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## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

### **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

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## **I. Methodology for the preparation of the report and consultation process**

1. The present report follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council pursuant to resolution 16/21 and decision 17/119, and describes the continuous efforts of all Venezuelan State institutions responsible for the promotion and realization of all human rights, including the right to development, and ensuring that they are respected and guaranteed. It discusses the recommendations accepted by the Venezuelan State during the first periodic review cycle, and the 10 voluntary commitments made by the Venezuelan State.
2. As regards recommendations 94.19 and 94.20, in implementing the accepted recommendations from the universal periodic review, continuous support was provided by the United Nations agencies and programmes in Venezuela, namely the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This was also a valuable opportunity for the exercise of the human right to political participation, and input and feedback was received from representatives of hundreds of organizations and social movements, and from civil society.
3. In response to recommendations 93.18, 93.19 and 94.36, workshops were organized for social organizations and people's movements, with 387 representatives from 241 associations attending between 2012 and 2016. Over the same period, as part of the reporting methodology, there were 20 inter-agency conferences on coordination with the public administration, involving 33 State institutions.
4. With regards to recommendation 94.34, in order to sensitize and train public officials working with human rights, a workshop entitled "Social investment and State investment in children and adolescents" was run, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and with the cooperation of UNICEF; it was attended by 56 public officials.
5. Between August 2015 and April 2016, as a result of awareness-raising activities, civil society sent more than 400 contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as input to the present report; these were an important source of information. The breadth and transparency of this exercise are demonstrated by the fact that the [epuvenezuela.gob.ve](http://epuvenezuela.gob.ve) web page has had around 2 million visits since it was launched in September 2011 and up to the time of submission of this report. The Venezuelan State is therefore proud to present this account of its major human rights advances and challenges to the Working Group.
6. The data used in preparing this report come from national censuses, official documents from specialized governmental bodies and information provided by State institutions, human rights having been structurally incorporated as a cross-cutting theme in all public policy. Given the word limit, gender-sensitive language has not been used in this document.

## II. Country context

7. Over the past 16 years Venezuela has undergone a profound transformation that has given rise to numerous advances in the various areas of society; the aim has been to consolidate and steadily improve the quality of life for the whole population, based on a fresh constitutional mandate for a democratic order whose whole meaning and purpose is human rights.

8. To achieve this model of constitutional democracy, at the end of the last century a peaceful political revolution took place that combined the concepts of representative and participatory democracy in a system where the sharing of responsibility among all components of the State and the great importance attached to grass-roots participation encouraged the emergence of a model of development based on social inclusion, one in which the human and ecological dimensions are very prominent and which can provide arenas for legitimate and just social or legal battles against hegemonic and imperialistic powers, power groups and corporate media power.

9. In practical application of the provisions of the Constitution, a social revolution has been taking place, guided by the principles of international law regarding self-determination, sovereignty and independence, and directed mainly towards guaranteeing universal social inclusion. However, the intolerance and extremism of national and international oligarchies and powers opposed to this model of human development have made themselves felt in various unconstitutional actions, in the form of acts of violence, coup attempts and boycotts. This was what happened in 2002 in the coup d'état carried out by opposition leaders against the Government of President Hugo Chávez, an attempt that was foiled thanks to the determination and solidarity of the Venezuelan people and its Armed Forces, which together restored democracy and the President.

10. After the failed coup d'état, in 2003 came the economic sabotage of the oil industry, which lost the country more than \$15 billion. These manifold attempts to destabilize the country have continued until the present day. The State's response to this harassment, however, has been to boost social inclusion even more and to try to establish solid safeguards for human rights in working-class sectors and among the most vulnerable groups. Then in 2007 an amnesty was declared and a pardon granted to the groups involved in the coup, in the hope that this would ease social tensions. However, this did not spare the country further antidemocratic and destabilizing actions, which have continued to the present day.

11. New ideas for progress towards the economic revolution have been constantly proposed against the background of the severe international economic crisis and unstable commodity prices. The drastic drop in oil prices, in combination with an unrelenting strategy of sabotage from inside and outside the country, have made even greater progress in the realization of all human rights impossible.

12. In mid-2012, as part of his election platform, President Chávez presented to the Venezuelan people the Second Socialist Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the Nation (2013-2019 National Plan), which received majority support, resulting in a victory in that year's elections. After the death of President Chávez in March 2013, fresh presidential elections were held on 14 April 2013 and won by Nicolás Maduro; he put forward the National Plan once again and it was approved by the National Assembly and passed into law.<sup>1</sup> However, certain less tolerant opposition groups — pardoned under the 2007 amnesty and now united in the Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (MUD) party — in collusion with the national and international media corporations and foreign Powers, decided to ignore the results of these unexpected elections, again creating situations of violence and tension.

13. In 2013, certain sectors of the opposition, intent on destabilization, launched a socioeconomic boycott based on the planning of systematic shortages by the national and international private sector, which impacted on the distribution and availability of medicines and food, and also involved speculation and stockpiling, the deliberate halting or cutting of production of vital consumer goods, smuggling to neighbouring countries on a gigantic scale, extremely high prices and extensive speculation in the national currency.

14. In January 2014 extremist opposition groups again resorted to violence to overthrow President Maduro, resulting in 54 deaths and hundreds of injuries to children, young people, older people, officials of the Public Prosecution Service and police officers. They also attacked and destroyed schools, universities, health centres and public transport systems, among other things, causing more than \$10 billion of damage.

15. The factions that are opposed to the Venezuelan model and Government have coordinated sabotage, smear campaigns and blockades in the political, economic, trade and financial sectors at the national and international levels. In 2015 the President of the United States of America issued an Executive Order declaring Venezuela an “unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy” of a country that boasts of being an economic, commercial, financial and military Power. The Executive Order was ratified in 2016.

16. In recent years, between 2012 and 2016, the natural phenomenon of El Niño has caused a serious drought that has affected the national hydroelectric system; 70 per cent of the country’s electricity is generated by water power.

17. In 2016 economic adversity prompted the launch of policies to safeguard social and economic rights, first under a decree declaring a state of economic emergency and later under another declaring a state of exception and economic emergency.<sup>2,3</sup> These laws were brought in to underpin the continuity of social policy by means of investment in productive agricultural and industrial infrastructure, ensuring the supply of medicines, food and other vital products, and special measures to curb tax evasion.

18. In 2016 the many and varied efforts at destabilization, which had been intensifying since 2013, were boosted by the new opposition majority in parliament formed by MUD, which is seeking ways of achieving its original goal of ousting the Government, thereby exacerbating the difficulties and reversing social advances. Stockpiling and speculation in foodstuffs and other basic commodities are on the rise, the strategy being to destabilize by creating social unrest and manipulating the media, incidentally taking advantage of the fall in oil prices, the chief source of foreign currency in Venezuela.

