

YUNMUN XXX

United Nations Security Council

Topic 2: Venezuela; An Ongoing Series of Crises

The history of corruption in government has unfortunately been a pervasive part of Venezuela's narrative and political history. Beginning with Simon Bolivar in 1813, Venezuela has seen rulers use their power to practice both force and deception against their people to pursue personal gain and statues.¹ As a country that is rich in natural resources, such as oil, Venezuela has been predisposed to political and economic instability due to its mismanagement of said resources.

Following the death of Maduro's predecessor, Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro was elected into office in 2013. Shortly after he took office the country slid into an economic downfall and violent protests broke out all over the country. In 2018 Maduro was re-elected in a highly contested election which was widely condemned. Two weeks after the corrupted election, the National Assembly declared Maduro's presidency illegitimate and the opposition leader, Juan Guaido, declared that he would assume office as interim president. Immediately following this broadcast, America, and then later Canada, and many EU countries recognized Guaido as the official president of Venezuela. However, China, Cuba, Russia, and Turkey have all maintained recognition of Maduro as president.²

This political stalemate has led to ongoing consequences. The United States has slapped a series of sanctions against the Maduro administration, while paradoxically the Russian government has been helping Maduro evade sanctions and build him up militarily.

The current political climate in Venezuela is not only posing issues for the international community and the upholding of international law, but has also created a humanitarian crisis. Venezuela's economy is experiencing inflation at a rate of 10 million percent and has also simultaneously witnessed a collapse of its food structure.³ Moreover, due to the worsening conditions regarding food, medical attention and other aid, millions have been fleeing the country. UNHRC has reported that over 4 million people have fled, and 464,299 have sought asylum, making this the "largest exodus in the region's history."⁴ This crisis is wide scale, wide spreading, and under recognized.

The nature of the crisis in Venezuela is vast and intricate. Due to its complex political nature there are many different layers that need to be addressed. We, as the Security Council have a unique opportunity to come together and help alleviate the situation.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_in_Venezuela

² <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/instability-venezuela>

³ <https://www.cfr.org/report/stabilizing-venezuela>

⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/venezuela-emergency.html>

Questions to consider:

1. Do we know who the legitimate leader of Venezuela is?
2. Can we as Security Council determine the legitimate leader?
3. Should there be military intervention to address the violent protests and establish a legitimate government?
4. How does your country believe we should approach the crippling financial crisis?
5. How does your country believe we should approach the food shortage?
6. How does your country believe we should handle the refugee crisis?
7. What does your country believe our responsibility is towards neighboring countries in light of the refugee crisis?

These questions are to be used as a starting point for our upcoming discussion and are by no means a comprehensive list of what can be covered in the committee. I urge you to thoroughly research Venezuela's history, and crisis management in general, thus enabling you to be prepared for the discussion and deliberation to come. *Please remember that while sub-committees and sanctions can be helpful, they will not solve the problem on their own.*

Please be sure to present your country's position and be familiar with the guidelines enumerated in the YUNMUN Student Handbook, particularly those concerning plagiarism. All position papers will be scanned for plagiarism through turnitin.com.

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