

United Nations Human Rights Council**Draft Resolution for Special Session on Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela**

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling further Council resolution 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to protect the rights to life, liberty and security of the person;

Welcoming the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 31 March 2017 expressing grave concern over continued restrictions by the Venezuela Government on the freedoms of movement, association, expression and peaceful protest; shortages of food and medicine, and spiraling prices, that have resulted in daily suffering for many Venezuelans; and at the lack of independence of national rule of law institutions in Venezuela;

Also welcoming the joint statement of 28 April 2017, by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, calling on the Government of Venezuela to facilitate peaceful protests and properly investigate the deaths caused in recent demonstrations; expressing grave concern about allegations of excessive and indiscriminate use of force during the protests, as well as arbitrary detentions and killings; recalling that hundreds of persons have also been injured and more than 850 people arrested in the protests; drawing particular attention to a new measure introducing an automatic military response to demonstrations, known as the Zamora Plan, which increases tensions and heightens the risk of injury and death; and emphasizing that demonstrations should ordinarily be managed with no resort to force, with any use of force strictly necessary and proportional to a specific threat;

[*Recalling* General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, particularly OP 8, which provides that the General Assembly may suspend the rights of membership in the Human Rights Council of a member that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights,]

[1. *Requests* that the General Assembly suspend the rights of membership in the Human Rights Council of Venezuela;]

2. *Strongly condemns* the recent extremely grave human rights violations committed in Venezuela, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention of peaceful demonstrators, which if wide-spread and systematic, may amount to crimes against humanity;

3. *Strongly calls upon* the Venezuelan authorities to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, to stop any violations against civilians, and to fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;

4. *Strongly calls* for the immediate release of all arbitrarily detained persons, including all political prisoners;

5. *Urges* Venezuelan authorities to immediately cease intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrests of individuals including opposition leaders, human rights defenders and journalists;

6. *Further urges* Venezuelan authorities to do their utmost efforts to prevent further deterioration of the crisis and to promote a peaceful solution ensuring safety for all civilians and stability for the country;

7. *Urgently calls* for an open, inclusive, meaningful and national dialogue aimed at political reform and promotion and protection of human rights;

8. *Strongly calls upon* the Venezuelan authorities to cooperate fully with Special Procedures of the Council and guarantee access to human rights and humanitarian organizations including human rights monitors;

9. *Decides* to establish an independent and impartial Commission of Inquiry into gross and systematic human rights violations in Venezuela to ensure that there is full accountability for those responsible for violations;

10. *Requests* the High Commissioner to submit an interim report to the Council at its thirty-fifth session under agenda item 4 on the human rights situation in Venezuela, and to submit a follow-up report to the thirty-sixth session.