



Background CAMUN 2020

United Nations Security Council

Topic A: Legitimate Venezuelan Government, Recognition and Representation within the United Nations.

GLOSSARY

ICRC / CICR: The International Committee of the Red Cross is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international

humanitarian law and its implementation in national law.

PSUV: The United Socialist Party of Venezuela is the government party, established by Hugo Chavez in 2007.

Eastern Bloc: The term refers to the communist/socialist nations of central and eastern Europe, central Asia and southeast Asia under the leadership of the Soviet Union.



Oil Boom: A sudden increase in economic activity or wealth as a result of the exploitation of mineral oil.

Colectivos: Paramilitary/Parapolice groups that support the Maduro administration and the PSUV and have become extremely violent over the last few years. Being under the leadership of Maduro and the government.

Guarimba/Guarimberos: The term Guarimba is used by the socialists in Venezuela to refer to a place of hiding or refuge during protests. It has also been used to refer to vandalism and blockages of the streets. The term guarimberos is used to refer to the protestors.

MVR: The MVR or Movimiento V Republica (Fifth Republic Movement) was the movement created by Hugo Chavez in the 90s with the purpose of,

once in power, re-writing the constitution and thus start the “Fifth Republic” succeeding the fourth republic in Venezuelan history.

MUD: The MUD or Mesa de la Unidad Democrática, is the largest opposition alliance against the Nicolas Maduro government. Important politicians include self-declared Interim President of Venezuela Juan Guaido and ex-presidential candidates Leopoldo Lopez and Henrique Capriles.

Third World: The term Third World was used during the Cold War to refer to those states not aligned with either the Eastern or Western blocs.

RoC: Abbreviation for the Republic of China.

PRC: Abbreviation for the People’s Republic of China.



INTRODUCTION

Since the year 1999 Venezuela entered a new political age known as the “Fifth Republic”. Since then, the socialist and leftist movements have governed Venezuela with what they call the “Bolivarian Revolution”. Their ideological leader, ex-President Hugo Chávez led the socialist conversion that tightly linked the nation with Cuba and what was the Eastern Bloc. The new socialist government exploited the on-going “Oil Boom” from the 90s. Being the country with the highest proven petroleum reserves in the world. The Bolivarians directed the Venezuelan economy to be one of the most heavily dependent on oil exports. Different nations, such as the United

States, started involving themselves in internal Venezuelan politics and international affairs. Up to this day, the United States buys most of Venezuela’s state-owned oil company, PDVSA. Chavez created the PSUV or United Socialist Party of Venezuela, uniting all left-wing socialist political movements into one super party that has been controlling politics in Venezuela since its foundation. Many have criticized how politics in the South American nation have been dealt since it functions with similarities to a single-party state even though it has numerous political movements. This has evolved into a staggering tension between Venezuela and other countries in the region led by Right-Wing governments, more notably, the United States. Being close allies with neighboring



Colombia and Brazil, the US has a distinctly strong presence in the area. With rumors of invasion, coup d'etat planning, assassination attempts, smuggling, etc. being common claims by the Venezuelan Government, which sees the US and capitalism as their worst political enemies in the world.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. Bolivarian Revolution and Interventionism.



In February 1992, former president Hugo Chavez performed the first of two coup d'etat attempts that year, trying to seize power for his newly formed MVR, the V (Fifth) Republic Movement. Until that moment, the movement that called for a “Bolivarian Revolution” had been in the shadows of Venezuelan politics. It could be argued that it was the February 1992 coup that brought Chavez into Venezuelan political mainstream. The coup was said to have happened because of the disapproval to the economical neoliberal agenda conducted by ex-president Carlos Andres Perez. But shortly after the coup, the CIA and other groups pointed out how it was highly likely for the coup to be an attempt of Cuba's DGI (intelligence agency) to have used Chavez and his



Bolivarian Revolution as a way of dominating Venezuelan politics and taking control over their large oil reserves indirectly.

Chavez and the socialists' popularity rose as the neoliberal reforms diminished. Long-term plans weren't able to conclude due to their abolition shortly after. Finally, in 1998, Hugo Chavez won the presidency, and his socialist coalition became the ruling party in Venezuela. Soon later, a new constitution was written and the "Fifth Republic" started with the total control of the institutions by the socialists.

