



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Enhanced interactive dialogue on Venezuela

Geneva, 5 July 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement. We commend the UN High Commission for Human rights for presentation of the report on the human rights situation in Venezuela. We welcome the agreement reached by the Office of the High Commissioner and Venezuela, granting a team of human rights experts to be present in Venezuela, with the mandate to provide technical assistance and advice, as well as to continue to monitor the human rights situation in Venezuela. This is an important step to enhance cooperation with the OHCHR.

Despite some positive steps, however, we remain concerned about the ongoing political, economic and social crisis with its critical implications on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Venezuela. Violations of civil and political rights and the shrinking of the democratic space have negative implication on social and economic rights. We call on Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners, including journalists and human rights activists, and to prevent a torture as a means of repression.

We remain concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in Venezuela, which continues to have severe implications on the right to food, water, access to healthcare and other basic services. The health situation and the shortage of medicines, medical equipment and medical staff in hospitals remains critical, particularly affecting the most vulnerably population, such as children, pregnant women and older persons. Poor living conditions and volatile political situation in the country continue to force many persons to flee the country in search of food, health care, security and protection.

In conclusion, Slovenia calls upon Venezuela to fully cooperate with the OHCHR and the HRC special procedures and to thoroughly investigate all alleged violations of human rights.

Thank you.