



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 March 2019

Original: English

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 3 (b)

Credentials of representatives to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly: report of the Credentials Committee

Letter dated 19 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I take this opportunity to transmit to you hereby the profound indignation of the people and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the blatant violation of its rights and privileges as a full Member State of the United Nations.

For over a month, I have expressed to you, including during the bilateral meeting held on 11 February 2019 with Mr. Jorge Arreaza, Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, my concern over the possibility of a country, or group of countries, challenging our legitimate credentials, despite the fact they were duly approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 2018, as reflected in its resolution [73/193](#).

In this regard, it is emphatically highlighted that, for the second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held from 20 to 22 March 2019, in Buenos Aires, only one (1) credential has been submitted to you, on 15 March 2019, for the sole and only legitimate Venezuelan delegation to partake in the Conference, and that is the one issued by Mr. Jorge Arreaza, Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in strict compliance with rule 3 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, as contained in document [A/CONF.235/2](#).

I understand that you have received a communication, dated 15 March 2019, in relation to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, signed by Mr. Juan Guaidó, in his capacity as President of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as clearly stated in the communication in question. Allow me to stress that it is illegal for the President of Venezuela's National Assembly to provide information about the composition of the Venezuelan "delegation" to partake in the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation or in any other conference under the auspices of the United Nations, as such an act constitutes a clear violation of the provisions of our national Constitution, which clearly states, in its article 236.4, that



“to direct the international relations of the Republic” is an exclusive attribution and duty of the President of the Republic, not the President of the legislative branch. Furthermore, such an action blatantly violates the principle of separation of powers and constitutes, in itself, an attempt to fracture the unity of the State.

Never before has the President of the National Assembly of Venezuela submitted to you the credentials of a Venezuelan delegation to a United Nations Conference. This represents the very first time, and such an action establishes a negative and dangerous precedent within the Organization, as from now on any authority other than the Head of State or Government or the Foreign Minister of a country could claim the right to submit credentials for any delegation to any United Nations conference or session of the General Assembly. This twisted interpretation of the rules of procedure, which seems to count on the consent and support of the Secretariat of the United Nations, will open the door for a group of countries to use the Organization for sowing chaos and confusion amongst Member States, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

Each and every Government of all Member States of the United Nations has domestic political opposition, which is precisely why the Organization does not allow the political opposition within a given country to undermine the rights and privileges of the legitimate representatives of its own Government, and to weaponize such action for domestic political benefit. The United Nations must not be used as a means for destabilizing or meddling in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in line with the provisions of Article 2.7 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations has rightfully submitted the credentials of the Venezuelan delegation to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, as signed by Mr. Jorge Arreaza, Minister of the People’s Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to the Credentials Committee of the Conference. However, it has also submitted the document signed by Mr. Juan Guaidó, regardless of the fact that it does not fulfil the requisites clearly established in the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, most notably, the fact that it was not signed by either of the authorities clearly indicated therein.

I cannot overemphasize the outrage of the people and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the course of action adopted by the Secretariat of the United Nations on such an important matter, which points to the very reason for the existence of the United Nations. It shall be recalled that, as ruled by the International Court of Justice in 1986, in international law, there is no right or authority to intervene in the internal affairs of another State, and that the recognition of the political opposition within a State as the “legitimate representative” of the nationals of that State is in breach of the principle of non-intervention, and constitutes a hostile and unfriendly act towards the affected country.

I should be grateful for your good offices in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 3 (b).

(Signed) **Samuel Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic
of Venezuela to the United Nations