19. Under the circumstances, the State of Venezuela reaffirms its determination to achieve the goals outlined in the constitutional order and implemented as State policy in the National Plan, and in the international human rights treaties, and declares itself committed to maintaining the levels of comprehensive social investment — the most significant ever in the country’s recent history — as a mechanism for the universal protection of all the country’s inhabitants, with a view to attaining supreme social happiness, the ultimate goal of Bolivarian Socialism.

### III. Commitments

20. Since its first universal periodic review in 2011, the State has worked hard on the implementation of the recommendations accepted and its 10 voluntary commitments.

21. Thanks to great efforts by all State bodies, Venezuela is now up-to-date with the drafting and submission of periodic reports to the treaty bodies. In 2013 it submitted its combined nineteenth to twenty-first reports on the International Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In 2014 it submitted its combined third to fifth reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; its combined seventh and eighth reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and its fourth report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

22. In 2015 Venezuela submitted its third report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its fourth report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, in late 2015 it submitted its initial report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In July 2016 Venezuela made its national voluntary presentation to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to mark the launch of the 17 sustainable development goals.

23. As to reports to other United Nations bodies, Venezuela submitted its fourth national report on follow up to the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted by the United Nations in 2011.

24. The country's excellent human rights record has been recognized by the Member States of the United Nations. Venezuela was elected a member of the Human Rights Council for 2013-2015, and has been re-elected until 2018.

## **IV. International cooperation**

### **Recommendations 94.71, 94.74, 94.73, 94.75**

25. In fulfilment of its constitutional mandate and Bolivarian diplomacy of peace, Venezuela will continue to uphold the right of peoples to peace, solidarity, the right to development, social equality, the democratization of the international order, due respect for international law, the democratization of the United Nations, the defence of the Palestinian State, and the removal of the blockade and unilateral coercive measures against Cuba, and will continue to support the peace negotiations in Colombia. Furthermore, Venezuela will continue to defend its sovereignty and its reasonable right to emancipation and demands that the hegemonic Powers respect the rule of international law.

26. It is against that background that Venezuela is supporting regional and subregional schemes for integration through free trade agreements based on respect, solidarity, cooperation and complementarity; these have paved the way for balanced, equitable and egalitarian development of peoples in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres, taking a profoundly humanist perspective and applying the concept of South-South cooperation, one of whose fundamental tenets is direct horizontal relations between nations, which make for supportive development based on solidarity and permit common challenges to be met by means of projects that increase social inclusion and successful experiences in fair trading. One example is the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, launched in 2005, which has become firmly entrenched as the world's only integration mechanism covering 18 countries; it promotes socioeconomic development in the Wider Caribbean Region by ensuring a secure supply of energy on favourable financial terms, which raises the standard of living of the various Caribbean peoples. The founding of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) has permitted the launch of various projects to reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion in the region. These include the Alba Food Fund, the Alba Transnational Food Corporation, the "Milagro" mission, the Gran-Nacional Pharmaceuticals Sales and Distribution Company, a programme of clinical, genetic and psychosocial research into disability, the Gran-Nacional Cement Company, the Alba Mining Research, Exploration and Analysis Institute, the Binational Media Observatory Project and the Radio del Sur Project.

27. In cooperation with the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Venezuela is participating in the South American Council on Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN) geographic information system (GIS) project, which provides countries with an IT platform that allows them to identify, design and plan infrastructure projects that will ensure connectivity among member countries.

28. Inside the country, in order to strengthen the mechanism for effective response and follow-up to the international human rights commitments made by Venezuela, a project to establish a national system for follow-up to duly ratified international human rights instruments has been set up with UNDP cooperation. This project will apply a conceptual, methodological and technological model for follow-up to public policies on human rights.

29. Sensitization and training in the human rights of migrants was provided to 150 officials between 2013 and 2016 at several workshops run in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## V. Institution-building

### **Recommendations 93.16, 93.17, 94.1, 94.2, 94.6, 94.36**

30. Venezuela now has a broad legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and has reinforced existing legislation with laws including: the Act on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Equal Treatment for Persons living with HIV/AIDS and their Families (2014), the Act amending the Child Protection Act (2014), the Act amending the Act on Women's Right to a Life Free from Violence (2014), the Special Act to Prevent and Punish Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (2013), the Culture Act (2013), the Act on Organized Crime and Financing of Terrorism (2012), the Act on Disarmament and Arms and Munitions Control (2013), the Racial Discrimination Act (2012), the Act on Special Communal Peace Courts (2012), the Act to Punish Politically Motivated Crimes, Disappearances, Torture and Other Human Rights Violations in the Period 1958-1998 (2011), the Act amending the Act on Donations and Transplants of Organs, Tissues and Cells in Human Beings (2011), the Act on Missions, Great Missions and Micro-missions (2014), the Act on the Pension and Retirement System for Employees of National, State and Municipal Administrations (2014), the Fair Prices Act (2015), the Act on the System for Review and Correction, Relaunch and Restructuring of the Police and Citizen's Security Bodies (2014), the Labour and Workers Act (2012), the Act amending the Act on Food for Workers (2012), the Act on Security of Employment (2015), the Act on Socialist Cestaticket (2015), the Act on the National System of Food and Agriculture (2014), the Act on Comprehensive Regionalization for the Social and Productive Development of the Nation (2014), the Act on the Great Agricultural Mission for Venezuela (2014), the Identification Act (2014), the Police Service Act (2015), the Act on Community Management of Services and Other Activities (2014), Act on the Children of Venezuela Great Mission (2011), the Act on the Great Mission on Knowledge and Work (2012), the Act on the Benefits Scheme under the Housing and Habitat Regime (2012), and the Act on Fair Pricing for Houses and Apartments (2011).

31. In response to the recommendations made in the first cycle, attention is drawn to the creation of the National Council for Human Rights, which is responsible for formulating and following up on binding human rights policies. The Council is chaired by the Executive Vice President of the Republic and includes three civil society organizations; it is responsible for coordinating at the highest level and thus reflects the importance the State attaches to the protection of human rights. Following very extensive consultations across the country during 2015, the 2015-2019 National Human Rights Plan, an instrument for

planning, coordination and monitoring of policies and major decisions on human rights, was approved by Decree.<sup>4</sup>

32. The Plan takes up the recommendations accepted after the first universal periodic review. The validation process involved 258,096 people and 153 human rights organizations, including organizations representing groups requiring special protection, such as indigenous peoples, persons deprived of their liberty, women, children, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, young people and the LGBTI population. The whole process was supported by the United Nations system.

