these recurrent statements by the delegation of the United States of America and the self-proclaimed Lima Group, repeated again today in the distributed documents, constitute a blatant attack against the rules of the game of the community of nations and are an affront to the delegations of the States Parties of the OPCW who do not share the positions of this delegation or the countries that support it.

These statements are an attack upon the sovereignty of Venezuela, and an aggression aimed at Venezuela as a full member of the OPCW. My country is free and sovereign and answers only to its people on internal matters.

Likewise, these statements are an attack upon multilateralism, which is at the heart of international law. We owe it to the principle of peaceful coexistence, legal equality of the States, non-intervention in domestic affairs, respect for the sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity—all of which are principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

My delegation would like to call upon all of the delegations present here to consider the duty that we have to defend these principles, as well as harmony and cooperation among the States.

I would like to request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the intranet and external website of the Organisation.

Thank you.

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