The new Bolivarian Revolution would turn Venezuela's political focus from a mainly west-driven, capitalist society to a socialist economy that

permitted private property and participatory democracy to some extent. The time that Chavez was in power, the Bolivarian Revolution counted with a charismatic leader with high approval from his people. The military would start playing a huge role in Venezuelan politics, due to the fact that there is always a big risk of a coup. The government started focusing on the needs of the soldiers and officials, treating their families with all the amenities and a good lifestyle. The opposition to the government claimed that there was a Cuban presence in the military. This was used as a claim that the Bolivarian Revolution was orchestrated by the Cubans as a way to get an ongoing permanent supply of oil after the fall of the Soviet Union. Just over a year after been



sworn into office, Chavez signed the *Convenio Integral de Cooperación* with the Cuban government, which established that they would send 53,000 barrels of oil **daily** to the Island in exchange for support in fields such as education, health, sports, etc. In 2005 the Chavez administration agreed to give over 90,000 barrels of oil, an amount that incredibly exceeded Cuba's energetic needs. The fact is that Venezuela "gifts" Cuba around \$4-6 Billion USD, Cuba is actually re-exporting around 40,000-50,000 barrels. These claims stand until present day since the exportations agreements of Venezuela with Cuba are valid until 2020.

After Chavez's death and the appointment of Maduro as his

successor, the socialists have lost appreciation and power to the center-right political coalition of the MUD.



Since Maduro was sworn into office, the revolution has faced a much different challenge. It has been in a struggle to keep the socialist bloc united, this has been a real problem for the government, which has seen the departure of several of their leaders like former Attorney Generals, ministers, and military personnel. Also, general support for the presidency has decreased, triggering protests throughout Venezuela.



2. People's Republic of China admission to the UN and expulsion of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The Republic of China was one of the four “Great Victors” of WW2. Being on the victorious side, China was granted a permanent spot on the UN Security Council, giving the RoC a Veto power crucial for the functioning of the UN Charter.

In the first half of the 20th century, China went through a civil war that destroyed much of the country. The right-wing government was threatened by the Communist Party offensive led by Mao Zedong. For almost 20 years both sides switched power until the Communists seized

complete power of Mainland China establishing the People's Republic of China. The Republic retreated to the



island of Taiwan to continue the Nationalistic government. The RoC continued having the China seat in the UN. This was met with complaints from the Eastern Bloc and other sections of the then called Third World.

In 1950, a year after Mao Zedong's Communist forces took over the Mainland, the Soviet Union representative to the United Nations Security Council, Jacob Malik, was ordered by then USSR Premier Joseph



Stalin to stop attending any further Security Council meetings as a boycott. During the time of the boycott, the Security Council voted in favor of the use of U.N. forces in the Korean War against the North. This bold move wouldn't be otherwise done if it wasn't for the boycott since the USSR already had used 38 vetoes while not any other nation had used it.

In October 1971, after several protests and boycotts, the UN General Assembly voted 76 to 36 resolution 2758. In this resolution, all the rights of the People's Republic of China were restored and their representatives became the only lawful representatives of China to the UN and in any organization related to it.

CURRENT CONTEXT

1. 2018 Elections and Protests.

On May 20, 2018, general elections were held in Venezuela. Even though official reports issued Nicolás Maduro's re-election was evident by more than 60%, several governments and NGOs condemned the election's irregularities and corruption from the administration. Many have described the election as a "show election" since they claim the only reason it was held was to get an excuse for the governing party, the PSUV to perpetuate in power without being incriminated for violating the constitution.

After numerous protests, many called for the National Assembly to condemn Maduro as an usurper and assume the powers of the Executive



Branch after 10 January, 2019 (the inauguration day). Protests were frequent in Caracas and other cities and regions of the nation. Hyperinflation, rising living costs and prices, as well as reported constant blackouts, lack of medicine, food, water, etc. Many local opposition leaders called for protests against the elections. Blockades on major streets and freeways were common on election days. Eventually Maduro was re-elected in what many claim was an unlawful election.

2. Juan Guaidó assumes the powers of the Interim President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

On the 23rd of January, Juan Guaidó made an oath to the people of

Venezuela, to act as their interim president. That same day millions of Venezuelans expressed their support and gratification to Guaidó by going out to the streets where they witnessed Juan Guaidó swearing himself Venezuela's Interim president. This event was described as “a river of humanity”. Before the protests had started, the Venezuelan national guard, used violence on gathering crowds. These protests were described by witnesses as “extremely violent” and reports stated that by the end of that day, 13 people were killed, and as a response to this tragedy, The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Verónica Michel Bachelet requested for an investigation to be made into the security forces use of violence. Later that month, Juan Guaidó, began to



designate people as advisers, envoys and diplomats.