33. Contributions to the Plan are grouped in five strategic areas: (1) Building an emancipatory human rights culture; (2) Strengthening of the institutional framework guaranteeing the rights of all persons; (3) Active participation by the population in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights; (4) Transformative vision of human rights protection systems and agencies; and (5) Consolidation of the human rights perspective in the legislation, policies and action of the State.

34. In 2013 the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment was established, comprising various State agencies and a representative of the People's Power appointed by the Federal Council of Government. In October 2014 the National Plan for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment was submitted.

## **VI. Achievements and best practices in respect of human rights guarantees, implementation, promotion and protection**

### **International treaties ratified**

**Recommendations and voluntary commitments 93.1, 93.2, 93.3, 93.4, 93.6, 93.8, 95.1, 95.2, 98 (a), 98 (b)**

35. Venezuela has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol, depositing the instrument of ratification on 24 September 2013.<sup>5</sup>

## **VII. Economic, social and cultural rights**

### **Poverty reduction**

**Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.4, 94.6, 94.7, 94.8, 94.9, 94.10, 94.15, 94.18, 94.26, 94.37, 94.39, 94.40, 94.41, 94.42, 94.44, 94.45, 94.75**

36. Over the past 12 years or more Venezuela has designed and implemented a set of policies, measures and structured programmes for the realization of human rights in local communities, as represented by community councils and communes. There are already 46,249 community councils and 1,581 communes across the country; they are democratic mechanisms for the attainment of social equity. "Social missions" have been created to strengthen protection and inclusion of more vulnerable groups by increasing access to and enjoyment of rights and substantially reducing poverty. This was reflected in the 2010, 2012 and 2014 reports on the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>6</sup>

37. To consolidate social programmes and strengthen oversight and coordination of the programmes, the Act on Missions, Great Missions and Micro-missions<sup>7</sup> was adopted in 2014; it regulates the mechanisms through which the Venezuelan State, jointly and in



coordination with organized society, promotes the development and social protection of the population in order to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights.

38. The social programmes provide comprehensive support to groups and individuals in vulnerable situations: the main areas they cover are the public health system, social rights such as education, sports, food, culture, recreation and the right to special protection, and making provision for conditional cash transfers, the granting of non-contributory pensions, and grants and technical aids for persons with disabilities, among other benefits.

39. The rolling review of programmes revealed the need to set up Socialist Mission Bases, which are logistics and operational centres built by the State in the heart of 1,500 communities identified as living in extreme poverty. In addition, in 2014 the Great Mission on Homes for the Nation was set up, bringing together the various programmes targeting the most disadvantaged sectors in order to protect Venezuelan families and provide comprehensive support to children at the earliest stages, and at the same time to support parents, siblings, grandparents and other members of the household; in this way poverty will be eradicated through the creation of optimal conditions for the full development of the population. By 2015 a total of 593,499 families had benefited; in addition, 75,000 Socialist Mission cards have been given to the most disadvantaged families, whereby monthly cash transfers are made, for use only in purchasing food and medicine.

40. Extreme poverty has been substantially reduced, standing at 4.7 per cent as of 2015. Inequality has also considerably diminished; the Gini coefficient stood at 0.38 in 2014, the lowest in Latin America. In 2014 life expectancy at birth was 75 years.

41. Also in 2014 the poorest 10 per cent increased their attendance rate at all levels of preschool, to reach 65.6 per cent; in primary education the rate was 97.3 per cent. The figures for progress in equity in income distribution are also encouraging. In 2014 the richest households' share of total income declined by 9.4 points (-17.6 per cent). The same year, the ratio of the income of the richest 20 per cent to that of the poorest 20 per cent was 7.3.

42. Public services such as transportation, electricity, telephone, fuel and water, among others, are subsidized by the State, while public health and education are completely free of charge.

43. Protection of the people as a whole has been made possible by gradual systematic increases in public social investment. Social investment in education increased 39 times in 2013; investment in health, 59 times; in housing, 43 times; in security, 99 times; in development and social participation, 70 times; in culture and social communication, 78 times; and in science and technology, 38 times.<sup>8</sup>

## **Combating racial discrimination**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.26**

44. In 2011 the Racial Discrimination Act was passed, with the aim of establishing appropriate mechanisms to prevent, address, eradicate and punish all forms of racial discrimination.

45. Persons of African descent are covered by all social missions; they acquired greater visibility in the 2011 census, which included a question on self-identification. The Racial Discrimination Act created the National Institute against Racial Discrimination, which is part of the Ministry of People's Power for the Interior and Justice, and the National Council for the Development of the Afrodescendant Communities of Venezuela.

## Right to health

### Recommendations 93.20, 94.1, 94.6, 94.9, 94.11, 94.48, 94.49, 94.50, 94.51

46. Investment in health has grown significantly. Since 1999 17,800 new health centres have been set up, making a total of 23,146. In 2015 the health budget increased, yielding a total investment of \$232,508,675.

47. Health coverage has increased. In 2013 Barrio Adentro had a network of 6,712 direct primary care clinics covering a total of 16,780,000 inhabitants. By 2015 the network had expanded to 12,094 clinics, covering 24,802,527 inhabitants, i.e., 81 per cent of the population.

48. Comprehensive care for pregnant women has been a priority for the State; however, the antenatal, delivery and post-delivery care programmes need evaluation in order to correct critical points. Maternal mortality has fluctuated, but the trend is upwards, so the challenge will be to identify the causes and take corrective action. The rate for 2015 was 78.06 per 100,000 inhabitants.

49. Perinatal mortality has declined, standing at 859.83 per 100,000 inhabitants. Another point that shows the strength of health care in Venezuela is that, as of 2015, 12 vaccines were available, against 18 diseases.

50. Infant mortality has declined significantly as a result of improvements in the determinants of health, particularly as reflected in post-neonatal mortality figures; improving neonatal care is a challenge if progress is to be made in reducing neonatal mortality. The mortality rate for children aged under 1 has declined by 31.9 per cent. In 2015 the child mortality rate was 14.79 per cent.

51. As to unwanted teenage pregnancies, 2015 saw the launch of the 2015-2019 “Matea Bolívar” strategic intersectoral plan for wanted, safe and happy motherhood, with shared responsibility for motherhood and humanized childbirth. It also makes provision for indigenous peoples, ensuring prompt care, notably in obstetric emergencies.

52. As to vaccination, 142,616,362 doses were administered between 2007 and 2015 and, during Vaccination Week in the Americas in 2015, coverage was 96.83 per cent. As part of the “Ruta Materna” programme to prevent maternal and child mortality and promote humanized childbirth, 26,995 newborns and 52,500 pregnant women have been evaluated; among the latter, 27,426 were deemed to be at high obstetric risk and 14,223 were registered in the mother and child identification and follow-up system. Treatment has been provided to 62,225 HIV/AIDS patients and 155,000 patients with sexually transmitted infections, and 5,472,000 male condoms have been distributed across the country. In terms of mental health, 4,262,162 units of psychotropic medication were distributed to 120,907 individuals registered in the Comprehensive System of Access to Medicines.

