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## Human Rights Council

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### **Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**

#### **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

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## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1967)	OP-CAT (signature, 2011)	OP-CAT (signature, 2011)
	ICESCR (1978)	ICRMW (signature, 2011)	ICRMW (signature, 2011)
	ICCPR (1978)	CRPD (2013)	ICPPED (signature, 2008)
	ICCPR-OP 2 (1993)		
	CEDAW (1983)		
	CAT (1991)		
	OP-CAT (signature, 2011)		
	CRC (1990)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2003)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2002)		
ICPPED (signature, 2008)			
Reservations and/or declarations	ICCPR (reservations: art. 14 (3) (d), 1978)	CRPD (interpretive declarations: art. 12 (2), 2013)	
	ICCPR-OP 1 (same reservation made in respect of art. 14 (3) (d) of ICCPR, 1978)		
	CEDAW (reservations: art. 29 (1), 1983)		
	CRC (interpretive declarations: arts. 21 (b) and (d) and 30, 1990)		
	OP-CRC-AC (declarations: art. 3 (2), minimum age of recruitment is 18, 2003)		
	ICPPED (reservations: art. 42 (1), 2008)		
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action <sup>3</sup>	ICERD, art. 14 (2003)	OP-ICESCR (signature, 2011)	OP-ICESCR (signature, 2011)
	ICCPR-OP 1 (1978)		
	OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2002)	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2013)	ICCPR, art. 41
	CAT, arts. 20 (1991), 21 and 22 (1994)		OP-CRC-IC

## 2. Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
Ratification, accession or succession	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide		
	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court		
	Palermo Protocol <sup>4</sup>		
	1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees		Convention on refugees and conventions on stateless persons <sup>5</sup>
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II <sup>6</sup>		Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>7</sup>
	ILO fundamental conventions <sup>8</sup>		
	ILO Convention No. 169 <sup>9</sup>		ILO Convention No. 189 <sup>10</sup>
	Convention against Discrimination in Education		

- Several committees noted with concern the denunciation by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the American Convention on Human Rights and urged the State to consider withdrawing the denunciation.<sup>11</sup>
- Several committees encouraged the State to ratify ICRMW<sup>12</sup> and ICPPED.<sup>13</sup>
- Two committees recommended that the State ratify OP-CAT.<sup>14</sup>
- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the State consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.<sup>15</sup>
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ratify OP-CRC-IC,<sup>16</sup> the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>17</sup> and consider ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).<sup>18</sup>
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that the State consider acceding to the Convention on the Status of Refugees.<sup>19</sup>

### B. Constitutional and legislative framework

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the implementation of a broad state of emergency in 24 municipalities, which suspended a number of human rights protections, was deeply worrisome and should be promptly lifted.<sup>20</sup>

## C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

### Status of national human rights institutions<sup>21</sup>

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle<sup>22</sup></i>
Defensoría del Pueblo	A (2008)	A (confirmed in 2013); special review — recommendation to be downgraded to B status and given one year to establish compliance with the Paris Principles (October 2014, deferred to March 2015);  Recommendation to be downgraded to B status (May 2016);  As per article 12 of the statute of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Defensoría challenged the recommendation. Consideration has been deferred to the meeting of the Bureau of the Global Alliance in October 2016.

8. The United Nations country team welcomed the establishment in 2014 of the National Human Rights Council, which drew up the National Human Rights Plan 2016-2019; the plan was released for public comment in 2015.<sup>23</sup>

9. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern that the Office of the Ombudsman had not discharged its mandate in an entirely independent manner.<sup>24</sup> The Human Rights Committee recommended that the State ensure that the Office is able to carry out its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles.<sup>25</sup>

10. The Committee against Torture was concerned that 6 of the 13 members of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture were affiliated with the executive branch, and stated that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela should ensure that the members are completely independent.<sup>26</sup>

11. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to finalize the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents (2015-2019) and develop a strategy that includes mechanisms for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.<sup>27</sup>

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	August 2005	2012	August 2013	Twenty-second to twenty fourth reports overdue since 2016

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	April 2001	2012	June 2015	Fourth report due in 2020
Human Rights Committee	April 2001	2012	July 2015	Fifth report due in 2018
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	January 2006	2012	October 2014	Ninth report due in 2018
Committee against Torture	November 2002	2012	November 2014	Fifth report due in 2018
Committee on the Rights of the Child	September 2007	2012; initial reports on OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC (2011)	September 2014	Combined sixth and seventh reports due in 2020
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	2015	-	Initial report pending consideration

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

### Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	2014	Institutional measures; offence of incitement to racial hatred; Yanomami people <sup>28</sup>	-
Human Rights Committee	2016	Observance of human rights in the context of, inter alia, demonstrations; independence of the judiciary; alleged intimidation, disparagement, threats and/or attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers and alleged arbitrary detention of some members of the political opposition <sup>29</sup>	-
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2016	Violence against women; health <sup>30</sup>	-
Committee against Torture	2015	Impunity; arbitrary detention and due process guarantees; torture and ill-treatment of people arrested during demonstrations <sup>31</sup>	Reminder sent <sup>32</sup>

