



SOCIAL
HUMANITARIAN
AND CULTURAL
COMMITTEE
(SOCHUM)



Topic:

Solving the Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela due to Political Instability in the Region, Considering the risks of a possible seizure of political power.



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Considering the risks of a possible seizure of political power.

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Written By: Catalina Lozano Garza

I. Quorum

-Argentina	-France	-Spain
-Bolivia	-Germany	-Switzerland
-Brazil	-Italy	-Trinidad and Tobago
-Canada	-Mexico	- United Kingdom
-Chile	-Netherlands	-United States
-Colombia	-Norway	-Uruguay
-Costa Rica	-Panama	-Venezuela
-Cuba	-Peru	
- Ecuador	-Portugal	



II. Committee Background

The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, also known as SOCHUM, is the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, established in 1945 after the approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. SOCHUM has been a committee focusing on tackling global issues. With social development, human rights, and humanitarian aid as their main purposes. As well as promoting equality, justice, and respect for people by protecting the rights to life, freedom of expression, participation in politics, and social progress. It still continues to adapt its work as new social and humanitarian challenges appear around the world.

SOCHUM is composed of representatives from all 193 UN member states, who every year meet to discuss challenges that affect vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees, indigenous people, the elderly, and people with disabilities. SOCHUM does not have the authority to enforce actions, but it can recommend and propose policies to improve situations worldwide. These recommendations guide UN member states toward effective humanitarian responses. As a result, member states are prepared to respond to social and humanitarian issues more effectively.

Throughout history, SOCHUM has played an important role in advancing human rights, social justice, and cultural diversity. This has helped shape resolutions that promote healthcare, education, and equality in developing countries, it has also contributed to the creation of resolutions, supporting education, equality, and healthcare, especially in developing countries. An example of this is how SOCHUM helped develop the Convention on the Rights of the Child and supported efforts to end racial discrimination. It has also helped and backed initiatives that combat gender based violence and improve access to education for girls in regions where it is still limited.

III. History of Topic

One of the most threatening issues SOCHUM has is the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela due to political instability in the region. It started in the early 2000s, created by years of political tension, corruption, and economic mismanagement. Because of Hugo Chávez, Venezuela experienced improvements in social programs and reduction in poverty due to the high price of oil. However after his death in 2013, his successor Nicolás Maduro faced the collapsing prices of oil, which reduced the country's income. The lack of variety in the economy, and poor governance, led to inflation, food and medicine shortages, as well as losses of basic services.

Political instability has grown as opposing parties and civil society groups have challenged the authenticity and legitimacy of the government. The 2018 presidential elections were deemed to be unfair and undemocratic, causing international sanctions and the isolation of Venezuela from democratic nations. These tensions have caused mass arrests, violent protests, and the weakening



of democratic institutions such as the National Assembly and the National Courts of Law, making it difficult to protect citizens rights and deliver humanitarian aid to those in need. This instability has made Venezuela vulnerable to sudden changes in political control, increasing concerns that the government could become even more unstable.

The consequences have been devastating. Over seven million Venezuelans have fled the country, making it one of the largest migration crises in the world. Those who stayed remain to face extreme poverty, lack of healthcare, malnutrition, and limited access to clean water and electricity. Neighboring countries, such as Colombia, Brazil, and Peru struggle to provide assistance to refugees, creating regional challenges. International organizations like the United Nations and the Red Cross have attempted to provide humanitarian aid, but restrictions by the Venezuela government have blocked those efforts.

Several attempts, mainly made by Norway and supported by the UN, have been made to resolve the crisis over the years. These attempts tried to bring the government and opposition together, but most attempts failed due to lack of trust and unwillingness on both sides to compromise. Economic sanctions from the United States and the European Union aimed to pressure the government, which worsened living conditions for citizens. Despite these obstacles, International Cooperation remains to guarantee humanitarian assistance reaches Venezuela's citizens.

Venezuela remains in a humanitarian and political crisis, the risk of a violent conflict continues to threaten the stability of the region. SOCHUM continues to work toward finding solutions that are fair, peaceful, effective, respectful towards human rights, and beneficial to the living conditions of Venezuelan citizens.