53. In 2014 the World Health Organization (WHO) certified Venezuela free of measles and rubella after it attained over 98 per cent coverage in vaccination against those diseases during the National Vaccination Campaign. Coverage of over 98 per cent was attained with the triple vaccine against measles, rubella and mumps, and oral polio vaccinations also exceeded the target throughout the country. During the campaign 2,917,582 doses of polio vaccine and 2,443,622 doses of measles and rubella vaccine were administered.

54. In 2015 the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) certified that Venezuela had eradicated rubella and congenital rubella syndrome, as a result of the policy launched in 1999, based on the triple vaccine.

55. This year the country has experienced shortages of medicines for chronic and endemic diseases. To address the difficulties, procurement and distribution procedures were

revised and binational and regional agreements, and agreements with the private sector, were signed in order to ensure safe, uninterrupted supplies. The National Corporation for Health Inputs was established to handle the import, export, storage, promotion and distribution of medical products, and a State-owned company, Technological Services for Health Teams, was created to handle the production, distribution and sale of medical equipment, instruments and materials.

56. Despite the severe economic crisis, Venezuela guarantees the provision of antineoplastic medicines free of charge to the country's more than 30,000 cancer patients.

## **Right to a healthy environment**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.48, 94.70**

57. In 2014 the rate of access to drinking water was 96 per cent, and access to sewage services 84 per cent. Levels of drinking water supply to the distribution network available to users are far higher than the minimum required by WHO. In 2015 the per capita national average was approximately 396 litres.

58. Drinking water and sanitation fees are regulated by the State, so as to ensure access to drinking water in sufficient quantities; for household economies this represents an outlay of well below 1 per cent of the minimum monthly wage.

59. State-community coordination to ensure efficient use of water takes the form of 7,400 technical water committees nationwide. These committees work with the community water management boards to coordinate all bodies concerned in the interests of greater efficiency in the management of drinking water distribution networks and wastewater collection.

60. Venezuela has 43 national parks and 21 natural monuments; these are areas that contain ecosystems of high biodiversity value and scenic beauty, and where watersheds are protected. Together they represent 16 per cent (20,328,000 ha) of the total surface area of the national territory. Areas under Special Administration (ABRAE) are natural spaces of strategic importance for the nation owing to the social benefits that accrue from their conservation and because of their contribution to supreme social happiness. As of 2015, 69.5 per cent of the national territory was classified as ABRAE.

## **Right to adequate food**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.9, 94.40, 94.41, 94.42, 94.45, 94.47**

61. To counter the effects of economic warfare, the Great Mission on Food was stepped up in 2013 in order to facilitate access to basic commodities for the population as a whole and strengthen the public food distribution networks. In 2014 95.4 per cent of Venezuelans had three or more meals a day; more than 4 million children had two meals and a snack in Bolivarian schools.

62. In 2013 the rate of child malnutrition was 3.4 per cent. In 2014 the rate of undernutrition was below 5 per cent. Venezuela has the world's fourth lowest rate of child malnutrition. The height of the average child in Venezuela is now nearly 2 cm more than it was in the 1990s.<sup>9</sup>

63. Venezuela is one of 38 countries that effectively met the goal of eradicating hunger in the world. Calorie availability has increased by 36 per cent (3,087 calories), which is more than the 2,720 calories recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 2013 FAO acknowledged that there had been a reduction in the percentage of the

population suffering from hunger in Venezuela, from 13.5 per cent to 5 per cent, which meant that the country had met the Millennium Development Goal on hunger well ahead of time. In 2015 Venezuela again received FAO recognition for its progress in reducing malnutrition; it is one of 30 nations that have met the target set at the World Food Summit.

64. New opportunities have been created to boost and encourage breastfeeding, which has resulted in an expansion of the practice by 490 per cent. Although the breastfeeding rate has increased from 7 per cent to 40 per cent, the target set in the National Plan is 70 per cent, which thus remains a challenge.

## **Right to housing**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.52, 94.53, 94.54, 94.55, 94.56**

65. Since 2011 implementation of the right to adequate housing has been pursued by means of the Great Mission for Housing in Venezuela, a strategy to expedite widespread social inclusion and improve the homes of those with the fewest resources. At the start of the programme the housing needs of 3,742,224 families were assessed; 2,753,157 needed to acquire a home and 643,596 needed improvements to their homes.

66. By June 2016 1.03 million housing units had been built, representing a total investment of \$73,312,166,833 between 2011 and 2015. People's organizations took part in the building of more than 300,000 dwellings. A total of 3,485 homes for indigenous people have been provided, benefiting 56,748 persons in all. In total some 5.5 million people have benefited, and the goal is to build a further 2 million decent housing units by 2019.

67. Another major programme is the "Barrio Nuevo Barrio Tricolor" Great Mission, a housing renovation programme which rehabilitated 104,467 dwellings and 1,040 apartment blocks between 2013 and 2015, and constructed 175 children's playgrounds, benefiting 2,876,447 families.

## **Right to education**

### **Recommendations and voluntary commitments 94.1, 94.6, 94.9, 94.51, 94.46, 94.51, 94.57, 94.59, 94.60, 94.61, 94.62, 94.63, 94.64, 98 (g)**

68. In Venezuela, 82 per cent of schools are public, free of charge and high-quality, and receive support from the central, state and municipal governments. In the 2014/15 school year, coverage across all levels and in all forms of education for ages 3 to 16 was 89.3 per cent; and in primary school it was 93 per cent; there are gender parity indexes at all levels of education.

69. Since 2013 more than 4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) has been allocated to the Subsystem of Basic Education (2013: 4.14 per cent; 2014: 4.39 per cent; and 2015: 4.03 per cent). Adding this percentage to the amount allocated to university education yields a total that exceeds the 6 per cent of GDP recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for education.

70. As of 2015, 2,838,079 individuals, mostly women (58 per cent) and with an average age of 55, had learned to read and write under the Robinson I and II educational programmes, The Ribas Mission has trained 1,000,766 persons;<sup>10</sup> and 417,796 students have graduated from the Sucre Mission.<sup>11</sup>

71. One hundred thousand textbooks have been provided free of charge to students in basic education.<sup>12</sup> The textbooks are adapted to the language and culture of the indigenous

communities. As of the first quarter of 2016, more than 4.5 million “Canaimita” laptops had been distributed, representing an investment of around \$1.5 million.<sup>13</sup>

72. The narrowing of the digital divide has had a significant social impact. For computer repair and software upgrading, 2,704 Bolivarian computer and telecommunications centres have been set up, reaching the most disadvantaged parishes. By the end of 2014 technological training had been provided to more than 1.8 million people and 1,000 students with special educational needs had been guaranteed access to information and communication technologies. Free Wi-Fi connection is guaranteed in most central squares of the country.