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**Views**


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<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Number of views</i>	<i>Status</i>
Human Rights Committee	2 <sup>33</sup>	Follow-up dialogue ongoing <sup>34</sup>
Committee against Torture	1 <sup>35</sup>	Follow-up dialogue ongoing <sup>36</sup>

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**B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>37</sup>**


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	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>		
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	Food	Food
<i>Visits requested</i>	Freedom of expression	Torture
	Summary executions	Human rights defenders
	Human rights defenders	Violence against women
		Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
		Independence of judges and lawyers
		Arbitrary detention
		Freedom of expression
		Transnational corporations
		Adequate housing
<i>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, 46 communications were sent. The Government replied to 24 communications.	

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12. The Committee against Torture urged the State to permit without delay a visit by the Special Rapporteur on torture.<sup>38</sup>

13. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention urged the Government to consider its request to visit the country.<sup>39</sup>

14. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) urged the Government to accept all pending visit requests from special procedures mandate holders.<sup>40</sup>

**C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

15. The Regional Office for South America covers the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.<sup>41</sup> OHCHR stated that the representative of the Regional Office had requested a visa many times since 2014 to visit the State, with no reply, and that OHCHR continued to seek access and closely monitor the situation, despite not having access.<sup>42</sup>

16. In 2011, the State incorporated recommendations made by OHCHR on a draft bill and draft policy on disarmament.<sup>43</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and parliamentarians participated in a regional seminar on OP-ICESCR organized by the Regional Office.<sup>44</sup>

17. The State contributed financially to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 2011.<sup>45</sup>

18. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State cooperate with relevant international bodies, such as OHCHR, on the implementation of human rights instruments.<sup>46</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State avail itself of regional or international technical assistance in implementing CEDAW, including through OHCHR.<sup>47</sup>

19. In 2015, the High Commissioner reiterated the readiness of OHCHR to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the recommendations made by the committees and under the universal periodic review, as well as on the national human rights action plan.<sup>48</sup>

### **III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Equality and non-discrimination**

20. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State prevent all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and disability, and ensure that such discrimination is prohibited.<sup>49</sup>

21. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the establishment of various institutions to advance women's rights.<sup>50</sup>

22. The same Committee regretted the lack of effective measures taken to address discrimination and violence faced by disadvantaged groups of women.<sup>51</sup> It recommended that the State undertake a comprehensive review of legislation with a view to eliminating all discriminatory provisions, and expedite the adoption of the bill on the rights of women to gender equality and equity.<sup>52</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged the State to support women victims of racial discrimination and improve their access to justice.<sup>53</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State review and strengthen the "Mamá Rosa" Gender Equality and Equity Plan (2013-2019).<sup>54</sup>

23. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that women's representation in the National Assembly was below the regional and world average,<sup>55</sup> and recommended that the State ensure women's equal representation in the Government at high levels of decision-making and use temporary special measures, including quotas.<sup>56</sup>

24. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination remained concerned that there was no standard legislation under which any dissemination of ideas based on racial hatred or superiority, any incitement to racial discrimination or any racially motivated act of violence constituted a punishable offence.<sup>57</sup>

25. The same Committee welcomed the fact that the Organic Act on Indigenous Peoples and Communities contained provisions that could provide effective means of combating structural discrimination.<sup>58</sup>

26. The Committee invited the State to include and consult people of African descent when adopting programmes or policies to promote their rights.<sup>59</sup>

## **B. Right to life, liberty and security of person**

27. The Committee against Torture was dismayed by reports of a widespread pattern of extrajudicial killings committed by police or vigilante groups, noting that 667 killings had been committed by law enforcement officers in 2012 and 600 in 2013.<sup>60</sup> It recommended that the State put an end to those crimes and ensure that extrajudicial killings are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially and that the alleged perpetrators are brought to justice.<sup>61</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its concern about the high number of extrajudicial killings of children and the low number of prosecutions undertaken.<sup>62</sup>

28. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports of a large number of violent deaths in the country and recommended that the State redouble its efforts to prevent and combat violent deaths, and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.<sup>63</sup> The Committee against Torture considered that the State should devise effective strategies to disarm, control and dismantle armed groups of civilians.<sup>64</sup>

29. The country team highlighted the adoption of the Arms and Ammunition Dispossession and Control Act in 2013 and the establishment of related institutions and programmes. However, it drew attention to the homicide rate of 58.1 per 100,000 population in 2015 (82 per cent firearms deaths), official figures that were lower than those reported by civil society organizations.<sup>65</sup> The country team recommended putting in place a reliable information system, accessible to the public, on the situation of crime and violence.<sup>66</sup>

