



DECLARATION ON VENEZUELA AT THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The former heads of State and Government participating in the Democratic Initiative of Spain and the Americas (IDEA) at the VIII Summit of the Americas, in Lima, Peru, declare the following:

After talking with representatives of democratic opposition groups in Venezuela - Soy Venezuela and Frente Amplio Venezuela Libre – with the shared goals of (1) changing the regime of Nicolás Maduro and (2) guaranteeing and participating in a democratic transition, we note that the current regime has drifted further into totalitarianism.

The National Constituent Assembly, installed by the current regime in violation of the constitutional order and the democratic principle of the universal, direct and secret vote, and already rejected by most of the countries participating at the Summit and by international organizations, has called for a simulation of presidential elections without the conditions necessary for them to be recognized as constitutional, authentic, free, fair, transparent and competitive.

The Electoral Power organizing the elections was illegitimately formed, lacks autonomy and relies upon a fraudulent electoral system. It has outlawed significant opposition parties and imprisoned, disqualified, persecuted, or forced their main leaders into exile. These would be potential candidates in democratic elections. Further, the regime has systematically denied any international neutral and independent observation of the elections.

The democratic opposition, therefore, is not participating in this fraudulent simulation, which only seeks to perpetuate and legitimize the regime. The government is using this sham election process to further silence all forms of dissent or nonconformity, criminalizing it, and using the judicial system for that purpose.

Venezuela, in the end, continues to vanish under the worst social and humanitarian emergency, with hundreds of thousands of children suffering from malnutrition due to lack of food, hundreds of thousands more suffering due to lack of medication, while millions of Venezuelans cross borders to seek freedom and opportunities in many countries, including nations participating at the Summit.

This scandalous situation makes the Venezuelan regime responsible for widespread and systematic violations of human rights, in addition to its open collusion with criminal and terrorist associations, which constitute a clear threat to the security and stability of the entire region. Moreover, the legitimate Venezuelan Supreme Court, sitting in Colombia, has opened a case against the dictator Maduro for acts of corruption.

Urgent actions, and coordinated decisions of the member countries of the Summit of the Americas and the rest of the international community, are needed in order to:

- (a) Not recognize the presidential elections convened by the Venezuelan dictatorship;
- (b) Extend international sanctions against the main actors of the Maduro regime and those of the Cuban regime who protect it and are engaged in drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption and acts of systematic violation of human rights; contemplate seizures of assets and accounts, including those of the government actors' relatives, front men and collaborators; prohibit these individuals from free transit through the countries of the region and, if applicable, deport them.
- (c) Adopt international measures so that the oil trade is a source of well-being for Venezuelans and not support for the regime that oppresses them;
- (d) Activate, in accordance with International Law, the mechanisms for urgent humanitarian assistance to Venezuela;
- (e) Advance the International Criminal Court's investigation into the crimes against humanity of the dictatorship;
- (f) Adopt a temporary protected status (TPS) or similar status for Venezuelans migrating to the United States, Europe and Latin America; and as requested by the UNHCR, ensure care and protection of the displaced, including the creation of a fund for their attention, help and protection;
- (g) Recall ambassadors accredited in Caracas and / or sever diplomatic relations with the Maduro regime if the regime persists in carrying out the sham presidential election planned for May 2018; and
- (h) Help restore the right of the Venezuelan people to have free, democratic, and transparent elections; ensure the release of political prisoners; lift electoral disqualifications of opposition leaders; and demand that the National Assembly be recognized as the only legitimate parliamentary body of Venezuela.

Lima, 11 de Abril de 2018

Óscar Arias, Costa Rica
José María Aznar, España
Nicolás Ardito Barletta, Panamá
Belisario Betancur, Colombia
Felipe Calderón, México
Rafael Ángel Calderón, Costa Rica
Laura Chinchilla, Costa Rica
Alfredo Cristiani, El Salvador
Fernando de la Rúa, Argentina
Vicente Fox, México
César Gaviria T., Colombia
Felipe González, España
Osvaldo Hurtado, Ecuador
Luis Alberto Lacalle, Uruguay
Jamil Mahuad, Ecuador
Mireya Moscoso, Panamá
Andrés Pastrana, Colombia
Jorge Tuto Quiroga, Bolivia
Miguel Ángel Rodríguez E., Costa Rica
Julio María Sanguinetti, Uruguay
Álvaro Uribe V., Colombia
Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Paraguay

Es auténtico:



**Asdrúbal
Aguiar**