73. During the 2014/15 school year, there was a total of 1,597,521 children in preschool, representing an enrolment rate of 79 per cent; in primary education, total enrolment was 3,449,592, an enrolment rate of 93 per cent; and in secondary education (general and technical), the net enrolment rate was 73 per cent, with 2,301,822 adolescents and young people in school.

74. Strategies have been deployed for introducing non-conventional education in early childhood (Simoncitos in the Community and Simoncitos in the Family) for 100,353 children aged 0 to 6 every school year, involving 23,224 “day mothers” who help with education but at the same time are in the labour market. In addition, support was provided to 7,947 family members in the form of training in sexual and reproductive health, family education and personal growth.

75. During this period, broad consultations were held on the quality of education, in which the population gave their opinion on the kind of education they would like. The exercise involved 7,233,489 people, or 27 per cent of the population aged over 6, which meant that 3 out of every 10 Venezuelans expressed an opinion.

76. With regard to university education, a new national university entrance system has been created, guaranteeing fair and equitable access, with 1 per cent of places set aside for persons with disabilities. Total enrolment in higher education in 2015 was 2,622,013, i.e., 83.25 per cent of 17- to 22-year-olds had access to university.

77. With regard to student benefits, as of 2014 a total of 252,178 scholarships had been awarded to undergraduate and graduate students to boost education in strategic areas of national development. Students also have free health care and student residences have been built and equipped.

## **Right of access to science and technology**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.72**

78. As of 2016 there were 6,960,423 fixed telephony subscribers, 5,977,471 (85.87 per cent) of them residential users. In addition, 97.44 per cent (14,887,857) of mobile phone subscribers are natural persons.

79. Under the 2016 Web-Ready Plan a total of 1,181,733 computers have been distributed and 31,162 new homes have TV decoders. In all, 88.65 per cent of the country has access to the World Wide Web and 63.28 per cent have mobile phones. Wi-Fi coverage has been provided to 5,473 zones in colleges and universities. More than 935,402 users have open digital television.

80. A major step forward was taken with the launch of the Simón Bolívar satellite as a means of promoting telecommunications services and projects related to education, health, food, defence, energy and oil, the media, public safety and economic development, and it has also made possible live transmission of television signals through the National System

of Public Media. In addition, the launch of the Miranda satellite provides high-resolution satellite data and images to support government decision-making in strategic areas such as urban planning, food security and agricultural planning, natural resource management, border surveillance and natural disaster management.

81. There are now 314 authorized public service community operators (270 radio stations and 44 television stations), reflecting a substantial increase in the creation and spread of alternative and community media, and showing how communications are being democratized.

82. Of the 934 authorized radio operators (FM/AM) now registered, 635 represent concessions to private companies and 29 are in the public sector; this reflects an increase of 10 per cent in FM radio concessions by the State.

83. As to national and regional open television, there are 117 licensed operators, 63 of them private, while concessions to public companies have increased from 8 to 10 in 15 years. The private sector controls 54 per cent of the open television spectrum in Venezuela and 68 per cent of the radio spectrum. In terms of total radio and TV, the private sector controls 698 of the 1,051 stations, or 66 per cent of the national radio spectrum, compared with the 34 per cent still in the hands of the public and community sectors.

## **Right to culture**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.46, 94.58**

84. To ensure the democratization of access to culture for all sectors the Ministry of People's Power for Culture was created, and its policies and programmes have made possible the spread of the Simón Bolívar Venezuelan Youth and Children's Orchestra System; the creation of the Experimental University of the Arts; the Villa del Cine; the El Perro y la Rana publishing company, which publishes works by both established and up-and-coming authors; the implementation of mass programmes to encourage the reading of national and international classics; the spread of craft fairs; and festivals to revive the country's musical tradition.

## **VIII. Civil and political rights**

### **Protection of human rights under criminal law**

#### **Recommendations 94.6, 94.27, 94.33**

85. As established in the Constitution, criminal law has developed in accordance with the principle of progressiveness, which has been incorporated into criminal legislation such as the Act amending the Criminal Code (which introduces enforced disappearance of persons) and the Act on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. The bill amending the Criminal Code covers other human rights violations.

### **Right to security of person**

#### **Recommendations and voluntary commitments 93.9, 94.1, 94.3, 94.6, 94.12, 94.13, 94.14, 94.28, 94.29, 94.30, 98 (e), 98 (i)**

86. In terms of public security policies, in 2012 the "A Toda Vida Venezuela" Great Mission was instituted as a comprehensive public policy taking a preventive, multi-agency approach to crime control, harmonious coexistence and the full development of the person

and the community. To reduce impunity the Ministry responsible for public safety created the Office of the Deputy Minister for criminal investigation, and in the Public Prosecution Service special investigation units were set up to reinforce criminal investigation and help reduce impunity. Elsewhere in the justice system the Public Defence Service has been strengthened in order to ensure free access to justice.

87. During the first half of 2013 the Special Homeland Security Plan, a system of surveillance, patrols and communication, was put in place. Civil society was called on to help fight crime and the Movement for Peace and Life was launched, with a view to providing better opportunities for meetings and discussions, as a strategy for the consolidation of a culture of peace through cultural and sporting activities and by helping communities to organize themselves.

88. The Integrated Monitoring System was launched, involving the installation of 30,000 cameras across the country and monitoring facilities connected to the various security agencies, which operate in tandem (Fire Brigade, Civil Protection and Bolivarian National Police Force).<sup>14</sup> Total investment was \$1.06 million.

89. As to gun control, a systematic policy has been in place since 2011 and has reported progress. The first step was to create a Presidential Commission on Arms, Munitions and Disarmament Control, with the aim of conducting scientific studies, national consultations and a public awareness campaign on the subject. As a result, the Act on Disarmament and Arms and Munitions Control was passed, aiming among other things to place restrictions on the issuance of weapons licences to civilians and to ban the sale of firearms to private individuals by State and private companies.<sup>15</sup>

90. Regulations were introduced governing the disabling of firearms held in security service evidence rooms<sup>16</sup> and the Voluntary Disarmament Plan was implemented. As of May 2016, 3,659 firearms had been received and 44,450 had been disabled. The National Disarmament Service was created and periodically disables or destroys weapons.

91. In the last four years 4,784 crime-prevention initiatives have been carried out in communities, reaching 680,816 people. Between 2014 and 2015 94,141 security force officials were trained. In schools, training was provided to an average of 128,000 children and adolescents. During the same period, to help prevent crimes against women and promote peaceful coexistence, various training strategies were implemented, reaching in 2014 an average of 133,000 members of organized communities.