30. The Committee against Torture noted that 43 persons had died in demonstrations that had taken place from February to June 2014.<sup>67</sup> In March 2014, six special procedure mandate holders asked the State for prompt clarification of allegations of arbitrary detention and excessive use of force and violence against protesters, journalists and media workers during protests, and expressed their shock at the reported deaths of at least 17 persons during demonstrations.<sup>68</sup> The High Commissioner expressed deep concern at the reported excessive use of force by the authorities in response to protests, and condemned the violence leading to death and injuries, irrespective of the perpetrators.<sup>69</sup>

31. The Committee against Torture stated that consistent reports indicated that many attacks during the February-April 2014 demonstrations had been carried out with the complicity and acquiescence of law enforcement officers and had gone unpunished.<sup>70</sup> In that regard, the Human Rights Committee recommended that the State continue to take steps to prevent and eliminate the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.<sup>71</sup>

32. In October 2015, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, after identifying a systematic pattern of arbitrary detentions in the State, urged the Government to guarantee the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of liberty. It considered that Antonio José Ledezma, Mayor of Caracas, had been arbitrarily detained and recommended his immediate release.<sup>72</sup>

33. The Human Rights Committee welcomed the approval of the national plan for the prevention of torture (2013).<sup>73</sup> The Committee against Torture expressed concern about overcrowding in prisons and the high proportion of detainees awaiting trial (65.71 per cent). It noted with concern reports that opposition politicians Leopoldo López, Enzo Scarano, Daniel Ceballos and Salvatore Lucchese had been kept in solitary confinement for months and that Enzo Scarano had been beaten.<sup>74</sup> The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention urged the State to release Leopoldo López immediately.<sup>75</sup>



34. The Committee against Torture was alarmed by consistent reports of acts of torture and ill-treatment inflicted on persons arrested during demonstrations, and recommended that all complaints be investigated promptly, thoroughly and independently.<sup>76</sup> It urged the State to consider bringing the Anti-Torture Act into line with CAT.<sup>77</sup>

35. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports of the involvement of military personnel in the policing of public demonstrations.<sup>78</sup> OHCHR urged the State not to use the armed forces in the control of peaceful demonstrations and recalled that the use of the military for law-enforcement purposes should only be exceptional and temporary and the military should act under civilian command and control.<sup>79</sup>

36. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that violence against women and girls was widespread and on the rise, and about the insufficient implementation of the Act on Women's Right to a Life Free from Violence. It urged the State to accord priority to the Act's full implementation.<sup>80</sup>

37. The same Committee was also concerned at the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls, and recommended that the State investigate its extent and root causes and expeditiously adopt the draft bill on trafficking in persons.<sup>81</sup>

38. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, expressing concern about the high incidence of violence against children, recommended that the State develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent such violence and ensure the full implementation of the legal prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings.<sup>82</sup> The Committee was concerned about reports of child prostitution and urged the State to enforce legislation to protect children from all offences covered under OP-CRC-SC by, inter alia, prosecuting and sanctioning all offenders.<sup>83</sup> It urged the State to take the necessary measures to prevent the recruitment of children and to protect them.<sup>84</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

39. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned about the lack of autonomy, independence and impartiality of the judiciary. It noted that only 34 per cent of judges were tenured and stated that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela should guarantee that judges and prosecutors are free to operate without pressure or interference.<sup>85</sup> The High Commissioner raised concerns about the pressures judges and prosecutors faced in handling politically sensitive cases.<sup>86</sup>

40. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports of the adverse consequences faced by some judges who had handed down decisions that were unfavourable for the Government,<sup>87</sup> and the Committee against Torture expressed its concern about the resulting negative impact on the independence of other judges.<sup>88</sup> The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the case of Judge María Lourdes Afiuni, who had been arrested in 2009 for having ordered the conditional release of a person whose detention had been deemed arbitrary by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Committee indicated that the State should ensure that Judge Afiuni's legal situation is resolved as soon as possible.<sup>89</sup>

41. The Committee against Torture noted that, according to the Public Prosecution Service, 3,306 persons had been detained between February and June 2014 in connection with demonstrations. It expressed concern about consistent reports that many of those detentions had been arbitrary, inasmuch as no arrest warrants had been issued and no one had been apprehended in flagrante delicto. It recommended that the State ensure the enjoyment, from the moment a person is deprived of his or her liberty, of all the fundamental legal safeguards.<sup>90</sup>

42. The High Commissioner referred in January 2013 to an alarming pattern of violence in prisons — a direct consequence of poor prison conditions — and called on the Government to adopt urgent measures to ensure conditions of detention comply with international standards.<sup>91</sup>

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the lack of effective access to justice for women victims of violence, owing to the insufficient structures and inadequate functioning of the justice system.<sup>92</sup> It urged the State to establish specialized courts on violence against women in all states.<sup>93</sup>

