



## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## STATEMENT AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AGENDA ITEM 8 – RIGHT OF REPLY - VENEZUELA

The Trump Administration is on the offensive against drug cartels and drug trafficking into the United States. President Trump has been very clear that he is going to use the full power of America, the full might of the United States, to take on and eradicate these drug cartels no matter where they're operating from and no matter how long they have been able to act with impunity.

Let me stress that the United States does not recognize Nicolas Maduro or his cronies as the government of Venezuela. Nicolas Maduro is a fugitive from American justice and the head of the vicious narco-terrorist Cartel de Los Soles.

The plain reality of the situation is that Nicolas Maduro is the leader of the narcoterrorist group Cartel de Los Soles, which has been designated by the United States as an FTO and SDGT, and he is responsible for trafficking drugs into the United States and Europe.

Maduro, currently indicted by our nation, has corrupted Venezuela's institutions to assist the cartel's criminal narco-trafficking scheme into the United States.

It is the action and policies of his illegitimate regime that pose an extraordinary threat to both the region and the national security of the United States.