92. Sports training is also used as a tool for crime prevention among young people; between 2014 and 2015 there were 11,980 sports meets, involving 710,674 people, mainly youngsters.

93. The reorganization of the system of social care and prevention in 2014 made it possible to set up the Neighbourhoods for Peace and Life,<sup>17</sup> which have helped reduce crime rates. In these areas 3,632 training plans have been put in place, benefiting 124,291 community members.

94. As to police oversight, the System for Strategic Information and Transparency in the Police Force (SIETPOL) has been set up, making information from all police forces rapidly available in real time. At the municipal and the state levels, 542 community police units and 16 gender equality and equity offices have been set up. Since 2010 police forces have had a victim support office that provides timely and effective legal, medical, psychological and social aid to victims of crime or police abuse. Eighty per cent of the country's police forces now have a victim support office.<sup>18</sup>

95. With regard to training for public security forces up to 2015, the Experimental University for Public Security (UNES) provided comprehensive training to 8,254 officers on the basic police training course, to 5,841 senior university technicians and to 1,165

police management graduates. In addition, 392 professionals graduated from postgraduate, specialist and master's courses in advanced police studies. Currently, the police per capita ratio is 4 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is in line with United Nations standards.

96. Since 2013 the Identification, Migration and Alien Affairs Service, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has been running a national training plan on the refugee regime in Venezuela, for organizations and institutions, in order to build up expertise among public officials in that area.

97. As for efforts to combat human trafficking, Venezuela has signed the major relevant international conventions and declarations and harmonized its domestic legislation.<sup>19</sup> It has developed plans and projects to combat trafficking in persons from different perspectives: as well as broad-spectrum plans there are others focusing on women, children and adolescents.<sup>20</sup> Since 2014 a workplan has been in operation with UNHCR, to analyse the trafficking situation at the country's borders.

98. Action to prevent trafficking focused on skills development and training, promotion, dissemination and information sessions, and publicity campaigns, all of which has helped raise officials' awareness and sensitivity to the most common forms and the different approaches to take, and improved the way agencies deal with the issue. Since 2014 the establishment of committees to combat crimes of trafficking in women, children and adolescents has been encouraged, as a means of coordinating agencies' work in combating trafficking.

99. Support to trafficking victims takes the form of a package to meet their basic needs, psychological and medical treatment, occupational training, recreation and legal assistance. In the case of the foreign population, support takes the form of repatriation to their country of origin, the processing of passports, the obtaining of visas, the provision of shelter, or resettlement in a third country. There are also shelters for women, and when children or adolescents are involved, there are shelter programmes in care institutions. From 2012 to 2015, 151 victims were registered and protection measures were granted to 21 victims — 19 women, 1 adolescent boy and 1 girl.

## **Rights of persons deprived of liberty**

### **Recommendations and voluntary commitments 93.5, 93.7, 93.10, 93.11, 93.12, 93.13, 93.14, 93.15, 94.1, 94.5, 94.6, 94.31, 94.32, 94.33, 94.35**

100. To strengthen policies guaranteeing the rights of persons deprived of liberty, in 2011 the Ministry of People's Power for Prison Administration was created, replacing the old Higher Council for Prisons. A new prison regime was established to regulate prisoners' daily life in detention centres, encouraging the creation of spaces for work, study and recreation, and the 2013-2019 National Strategy for Prisons was drawn up. All these measures are consistent with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Agreements have been signed between various organs of the justice system (Supreme Court, Public Prosecution Service and Ministry of Prisons) to reduce procedural delays, and the Public Defence Service has been strengthened to improve the quality of defence and provide effective judicial protection.

101. The National Prison Buildings Fund was created as a means of eradicating overcrowding, and 26 projects benefiting some 37,286 adults and adolescents deprived of their liberty have started. There are now 39 men's prisons, 18 women's prisons and 32 institutions for adolescents.



102. As a result, detention conditions have improved and this has had a positive effect on life inside prisons. The new prison regime now covers 90 per cent of men's prisons and 100 per cent of women's and adolescents' institutions, and the level of violence has dropped exponentially. To improve surveillance and control in prisons, high-tech mechanisms have been installed, representing an investment of \$164 million.

103. Occupational training is provided under the Luisa Cáceres de Arismendi Plan, which runs 43 socialist production units in the 18 women's prisons, which have sections for baking, textile work, farming, pottery, metalwork, carpentry, general services, maintenance, soapmaking, childcare, screen printing and hairdressing.

104. Prison guard training is carried out at UNES, thereby ensuring the professionalization of prison work and a considerable improvement in guards' training and their treatment of the prison population. More than 2,500 prison guards are deployed in the country's prisons.

## **Right to gender equality and equity**

### **Recommendations 94.1, 94.6, 94.11, 94.16, 94.17, 94.21, 94.22, 94.23, 94.24, 94.25, 94.28, 94.51**

105. The agency responsible for State policy on the protection of women's rights is the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equality, created in 2009. There are other bodies to deal with specific topics, such as the Subcommittee on Gender Statistics, the Coordination Unit for Women of African Descent and the Coordination Unit for Indigenous Women, within the Ministry itself; the National Commission on Gender Justice, of the Supreme Court; and the police Gender Equity and Equality Council.

106. In terms of comprehensive programmes in this area, two have been designed: the 2009-2013 "Juana Ramirez La Avanzadora" Plan and the 2013-2019 "Mama Rosa" Gender Equality and Equity Plan, each of which takes a different approach in order to achieve equality and equity between women and men. There are also specific plans, such as the National Communal Defenders Plan, which aims to transfer to the People's Power, in the form of the gender equality and equity committees, preventive action on violence against women and action to engage with and support victims of violence; by 2016 more than 23,000 women had been sworn in as communal defenders.

107. One measure of protection against gender violence is the new free phone service providing guidance and referrals to State agencies, which by 2016 had assisted 24,133 individuals. In addition, shelter and psychological and social assistance were provided to women and their children at imminent risk. Effective access to legal assistance for women is arranged by the Office for the Protection of Women, which to date has provided 183,124 sessions of legal guidance and support.

108. Seventy-eight special courts for the protection of women and gender equality have been created, along with 69 offices specializing in the defence of women, staffed by 192 prosecutors nationwide. In 2011 the Directorate for the Defence of Women was created and in 2013 the National Coordination Office for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Parties to Proceedings was set up to ensure the defence and protection of the rights of all victims and witnesses of criminal offences.

109. The Venezuelan State has undertaken to sensitize the media on the gender perspective and programme scheduling that is respectful of women's rights. To that end the National Telecommunications Commission has issued recommendations in response to violations of the provisions of the Act on Social Responsibility in Radio and Television.