44. The country team welcomed the increase in the age of criminal responsibility (from 12 to 14) for adolescents who commit offences, but considered that the broadening of the range of offences punishable by imprisonment and the lengthening of the period of deprivation of liberty were legislative changes that were contrary to international standards.<sup>94</sup>

45. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to: expedite the adoption of a law reform on juvenile justice, in accordance with international standards; ensure that detention conditions are compliant with international standards; and prohibit the use of military training as part of socio-educational programmes for juveniles in detention.<sup>95</sup>

46. The same Committee recommended that the State prevent and combat corruption by implementing the law against corruption (2003).<sup>96</sup>

#### **D. Right to marriage and family life**

47. The country team indicated that 18 per cent of children are not registered in their first year of life and that indigenous populations and those in remote areas are the most disadvantaged. The country team drew attention to programmes such as “Misión Identidad” for the registration of children and recommended the evaluation of those programmes.<sup>97</sup>

48. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to expedite measures to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys to 18 years.<sup>98</sup>

#### **E. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the right to participate in public and political life**

49. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended the adoption of a law on access to information.<sup>99</sup> The country team recommended that citizens’ access to public information should be ensured.<sup>100</sup>

50. In 2014, the High Commissioner urged authorities to ensure that people were not penalized for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and to freedom of expression.<sup>101</sup> Four special rapporteurs expressed concern about Resolution No. 008610 of the Ministry of Defence, which would restrict fundamental rights by considering peaceful protest movements to be threats to public order.<sup>102</sup>

51. In October 2014 the High Commissioner called on Venezuelan authorities to immediately release all those detained for exercising their legitimate right to express themselves and protest peacefully. He urged the authorities to ensure that due process was followed during all trials, in accordance with international standards.<sup>103</sup>

52. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports of the arrest of political opposition members Leopoldo López and Daniel Ceballos, which had been declared arbitrary by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.<sup>104</sup>

53. On 4 December 2015, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association called on the Government to guarantee the security of all individuals ahead of the parliamentary elections, and to remove all obstacles to peaceful public participation.<sup>105</sup>

54. In August 2016, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and the Special Rapporteur for freedom of expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressed concern at the eroding media freedom in the State, citing a number of reported incidents of harassments of journalists and media groups.<sup>106</sup>

55. The Committee against Torture was concerned about attacks against, threats to and cases of intimidation and harassment of journalists between January and April 2014.<sup>107</sup> The Human Rights Committee recommended that all allegations concerning intimidation, threats and attacks be investigated and perpetrators brought to justice.<sup>108</sup>

56. The Committee against Torture was concerned about reports of public denigration of human rights defenders by high-level officials and called on the State to refrain from discrediting defenders' work.<sup>109</sup> Three special procedure mandate holders referred to representatives of organizations being followed and photographed without their consent upon their return from attending sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Reference was also made to a television show targeting human rights defenders following their participation in a session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>110</sup> The Human Rights Committee urged the State to protect persons who had contributed to the Committee's work.<sup>111</sup>

57. In 2015, the High Commissioner stated that a key obligation of a sovereign State is to defend even those, indeed especially those, who disagree with the State's policies.<sup>112</sup> He called on the State to ensure that political opponents, human rights defenders and others facing threats in relation to their work are adequately protected, and to ensure an independent and impartial investigation into the murder of an opposition leader.<sup>113</sup>

58. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports regarding extensive monitoring of media content; it recommended repealing provisions that establish criminal penalties for persons who offend or fail to show respect for senior officials.<sup>114</sup> The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that the State decriminalize defamation, facilitate the introduction of self-regulatory mechanisms among media professions, continue to investigate the cases of killed journalists, and voluntarily report to UNESCO on the status of judicial follow-up.<sup>115</sup>

59. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations recommended that the State ensure that public and private sector workers are not subjected to discrimination on the basis of political opinion.<sup>116</sup>

## **F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

60. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended strengthening the national employment strategy and reviewing the minimum wage to ensure a decent standard of living for all workers and their families.<sup>117</sup>

61. The same Committee urged the State to protect trade union rights and investigate reports of violations, and to review the legal provisions restricting the right of trade unions to freely elect their representatives.<sup>118</sup>

62. The ILO Committee of Experts emphasized that the organic labour and workers act infringes the principle of non-interference by the authorities in the internal affairs of trade union organizations. It requested the Government to take the necessary measures, in

consultation with workers' and employers' organizations, to amend sections 367, 368 and 388 of the act.<sup>119</sup>

63. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reminded the State of the importance of transparent tripartite negotiations between State authorities, elected representatives of workers and employers.<sup>120</sup> The ILO Committee of Experts requested the State to hold consultations on all draft laws or regulations on matters within the competence of the parties.<sup>121</sup>

