



**DECLARATION OF CONDEMNATION OF THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL
DISQUALIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, MARIA CORINA
MACHADO, IN VENEZUELA**

The former heads of State and Government of the Democratic Initiative of Spain and the Americas (IDEA Group), having been informed of the decision taken by the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela, to politically disqualify the presidential candidate of the democratic opposition, María Corina Machado, without any prior cause or proceedings, without her having exercised any governmental or public asset administration function, and certainly without being subject to a final criminal sentence as demanded by the Constitution and international human rights jurisprudence, emphatically declare the following:

- a) María Corina Machado, in accordance with the rules of democracy, remains the legitimate representative of the opposition in Venezuela and its presidential candidate before the international community that respects the democratic, constitutional, and rule of law state, and which has been favored by a decisive majority of Venezuelans in primary elections.
- b) The mentioned actions of the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro Moros, through a Supreme Court whose leadership has recently been entrusted to a member of the ruling party, a former councilor, without legal practice or judicial career, let alone academic credentials, prove their repeated disregard for the essential elements and fundamental components of democracy, as outlined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- c) In light of the blatant violation of the agreements of Barbados, to which the regime committed to respecting "the right of each political actor to select their candidate... in accordance with their internal mechanisms," the governments of the guarantor countries must act accordingly.
- d) In particular, the governments signing the Declarations issued following the aforementioned Agreements, namely, the United States, which partially lifts its sanctions against the dictatorship of Maduro Moros, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission, must react similarly. We addressed these dignitaries on October 26 to alert them about the criminalization being prepared by the representatives of that regime, including the First Lady, Cilia Flores, to hinder the candidacy of María Corina Machado.

e) The European Union must uphold its commitment to ensuring "the return of Venezuela to the democratic path," as expressed by its High Representative in a communication addressed to the European Parliament on January 22, in which he takes note of the unconstitutional disqualification of María Corina Machado.

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