110. Action has been taken to eliminate stereotypical uses of images of women in the media. In one practical measure, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court banned all explicitly or implicitly sexual images, and all announcements encouraging sexual activity and promoting services linked to commercial sexual exploitation, from advertisements published in print media freely accessible to children and adolescents.<sup>21</sup> The Bolivarian System of Communication and Information has promoted women's participation in all areas of broadcasting and production, and that has resulted in the sending of messages to counteract sexist images; in addition, forms of entertainment have been developed that help women to recognize themselves in their roles and raise awareness in society at large.<sup>22</sup>

111. As to women's empowerment and organization, as of 2014 2,033 gender equality and equity committees had been set up in community councils; there were 12,652 neighbourhood mothers' committees and 841 women's economic defence committees, 12,000 women had joined the Women for Peace and Life Movement and there were 13,000 communal defenders. The People's Government Presidential Council for Women, comprising representatives from all 24 states, was also created as a people's deliberative and advisory body.

112. Since late 2013, 841 women's economic defence committees have been created to promote social accountability and ensure access to goods and services at fair prices; and the gender equity and equality councils have been established to mainstream the gender perspective in the public policies of State institutions. Lastly, the National Union of Women (UNAMUJER) has been formed in order to coordinate the various women's movements and initiatives. To date the platform has more than 1.8 million registered members.

## **Rights of indigenous peoples**

### **Recommendations and voluntary commitments 94.1, 94.6, 94.11, 94.15, 94.65, 94.66, 94.67, 94.68 and 98 (h)**

113. With the creation of the People's Government Presidential Council of the Indigenous Peoples and Communities, a body was formed that would make possible the design and implementation of public policies on indigenous matters. Elections yielded 1,569 spokespersons, who then chose their representatives to Council.<sup>23</sup> In addition, from 2007 to 2015, the indigenous community councils have assisted 307,168 people and 57,956 families, providing funding for 1,469 social projects in areas such as electrification, drinking water and infrastructure, and socio-productive projects.

114. In the area of the right to health, between 2012 and 2014, under the Yanomami Health Plan 6,174 indigenous patients received treatment for various conditions and under the Apure Health Plan 8,311 patients from various indigenous peoples received treatment. In addition, treatment was provided by the Indigenous Care and Counselling Service in the hospital network that covers all states. The right to education has been guaranteed with due respect for indigenous peoples' culture and the reaffirmation of their collective rights in areas such as ethnic identity, their own culture and language and their traditional knowledge.

115. To strengthen the right of access to justice, the Public Defence Service has public defenders with jurisdiction in criminal and non-criminal cases in indigenous matters.

116. In 2014, under the Indigenous Languages Act, the National Institute of Indigenous Languages was established to save and revive all indigenous languages. During 2009-2014, 1,785 intercultural bilingual schools were registered in the territories of indigenous peoples, providing preschool, primary, secondary and technical secondary education, with total enrolment in 2014 of 68,580 indigenous pupils. Contextualization of textbooks in the Wuayunaiki, Pemon and Yekuana languages is also ongoing. Projects to train intercultural

bilingual teachers have been reinforced, as have various out-of-school educational projects to protect and revive the indigenous languages.

117. Between 2012 and 2015, 1,704 culturally appropriate decent housing units were built, benefiting 9,031 people.

118. The policy of demarcation and handover of land with collective property title to indigenous peoples has been in place since the creation of the National Commission on the Demarcation of the Habitat and Lands of Indigenous Peoples and Communities in 2001. To date 102 collective land titles have been granted in respect of a total of 3,280,298.72 hectares, with a population of approximately 101,498 people, grouped into 25,600 families and spread over 683 indigenous communities.

119. Lastly, in 2011 the National Institute of Statistics conducted a National Population and Housing Census which took into account the indigenous population. The indigenous population is 724,592, or 2.8 per cent of the total population. It was noted that 474,219 indigenous persons are literate.

## **Protection of asylum seekers and refugees**

### **Recommendation 94.69**

120. The 2001 Refugees and Asylum Seekers Act establishes the criteria and conditions for granting protected status, and for cooperation between UNHCR and the National Refugees Commission. Historically Venezuela has been host nation to millions of Colombians affected by the armed conflict. According to *UNHCR Global Trends — Forced Displacement in 2014*, Venezuela is the second largest host country in the Americas; in addition, the 5 per cent drop in the number of refugees in the Americas is acknowledged to be due chiefly to the Venezuelan policy of granting citizenship to thousands of displaced Colombians.

## **IX. Challenges**

121. Completing the construction of the national monitoring and follow-up system by developing human rights indicators, so as to be able to implement and evaluate public policy as a whole is seen as an urgent challenge; work is continuing on this and it is hoped that a platform will be ready in 2017. It is also necessary to strengthen the mainstreaming of human rights across the whole of national public policy.

122. Another priority is to consolidate the institutions and mechanisms set up by the State, so as to improve the execution and monitoring of public policies with a human rights perspective. Of particular importance is the strengthening of coordination mechanisms at the highest level, in order to improve capacity in matters of public policy and indicators. The inter-agency work being done by the Ministry of People's Power for Planning, the Office of the Deputy President for Social Matters, the National Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, is an example of the coordination needed to move forward.

123. In a situation of economic warfare and crisis such as the country is currently experiencing, it is essential to stimulate sustainable economic growth by increasing productivity levels and boosting technological innovation; the challenge there is to change the rentier economic model that has been characteristic of this country for the last 100 years.

124. Another major challenge is to take action to protect and guarantee the rights of Venezuelans of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity; action has been taken, but further progress must be made to achieve the hoped-for results.

125. The problem of early pregnancy remains a major challenge for the country. Although a series of plans, programmes and measures have been put in place, more initiatives are needed if the problem is to be fully overcome.

126. It is necessary to increase and strengthen our ability to protect the environment and ancestral lands occupied by indigenous peoples, to tackle climate change and to encourage sustainable initiatives to address these global challenges that can have an adverse impact on Mother Earth.

127. A constant challenge is to continue consolidating the political participation and empowerment of social and human rights organizations and movements in more areas of national Government, and to further strengthen the People's Government Presidential Councils.

128. The strengthening of public safety at all levels remains a challenge. It is important to reinforce the foundations of the institutional framework that has been created, jointly with society at large, to a standard that will give our people the best possible quality of life.

129. Lastly, the implementation of the 2016-2019 National Human Rights Plan and the broad, constructive involvement of society as a whole in that work, is a great challenge, one that the Venezuelan State accepts and on which action is well under way.

## **X. Conclusions**

130. Venezuela has been confronted with the consequences, direct and indirect, of various types of unconventional warfare, and interference of all kinds by foreign Powers, intended to destroy the country's economy and reverse all the great advances in the realization of rights achieved in recent decades. However, Venezuela has a people and a State committed to the values and overriding principles of dignity and social justice, implanted by Simón Bolívar the Liberator and further cultivated by Commander-in-Chief Hugo Chávez, whose legacy the Bolivarian Chavist Government of President Nicolas Maduro Moros will continue to defend with tenacity.