## **G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

64. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged the State to: ensure that all persons are covered by the social security system without discrimination; ensure that social assistance benefits are sufficient; and take the necessary measures to create the social security system provided for in the Social Security System Act.<sup>122</sup>

65. The same Committee noted with concern that there had been a downward trend in the results of poverty reduction efforts. It recommended that the State undertake a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the social programmes known as "missions" and take the necessary corrective measures.<sup>123</sup>

66. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the significant initiatives undertaken to reduce poverty and exclusion.<sup>124</sup> The country team highlighted social programmes designed to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The team noted, however, that official figures show that extreme poverty increased between 2011 and 2013 (from 9 per cent to 13 per cent). The country team recommended ensuring the availability of recent statistics and disaggregated socioeconomic indicators showing the impact of policies.<sup>125</sup>

67. While noting the progress made regarding housing, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that the State adopt a comprehensive social housing strategy that ensures the availability of and access to adequate basic services.<sup>126</sup>

68. The same Committee was concerned about the State's dependence on food imports, which contributed to a serious shortage and scarcity of food and basic necessities; it recommended taking emergency measures to address the situation.<sup>127</sup>

69. OHCHR stated that food scarcity, the number of protests demanding access to food, reports of mob lynching and the impact of the emergency decree were extremely concerning.<sup>128</sup>

70. The country team recommended, among other measures, fostering a dialogue with a view to relaunching production in the food chain, progressively reducing dependence on imports and ensuring the availability of updated statistics on chronic malnutrition.<sup>129</sup>

71. UNHCR recommended that the State recognize the validity of the asylum-seeker certificate for purchasing subsidized goods in government-run markets.<sup>130</sup>

72. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about reports that the drinking water was not of adequate quality in some areas, resulting in cases of infant deaths; it recommended ensuring the availability of good quality drinking water throughout the country.<sup>131</sup>

73. The High Commissioner urged the Government and opposition to work towards a solution to the current critical situation, refraining from violence and hate speech and in full respect of all international human rights norms.<sup>132</sup> On April 2016, he called on the State to open avenues for dialogue to tackle human rights challenges.<sup>133</sup>

## H. Right to health

74. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights took note of reports regarding the critical situation of the health-care system due to the severe shortage and irregular supply of medicines and surgical and medical equipment. It urged the State to urgently adopt necessary measures to guarantee the availability and quality of health-care services.<sup>134</sup>

75. The country team highlighted legislative and institutional advances in promoting and protecting the right to health. However, gaps remain with regard to the full incorporation and generalization of curricular guidelines for sex education in the United Nations subsystem.<sup>135</sup>

76. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the State to amend its legislation to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, risk to the health of the mother and severe fetal impairment.<sup>136</sup>

77. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended implementing the existing protocol on prenatal care and emergency obstetric care and providing adequate sexual and reproductive health services.<sup>137</sup> The country team noted the challenge in medical care for pregnant women and newborns.<sup>138</sup>

78. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed measures to provide free universal access to antiretroviral treatment, and recommended that the State continue implementing measures to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission, and address the shortages of antiretroviral drugs.<sup>139</sup>

79. The country team noted that vaccination coverage had declined.<sup>140</sup>

## I. Right to education

80. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights took note with satisfaction of the measures adopted to increase investment in and improve access to education.<sup>141</sup>

81. The country team noted that the sixth grade completion rate is not universal and that educational lag and problems of access and quality persist.<sup>142</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child was deeply concerned about the persistent challenges for children from rural areas, indigenous and afro-descendant children, as well as refugee and asylum-seeking children in accessing quality education.<sup>143</sup>

82. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the poor quality of education and the lack of qualified teachers.<sup>144</sup>

83. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned at reports of indoctrination and recommended that the State ensure that education promotes full respect for human rights and active participation in a free society.<sup>145</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to explicitly prohibit pre-military instruction in regular schools and vocational education.<sup>146</sup>

84. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the dropout rate among adolescent mothers, and recommended promoting the retention of pregnant girls in school and their reintegration after childbirth.<sup>147</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ensure school enrolment and prevent dropout of children in rural areas, indigenous and Afro-descendant children and children with disabilities; and facilitate the enrolment of refugee and asylum-seeking children.<sup>148</sup>

85. UNESCO recommended that the State continue implementing policies to guarantee education for disadvantaged groups and increasing investment in education, and intensify efforts to eradicate discrimination against girls.<sup>149</sup>

86. UNHCR recommended confirming the asylum-seeker certificate as a valid document for the registration in public schools.<sup>150</sup>

## **J. Persons with disabilities**

87. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State address the specific needs of children with disabilities in all areas, in particular in education, health, accessibility, recreation and access to culture, and employment.<sup>151</sup>

88. The country team recommended advancing in the development of a concept of inclusive education in line with the CRPD.<sup>152</sup>