IV. Topic Information

Political and humanitarian crises in Venezuela have been more recurrent and severe over the years. Millions have been affected by the collapse of basic services like food and medicine, therefore, increasing insecurity. An example is the economic emergency that began in 2014, when oil prices dropped rapidly, causing Venezuela's government to lose its main source of income. Since then, Venezuela has faced hyperinflation, electricity blackouts, and the breakdown of public institutions, affecting citizens daily lives, and forcing millions of people to flee the country. This sudden increase of Venezuelan migrants led to one of the largest migration crises in the world.

Currently more than 7.7 million Venezuelans left their homes, most of them migrating to neighboring countries like Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, and Chile. The countries receiving



they are facing difficulties in providing adequate housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities for such a large number of people. Inside Venezuela, around 19 million citizens need humanitarian assistance due to food insecurity, malnutrition, and poor access to clean water. Affecting men, women, and children with many unable to attend school because of lack of teachers and materials.

One of the main factors hindering progress is the political division in Venezuela. The government, led by Nicolás Maduro, has been accused of corruption, election manipulation, and human rights violations. Meanwhile, opposition groups demand free elections and the restoration of democracy. The international community remains divided. Countries such as Canada, the United States, and multiple members of the European Union have imposed sanctions, while others like Russia, China, and Cuba support Venezuela's government, making it harder to reach a common solution.

Organizations such as the United Nations, UNHCR, and the Red Cross have worked to deliver humanitarian aid and support neighboring countries hosting migrants. However, political barriers and limited access in Venezuela have slowed down these efforts. In 2023, the UN launched initiatives under the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan to coordinate aid across Latin America, but the lack of transparency and cooperation from Venezuelan authorities limit these results.

The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela remains as one of the most urgent issues in Latin America, with long term consequences for the region's stability. The risk of a possible seizure of political power or future violence threatens national and regional security. SOCHUM and the International Community continue working toward solutions that support Venezuelan citizens.

V. Current Issues

Venezuela

Venezuela, the most affected country by this crisis, has become a place where daily life is extremely difficult for millions of people. Families struggle to find food, medicine, electricity, and clean water. Since basic necessities collapsed, there has been a lack of supplies and

equipment, making medical care non reliable and unsafe. The government continues to restrict access to humanitarian organizations, such as the European Union, drastically slowing aid efforts. Living conditions continue to get worse, leaving people with few options to survive.



The economic situation in Venezuela has forced people to leave the country. Inflation has made items almost impossible to afford, and salaries are no longer enough to support families. The government has introduced policies to stabilize the economy, but most attempts have been unsuccessful. The poor living situations and the corrupt government only make more Venezuelans migrate each year.

Colombia

Colombia is one of Venezuela's neighboring countries, sharing a border of 2,219 kilometers. Due to the proximity, Colombia holds most Venezuelan migrants, making it one of the most affected countries. Cities near the border receive thousands of people a day, increasing pressure on hospitals, shelters, and schools. Many migrants arrive without any documents, legal verifications, or stable housing, creating challenges for the government and local communities. Colombia and other neighboring countries that have been accepting migrants struggle to keep up with the increasing demands for health services, education, and employment support. These conditions show how difficult it is for one country to manage the constant population increase.

To help address this situation, Colombia created the Temporary Protection Status program. This program allows more than 2 million Venezuelans to live and work legally in the country. UNHCR, IOM, and the Red Cross, partners of Colombia, provide food, shelter, vaccinations, and legal assistance. However, the country still needs more international funding to support the increasing population of migrants. Even with all of these efforts, funding, and programs, Colombia still faces economic and social pressure.

Peru

Peru is another major destination for Venezuelan migrants and refugees. The sudden increase in population has made it hard for neighboring countries and their governments to provide enough healthcare, education, and housing. Many Venezuelans work informal jobs with low wages, making it difficult to support their families. This situation has also created tension in communities, increasing competition for resources.

In response to the crisis, Peru has offered temporary residence permits and access to basic services. Governments are working with organizations like UNHCR and IOM to provide legal support, health services, and programs to protect children. International donors, including USA and Canada, fund nutrition and education programs for Venezuelan families in Peru. Even with these efforts, the needs of the migrant population continue to grow. As more Venezuelans arrive, Peru, and other countries must find long term solutions to support citizens and migrants.



United States

The United States is one of the largest humanitarian donors helping Venezuelans inside and outside the country. Through USAID they are able to provide food assistance, medical supplies, clean water, and support for vulnerable families. This has improved the lives of millions of Venezuelans with limited resources. The United States also supports programs to protect children, women, and families affected by the crisis. Even with strong financial support, the scale of the crisis remains overwhelming and affecting people.