3. OAS Recognizes Guaidó's Government as the Official Representation to the OAS.

On the 11th of January of 2019, The Organization of American States (OAS) secretary General Luis Almagro, tweeted *"We welcome the assumption of Juan Guaidó as interim President of Venezuela in accordance with Article 233 of the Political Constitution. You have our support, that of the international community and of the people of Venezuela."* On that same day, The Republic of Colombia and the Federative Republic of Brazil, agreed with the decision taken by the OAS secretary General Luis Almagro taken

assuming Juan Guaido as the interim president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Since then, numerous nations have embraced Juan Guaido. As well as many nations have maintained their relations with Nicolas Maduro's government.



The nations above are those that have issued official support statements to one of the claimants to the Presidency of Venezuela.

4. Humanitarian Aid.

Due to the fact that in Venezuela there are low supplies of medicine and humanitarian infrastructure is



deteriorating, Juan Guaidó, who declared himself Interim president, stated that humanitarian aid should be a priority and said that "hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans could die if aid does not arrive". On the 7th of February, trucks loaded with humanitarian aid attempted to cross the border with Colombia. As this happened, Venezuela's communications minister, Jorge Rodríguez, said that there was a secret plan between the Central Intelligence Administration (CIA), the Republic of Colombia and the exiled Venezuelan politician Julio Borges in order to oust Nicolás Maduro.

Humanitarian aid was also attempting to get into Venezuela from the Brazilian border. Groups of indigenous people loyal to Nicolás

Maduro blocked the way for trucks to pass the frontier. 15 of these indigenous people were injured, 4 were seriously injured and 2 died. At the Colombian border with Venezuela, people that were trying to get the aid inside Venezuela through large mobilizations were shot with rubber bullets, or tear gassed by Venezuelan personnel. Later on, the Bolivarian government was accused of setting in fire one of the trucks filled with Humanitarian Aid, which is considered to be a humanitarian crime. The Maduro government immediately denied such claims and debate has been ongoing ever since with the leftist side using a report made by the New York Times as support to the theory that the fire was produced by protestors.



On the other hand, In Venezuela's border with Brazil, more than 2,000 people assisted to help or presence the entrance of humanitarian aid to Venezuela, but the Venezuelan national guard intervened and “colectivos” or paramilitary/parapolice personnel promoted by the Bolivarian Government, allegedly attacked protesters leaving as a result 20 people injured and a total of 4 deaths. In March of 2019, The Red Cross announced that they were assembling Humanitarian Aid to satisfy the goal of getting the aids to Venezuela in April of that same year. On April 9, Maduro accepted humanitarian aid but only the one arranged by the Red Cross/Red Crescent (ICRC) This action was described by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's

self-declared interim president Juan Guaido, as a “result of pressure and insistence”. Nicolas Maduro stated that he was going to accept the humanitarian aid coming from the Red Cross, but he denied that a humanitarian crisis existed. Then after the joint report from human rights watch and John Hopkins, Maduro’s position on receiving aid and the United Nations stating the humanitarian crisis had increased, in April of 2019, The red cross tripled its budget for the aid to Venezuela. The Red Cross stated that that increase would focus in 4 areas:

1. The migration crisis
2. Water and sanitation
3. Prisons and detention center
4. The healthcare system collapsed.



On April 16 of 2019, the first aid to Venezuela arrived. Maduro described this delivery as "as a necessary

APPROACH

The meeting will focus on determining which delegation should represent Venezuela at the UN. With the Venezuela chair not being occupied by any of the governments but rather having different representatives of each government to clear up the issue.

It is expected that nations that have issued an official statement condemning the Maduro government and/or supporting the Guaido administration will stick to these claims. Members of organizations such as NATO or the European Union

measure to confront punishing U.S. economic sanctions."

might support the Guaido administration because of the differences between close allies like the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain or the French Republic with the Maduro administration. On the other hand, those nations with socialist, marxists or left-wing policies are expected to support Maduro. Specially due to the ties between countries like the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China with the Bolivarian government.

Because of the volatile nature of the topic, recent issues or statements expressed by any of the



representatives of the governments will be taken into account.

5. Has your country offered help or maintained relations with the Maduro government?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Does your country recognize Juan Guaidó as president of Venezuela or Nicolas Maduro?
2. What relation does your country have with the government of Venezuela or past Venezuelan governments?
3. What has your country done related to the Venezuelan crisis?
4. How is recognizing Juan Guaidó as the president of Venezuela beneficial or non beneficial to the people of Venezuela and to other countries affected?

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