## **K. Minorities and indigenous peoples**

89. The country team noted that, despite the State's efforts, the indigenous population shows much less favourable indicators than the rest of the population.<sup>153</sup>

90. The Human Rights Committee took note with satisfaction of the extensive legal framework developed on indigenous peoples' rights.<sup>154</sup> The country team highlighted the adoption of the Racial Discrimination Act and recommended enacting the two bills relating to education and special jurisdiction for indigenous peoples.<sup>155</sup>

91. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned by reports that consultations with indigenous peoples were not held regularly and with full guarantees, in particular when granting concessions for the exploration and development of natural resources. It recommended that the State ensure that free, prior and informed consent is obtained from indigenous peoples in relation to decisions that may affect their economic, social and cultural rights, and that indigenous people's decisions are fully respected by all stakeholders.<sup>156</sup>

92. Three special procedures sent a communication concerning the alleged murder of an indigenous leader in the context of the social unrest that the Yukpa people have experienced as a result of claiming their traditional lands.<sup>157</sup> In the context of violence affecting the Yukpa people, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called upon the State to prevent violence in Sierra de Perijá, by, inter alia, adopting mechanisms to expedite the process of demarcation of the land and territories of indigenous peoples.<sup>158</sup>

93. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about the presence of illegal miners in the Amazon region and their attacks on members of the Yanomami people; it urged the State to increase protection for indigenous peoples in the Amazon region and conduct a thorough investigation into the attacks.<sup>159</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about reports that indigenous children were involved in illegal gold mining, in slavery-like conditions, which could amount to sale of children. It strongly urged the State to investigate all cases involving children working in illegal gold mining and prosecute alleged perpetrators of crimes covered by OP-CRC-SC.<sup>160</sup>

## L. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

94. The country team recommends formulating and implementing migration policies with a social and holistic approach.<sup>161</sup>

95. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned at the vulnerability of migrants and refugees to trafficking of persons, exploitation, violence and discrimination.<sup>162</sup>

96. UNHCR indicated that, after the closing of the border with a neighbouring country in 2015, 1,950 deportations had been reported as at October 2015 and 22,342 persons had returned to their country of origin, in many cases due to fear of deportation. UNHCR indicated that while authorities were committed to protecting refugees and asylum seekers, fear among persons in need of international protection had been widespread following the deportations.<sup>163</sup>

97. UNHCR recommended that the State include in its legislation the refugee definition contained in the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, highlighting the risk of individuals not being recognized as refugees.<sup>164</sup>

98. With reference to a first-cycle supported recommendation,<sup>165</sup> UNHCR indicated that the National Refugee Commission had reached out to approximately 168,500 persons who had not accessed the asylum system. Despite all efforts, the process had led to the recognition of only 6,694 refugees since 2003.<sup>166</sup> UNHCR recommended, inter alia, that the State: assign increased resources to the Commission; address delays in issuance of documentation to refugees; and consider issuing long-term resident visas to ensure that recognized refugees can fully exercise their rights.<sup>167</sup>

99. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ensure that all children and their families in need of international protection receive appropriate and fair treatment at all stages. It also recommended that the State provide assistance to children who have been involved in armed conflicts abroad.<sup>168</sup>

## M. Environmental issues

100. The country team recommended institutional strengthening for risk management and disaster response preparedness in the country.<sup>169</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/12/VEN/2).

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

- <sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.
- <sup>4</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- <sup>5</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>6</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) and Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/ihl](http://www.icrc.org/ihl).
- <sup>7</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/ihl](http://www.icrc.org/ihl).
- <sup>8</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- <sup>9</sup> ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).
- <sup>10</sup> ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- <sup>11</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 22; E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 8; CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 22; CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 11; CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 80 and 81; and CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 23. See also United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 15, and [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13697&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13697&LangID=E).
- <sup>12</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 32; CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 22; CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 47; CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 79; and CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 24.
- <sup>13</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 32; CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 22; CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 47; and CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 79.
- <sup>14</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, paras. 20 and 22 and CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 79. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 1.
- <sup>15</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 24.
- <sup>16</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 78.



