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VENEZUELA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR GLADYS MARÍA GUTIÉRREZ ALVARADO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OPCW**

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically rejects the questionings contained in the declaration of the United States of America, which threaten the sovereignty of a full member of the OPCW and therefore, condemns it.

Such actions constitute a continuous attempt to use the Organisation, in an effort to impose political interests that have nothing to do with the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention or the mandate of the Organisation, and States Parties should avoid such inappropriate actions.

The Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela before the OPCW once again wishes to emphasise the principle that States, in their international relations, must refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Venezuela as a free and sovereign country only responds to its people on her internal affairs. The legitimate Government of Venezuela is headed by President Nicolás Maduro, who was constitutionally elected on 20 May 2018 with 68% of the votes cast in those elections, which were witnessed by 120 international observers. Therefore, the only lawful and legitimate representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela before the OPCW is that exercised by its Permanent Representative.

The recent report of the United Nations, published on 12 February 2021, that refers to the preliminary conclusions of the visit by the United Nations Special Rapporteur to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, considering the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures in the enjoyment of human rights in our country, shows the absolute and full recognition of the national parliamentary elections held in Venezuela on 6 December 2020. This fact confirms the democratic nature of the Venezuelan institutional system—in this case, of its representative part—is derived from citizen vote.

The United States of America applies a double standard, classifying all nations according to how they align with its imperialist interests. In the case of Venezuela, which determinedly assumes principles like the defence of her sovereignty and vast natural resources; independence of public



powers without attending to external interference; a social agenda that benefits the people, and a respectful foreign policy with all nations, the United States of America automatically considers her an enemy, applying a policy of harassment. Venezuela will not take lessons of democracy from the United States of America, taking in account that that country suffers structural problems such as xenophobia, racism, and classism, among others.

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Executive Council and be published on both the external server and on the Organisation's public website.

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