Politically, the United States has placed sanctions on certain Venezuelan officials due to corruption and human rights violations. The nation has also called for democratic reforms, free elections, and the protection of civil rights. The United States offers Temporary Protected Status to Venezuelans living in the country, allowing them to stay and work legally for a limited time. These measures are meant to support Venezuelan families, while encouraging political change. Still the crisis continues to grow because the conditions in Venezuela remain unstable.

Canada

Another country that is supporting humanitarian programs in Venezuela is Canada. Canada provides funding to organizations such as UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, and the Red Cross. These organizations provide food, medicine, and protection services to families affected by the crisis. Canada also supports education programs for migrant children and health services for vulnerable groups. All of the financial support from Canada is essential for helping communities that lack basic resources.

Canada also takes diplomatic actions to promote democracy and human rights in Venezuela. Canada's government has applied sanctions on certain officials connected to corruption and political control. The nation works with international partners to encourage solutions and ensure the protection of migrants. Canada also helps enforce local governments in host countries so they can support the Venezuela crisis. Even with these efforts, the needs across the region continue to grow, and more long term support is needed

VI. UN Actions

The UN has been constantly assisting Venezuela because of the alarming humanitarian crisis. Organizations within the UN, such as UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, and WHO are providing

Venezuelan families with food, medical supplies, clean water, vaccines, and other resources. These organizations ensure that education is implemented, hospitals lacking resources are given the necessary support, and children at the risk of illness due to malnutrition receive food. The UN continues to provide aid and resources to reach countries facing difficulties due to this crisis.



The UN also works across Latin America to support millions of Venezuelans who left the country. Through UNHCR, and IOM the UN aids to deliver shelters, legal aid, healthcare services, and protection in countries like Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador. The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan brings together 200 organizations and aid governments in handling individuals. The European Union, among others, financed these initiatives. This partnership transforms the situation for those who left everything behind. Still to this day, The UN continues to develop long term solutions to tackle the crisis.

Discussions between the Venezuelan government and opposition continue, with the goal of enabling fair elections in the country. The UN Human Rights Office continues to report on human rights violations and promotes the protection of rights. At the same time, the UN is dedicated to improving education, job opportunities, and security for Venezuelan migrants. The UN aims to lower suffering, protect rights, and restore stability in Venezuela by collaborating with governments and organizations.

VII. Conclusion

The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is one of the most pressing challenges in Latin America. Millions of Venezuelans have fled their country over the course of years, marked by political upheaval, economic collapse, and deprivation of basic needs. Those who remain often endure shortages of food, medicine, potable water, electricity and health care. Neighboring countries like Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador are struggling to cope with increasing numbers of migrants from Venezuela crossing their borders.

Political constraints inside Venezuela hamper efforts made by international organizations to deliver assistance. However, in spite of these challenges, the international community (including UN members as well as the US, Canada, and humanitarian agencies) continues to support human rights advocacy and peaceful political resolutions . For any semblance of stability to be achieved, all stakeholders within Venezuela, including government opposition and outside partners, would be required to come together towards guaranteeing free elections, civil liberties protection, as well as restoring basic services.

VIII. Guiding Question

- How has your country been affected by the Venezuelan crisis?
- What actions has your country already taken to support Venezuelans or respond to political instability?
- Does your country support the Venezuelan government, the opposition, or a neutral diplomatic process?



- What humanitarian needs does your country consider most urgent (food, health, water, education)?
- What steps can SOCHUM take to ensure humanitarian aid reaches Venezuelans safely and without restrictions?
- How can the international community reduce government barriers that limit access for humanitarian organizations?
- What policies could improve migration management and support host countries receiving large numbers of Venezuelans?
- How is your country responding to Venezuelan migrants—legally, socially, and economically?
- What role should the UN play in promoting free and fair elections in Venezuela?
- How can human rights be protected while avoiding actions that worsen living conditions for civilians?
- What safeguards are needed to prevent political violence or an unstable change of power?
- What partnerships (UN, NGOs, regional groups) could strengthen the humanitarian response?
- How can countries reduce xenophobia and ensure social integration for Venezuelan migrants?
What long-term reforms (economic, social, or political) are necessary to help Venezuela recover?
- What solutions could protect vulnerable groups such as children, women, refugees, the elderly, and indigenous communities?

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