- <sup>17</sup> Ibid., para. 69. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 1.
- <sup>18</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 71, and CRC/C/OPSC/VEN/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>19</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 5.
- <sup>20</sup> Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the special meeting of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 12 November 2015. Available at [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16744&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16744&LangID=E). The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela replied; see the response in the United Nations webcast archive, available at <http://webtv.un.org/search/venezuela-special-meeting-of-the-human-rights-council-12.11.2015/4609254281001?term=Maduro>.
- <sup>21</sup> According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: voting member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles); B: non-voting member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); and C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- <sup>22</sup> The list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions is available from <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>.
- <sup>23</sup> See the country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 1. See also UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 3.
- <sup>24</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 11.
- <sup>25</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 6. See also E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 11 and CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 20.
- <sup>26</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 20.
- <sup>27</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 11; CRC/C/OPAC/VEN/CO/1, para. 9; and CRC/C/OPSC/VEN/CO/1, para. 12. See also CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 12 and 13; CRC/C/OPAC/VEN/CO/1, para. 11; CRC/C/OPSC/VEN/CO/1, para. 14; and the country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 17.
- <sup>28</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 28.
- <sup>29</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 24.
- <sup>30</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 48.
- <sup>31</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 24.
- <sup>32</sup> Letter dated 15 December 2015 from the Committee against Torture addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/VEN/INT\\_CAT\\_FUL\\_VEN\\_22536\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/VEN/INT_CAT_FUL_VEN_22536_E.pdf).
- <sup>33</sup> CCPR/C/106/D/1940/2010; CCPR/C/112/D/2085/2011.
- <sup>34</sup> A/69/40 and CCPR/C/115/3.
- <sup>35</sup> CAT/C/54/D/456/2011.
- <sup>36</sup> The communication was adopted by Committee against Torture during its fifty-fourth session in May 2015.
- <sup>37</sup> For the titles of special procedures, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx).
- <sup>38</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 18.
- <sup>39</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16466&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16466&LangID=E).
- <sup>40</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14793&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14793&LangID=E). For the voluntary pledges and commitments made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, see A/67/70.
- <sup>41</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/LacRegion/Pages/LatinAmericaSummary.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/LacRegion/Pages/LatinAmericaSummary.aspx).
- <sup>42</sup> See <http://acnudh.org/en/venezuela-ohchr-monitors-country-developments-with-concern/>.
- <sup>43</sup> OHCHR, *Report 2011*, p. 86.
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid., p. 99.
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid., p. 158. See also [www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/FundingBudget/VoluntaryContributions\\_alphabeticalOrder.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/FundingBudget/VoluntaryContributions_alphabeticalOrder.pdf). For the voluntary pledges and commitments made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, see A/67/70.
- <sup>46</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 80 and 81. See also para. 57 and CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 31.

- <sup>47</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 46. See also para. 31, and CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 57, 80 and 81.
- <sup>48</sup> Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the special meeting of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela replied. The statement by the President can be found in the United Nations webcast archive.
- <sup>49</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 28.
- <sup>50</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 12. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 7.
- <sup>51</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 36 and 37.
- <sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 8 and 9.
- <sup>53</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 21.
- <sup>54</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 12, 13 and 17. See also E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 17, and country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 9.
- <sup>55</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 22. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 9.
- <sup>56</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 23. See also para. 15, and country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 9.
- <sup>57</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 14.
- <sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- <sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12.
- <sup>60</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 15.
- <sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15. See also CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 32, and CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 11.
- <sup>62</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 32.
- <sup>63</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 11.
- <sup>64</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 13. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 11, and country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 5.
- <sup>65</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, paras. 1 and 5.
- <sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 5.
- <sup>67</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 12.
- <sup>68</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14318&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14318&LangID=E). See also A/HRC/27/72, p. 9.
- <sup>69</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14292&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14292&LangID=E). The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela replied.
- <sup>70</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 13. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 14, and the country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 14.
- <sup>71</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 14. See also CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 12, country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 14, [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14793&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14793&LangID=E) and <http://acnudh.org/venezuela-acnudh-condena-muerte-de-joven-en-tachira-y-llama-al-dialogo/>.
- <sup>72</sup> See A/HRC/WGAD/2015/27, paras. 36-38. See also <http://acnudh.org/venezuela-acnudh-condena-muerte-de-joven-en-tachira-y-llama-al-dialogo/>.
- <sup>73</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 3.
- <sup>74</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 18.
- <sup>75</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16466&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16466&LangID=E). See also A/HRC/WGAD/2014/26 and CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 9.
- <sup>76</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 10; see also para. 21.
- <sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 7.
- <sup>78</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 14. See also CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 12.
- <sup>79</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15559&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15559&LangID=E). See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 14, and <http://acnudh.org/venezuela-acnudh-condena-muerte-de-joven-en-tachira-y-llama-al-dialogo/>.
- <sup>80</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 18 and 19. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 21.

