



**VENEZUELA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The pronouncements contained in the statement of the delegation of the United States of America are an attack upon multilateralism—the heart of international law.

These statements constitute an attack against the sovereignty of Venezuela, an aggression against Venezuela as a fully-fledged member of the OPCW, a free and sovereign country that answers only to its people when it comes to domestic affairs.

The only government that Venezuela has is led by President Nicolás Maduro, elected constitutionally on 20 May 2018 by 68% of the vote in the presence of 120 international observers.

President Nicolás Maduro cannot be replaced in any way other than a free, universal, secret, and direct vote, as stipulated by the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The only legitimate representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW is the one exercised by the Permanent Representation for years now.

We proceed from a principle of peaceful coexistence, the juridical equality of the States, non-intervention in domestic affairs, respect for sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity—all principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of the United States of America, which commits crimes against humanity and the preferred partner of which is a narco-state, the largest producer of cocaine in the world with 70% of global production, has no moral standing to question the legitimacy of any government in the world. The United States of America are the top consumer, according to the data of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its 2019 World Drug Report.

The United States of America have made intolerance, racism, and discrimination against the indigenous peoples and xenophobia against immigrants a state policy and cannot lecture anyone.

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Third Session of the Executive Council and kindly requests that it be published on the Organisation's extranet and website.

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