131. Venezuela is making progress in the implementation of human rights for good living (*buen vivir*) and has been working in a participatory manner with all movements, social organizations and civil society in general, thereby confirming that the State is always open and willing to engage in dialogue and accept criticism in human rights matters, but always in a context of unconditional and constructive cooperation and within the framework of respect for sovereignty and self-determination of peoples. The economic challenges facing our country are the stimulus for progress towards the construction of an economic model that will replace the rentier model of the last 100 years, which is no small challenge; however, the growth of the Venezuelan population and of its human, political, social and economic abilities shows that Bolivarian socialism is moving into a new, more consistent and constructive phase in which it will be possible to continue to guarantee the human rights of all its people.

## Sources

### The following institutions of the Venezuelan State contributed to the preparation of this report

The Ministries of People's Power for Health; Education; Prison Services, Communes and Social Movements; Women and Gender Equality; Ecosocialism and Water; Indigenous Peoples; the Interior, Justice and Peace; Higher Education, Science and Technology; Communication and Information; and Planning; and the Public Prosecution Service and the Public Defence Service.

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Gaceta Oficial de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela núm. ext. 6.119, de fecha 4 de diciembre de 2013.
- <sup>2</sup> Publicado en Gaceta Oficial de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela N° 6.214. Fecha 14 de enero 2016.
- <sup>3</sup> Publicado en Gaceta Oficial de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela N° 6.214. Fecha 13 de mayo de 2016.
- <sup>4</sup> Publicado en Gaceta Oficial N°6.218 del 2 de marzo de 2016.
- <sup>5</sup> Publicada en Gaceta Oficial N° 39.236 del 6 de agosto de 2009.
- <sup>6</sup> Misión es una política pública que de forma masiva, acelerada y progresiva, materializa las condiciones para el disfrute de uno o más derechos sociales de personas o grupos, con la participación directa del pueblo. Gran Misión es conjunto concentrado de políticas públicas y recursos para el mismo fin y Micro Misión es una expresión temporal de política pública destinada a atender y resolver un problema particular. Ley Orgánica del Sistema Nacional de Misiones, Grandes Misiones y Micro Misiones (Gaceta Oficial de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela N° 5.154 del 19/11/ 2014).
- <sup>7</sup> Decreto N°1.394 publicado en La Gaceta Extraordinaria N° 6.154, del 19 de noviembre de 2014.
- <sup>8</sup> Estos resultados los podemos observar en los gráficos relativos a los indicadores: Inversión Pública en Educación (1999-2013), Inversión Pública en Salud (1999-2013), Inversión Pública en Vivienda (1999-2013), Inversión Pública en Seguridad Social (1999-2013), Inversión Pública en Desarrollo Social y Participación (1999-2013), Inversión Pública en Cultura y Comunicación Social (1999-2013) e Inversión Social en Ciencia y Tecnología (1999-2013), ver anexo estadístico Venezuela en Cifras.
- <sup>9</sup> Ver en anexo estadístico Venezuela en cifras: Proporción de Niños y Niñas menores de 5 años con Peso Inferior al Normal (1990-2012), Comparación de la sub-alimentación en la población de América Latina (2011-2013) y Porcentaje de Crecimiento de Niños y Niñas a los 7 años (1990-2010).
- <sup>10</sup> Programa dirigido a reinsertar dentro de un sistema educativo y productivo a personas que no culminaron sus estudios de la tercera etapa de educación media y diversificada, para que obtengan su título de bachiller integral.
- <sup>11</sup> La Misión Sucre es un plan nacional de acceso a la educación universitaria que surge como iniciativa de carácter estratégico.
- <sup>12</sup> La Colección Bicentenario es el nombre que recibe el conjunto de libros escolares editados por el Estado para distribuirlos gratuitamente en las escuelas.
- <sup>13</sup> El Proyecto Canaima Educativo, que consiste en la entrega de computadoras portátiles a las niñas y niños del Subsistema de Educación Básica.
- <sup>14</sup> El sistema contempla tres fases. La primera (fase de inicio), durante el último trimestre del 2013, la segunda fase (de despliegue) en 2014, y una tercera fase (de integración) durante 2015 y 2016.
- <sup>15</sup> Publicada en Gaceta Oficial N° 40.190 del 18 de junio de 2013.
- <sup>16</sup> Decreto N° 9.194 publicado en Gaceta Oficial N° 40.027 del 11 de octubre de 2012.
- <sup>17</sup> Los Cuadrantes de Paz son una división territorial por un (1) kilómetro cuadrado, a fin de ubicar estratégicamente a nivel geográfico a los integrantes de los organismos de seguridad del Estado, quienes interactúan con la comunidad.
- <sup>18</sup> De conformidad con la resolución N° 86 de fecha 19 de marzo de 2010 del Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Interiores, Justicia y Paz.
- <sup>19</sup> Ley Orgánica Contra la Delincuencia Organizada y Financiamiento al Terrorismo ;Ley Orgánica sobre el Derecho de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia, Ley Orgánica de Protección de los

Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes, Código Penal y la Ley de Migración y Extranjería.

- <sup>20</sup> En 2007 se dictó el Plan de Acción Nacional contra el Abuso Sexual y la Explotación Sexual Comercial y se elabora el Plan Piloto para la Lucha contra la Pornografía de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes en las Instituciones Educativas del Distrito Metropolitano de Caracas. Posteriormente, se diseñó un Plan de Trabajo entre el Servicio Administrativo de Identificación, Migración y Extranjería, el Instituto Nacional de Aeronáutica Civil y las líneas aéreas de Venezuela. En 2014 se suscribió un Plan de Trabajo con el Alto Comisionado de la Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR).
- <sup>21</sup> Sentencia N° 359 del 6 de mayo de 2014.
- <sup>22</sup> Se pueden mencionar los siguientes programas: Programa Maternidad segura, deseada y feliz en el marco de la Protección de los Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos; el Programa Flora Tristán creado para promover la transformación de los patrones de crianza y cuidado que le han sido impuesto a las mujeres e impulsando la corresponsabilidad de hombres, mujeres, comunidad y Estado; el Programa Luisa Cáceres de Arismendi con el objetivo de contribuir a la protección y defensa de los derechos humanos de las mujeres privadas de libertad y sus familiares a través del desarrollo de acciones de formación, capacitación, asistencia social.
- <sup>23</sup> Sesiones 24ª y 25ª, celebradas los días 2 y 3 de junio de 2015 en el Comité de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales del OACNUDH, Ginebra.
-