- <sup>81</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 20 and 21.
- <sup>82</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 44 and 45.
- <sup>83</sup> See CRC/C/OPSC/VEN/CO/1, paras. 29 and 30; see also paras. 10, 27 and 28. See also CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 42 and 43.
- <sup>84</sup> See CRC/C/OPAC/VEN/CO/1, paras. 19 and 33. See also paras. 26, 27 and 32, and CRC/C/OPAC/VEN/CO/1, paras. 28 and 29.
- <sup>85</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 15. See also the statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the special meeting of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 10; and CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 16.
- <sup>86</sup> Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the special meeting of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 12 November 2015. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela replied. The statement by the President can be found on the United Nations webcast archive.
- <sup>87</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 15. See also CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 16 and CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 38.
- <sup>88</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 16.
- <sup>89</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 15. See also CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 16, and CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 39.
- <sup>90</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 9.
- <sup>91</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12956&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12956&LangID=E).
- <sup>92</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 18; see also para. 11.
- <sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 19.
- <sup>94</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 17.
- <sup>95</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 75.
- <sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 17 and 18. See also E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 12.
- <sup>97</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 20.
- <sup>98</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 25 and 26. See also CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 41.
- <sup>99</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 13. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 19.
- <sup>100</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 13.
- <sup>101</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14292&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14292&LangID=E).
- <sup>102</sup> A/HRC/30/27, p. 71.
- <sup>103</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15187&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15187&LangID=E). See also [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16034&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16034&LangID=E).
- <sup>104</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 17. See also [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16466&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16466&LangID=E) and A/HRC/WGAD/2014/26.
- <sup>105</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16839&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16839&LangID=E). See also A/HRC/32/53, p. 16.
- <sup>106</sup> See [www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54628#.V6Rjcodf2P8](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54628#.V6Rjcodf2P8).
- <sup>107</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 14. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 17, and CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 24.
- <sup>108</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 17.
- <sup>109</sup> See CAT/C/VEN/CO/3-4, para. 14. See also [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16259&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16259&LangID=E).
- <sup>110</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16259&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16259&LangID=E). See also A/HRC/30/27, p. 48 and A/HRC/31/79, p. 33.
- <sup>111</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 18. See also the statement by the High Commissioner at the special meeting of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- <sup>112</sup> *Ibid.* The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela replied.
- <sup>113</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16816&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16816&LangID=E). The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela replied.
- <sup>114</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 19.

- <sup>115</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 13. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 19.
- <sup>116</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted in 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3187386:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3187386:NO). See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, paras. 18 and 19.
- <sup>117</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, paras. 18 and 19.
- <sup>118</sup> Ibid., para. 20. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3255686:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3255686:NO).
- <sup>119</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3255686:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3255686:NO).
- <sup>120</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 19.
- <sup>121</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3255686:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3255686:NO).
- <sup>122</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 21.
- <sup>123</sup> Ibid., para. 24.
- <sup>124</sup> See CRC/C/OPSC/VEN/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>125</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 6.
- <sup>126</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 25.
- <sup>127</sup> Ibid., para. 26.
- <sup>128</sup> See <http://acnudh.org/en/venezuela-ohchr-monitors-country-developments-with-concern/>.
- <sup>129</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 22.
- <sup>130</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 6.
- <sup>131</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 62 and 63.
- <sup>132</sup> Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights during his global update at the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, 13 June 2016. Available at [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20086&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20086&LangID=E).
- <sup>133</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19808&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19808&LangID=E). See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 4, and <http://acnudh.org/venezuela-acnudh-condena-muerte-de-joven-en-tachira-y-llama-al-dialogo/>.
- <sup>134</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 27. See also CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 30 and 31.
- <sup>135</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 16.
- <sup>136</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, para. 31. See also CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 57; CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 10; and E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 28.
- <sup>137</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 56 and 57. See also E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 28, and CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 30 and 31.
- <sup>138</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 7.
- <sup>139</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 61. See also E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 29 and CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 30 and 31.
- <sup>140</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 16.
- <sup>141</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 30.
- <sup>142</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 19.

- <sup>143</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 64.
- <sup>144</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 26 and 27.
- <sup>145</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 30.
- <sup>146</sup> See CRC/C/OPAC/VEN/CO/1, para. 23 and CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, para. 65. See also CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 26 and 27.
- <sup>147</sup> See CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8, paras. 26 and 27. See also CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 64 and 65.
- <sup>148</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 64 and 65.
- <sup>149</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 12.
- <sup>150</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 7.
- <sup>151</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 50 and 51. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 8.
- <sup>152</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 8.
- <sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 11.
- <sup>154</sup> See CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 21.
- <sup>155</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, paras. 11-12.
- <sup>156</sup> See E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 9. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 21.
- <sup>157</sup> See A/HRC/24/21, p. 35.
- <sup>158</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 17. See also CCPR/C/VEN/CO/4, para. 21, and E/C.12/VEN/CO/3, para. 9.
- <sup>159</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 16.
- <sup>160</sup> See CRC/C/OPSC/VEN/CO/1, paras. 23 and 24.
- <sup>161</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 1.
- <sup>162</sup> See CERD/C/VEN/CO/19-21, para. 22.
- <sup>163</sup> See UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 2.
- <sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- <sup>165</sup> See A/HRC/19/12, para. 94.69 (United States of America).
- <sup>166</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, p. 5.
- <sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5 and 6. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 23.
- <sup>168</sup> See CRC/C/VEN/CO/3-5, paras. 68 and 69.
- <sup>169</sup> See country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, para. 27.
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