



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-third session

Agenda item 75 (a)

**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

### **Letter dated 29 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address Your Excellency in the opportunity of transmitting attached herewith a copy of a letter dated 29 April 2019 addressed to Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, in relation to the decision taken by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, without any previous consultation, to share with a third party the document entitled “2019 Venezuela: Overview of Priority Humanitarian Needs”, as contained in document [S/2019/345](#), which was meant to be used for internal purposes and *not* for distribution (see annex).

In this connection, I should be grateful for your good offices in kindly circulating the content of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a).

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 29 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Letter dated 29 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator**

I address Your Excellency in the opportunity of transmitting hereby the serious concern and firm rejection of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the arbitrary decision of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to submit to a third party, without any authority or explicit consent from the concerned State, its report entitled “2019 Venezuela: Overview of Priority Humanitarian Needs”, which was then circulated in the Security Council of the United Nations, as reflected in document [S/2019/345](#).

The report in reference was handed in person to both the Ministry of the People’s Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations during bilateral meetings held on 27 March 2019, simultaneously in Caracas and in New York. In both instances, the representatives of the Venezuelan Government were assured that the report in reference was of an internal nature and *not* for distribution, as is even indicated in the report itself and in the official communication through which it was transmitted.

Yet, the report in reference was leaked to the press on that very same date, and its content was weaponized and triggered the convening of an emergency session of the Security Council to address the so-called “humanitarian crisis” in Venezuela. This issue was raised during a bilateral meeting held on 5 April 2019 with the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, including the fact that the report was also strangely handed to the Venezuelan National Assembly, as you yourself recognized during your briefing before the Security Council, despite the fact that the relationship between the United Nations and Venezuela is conducted by the Executive and *not* the Legislative Branch of Government.

The report itself, in our view, constitutes an initial rapid needs assessment, which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/133](#), has to be conducted “in consultation with the affected State”. This condition was clearly not met by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, bearing in mind that the drafting process of the report in question was never coordinated or carried out in consultation with the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Allow us to also recall that needs assessments are an integral part of the humanitarian programme cycle, meaning that the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution [46/182](#) must be duly observed. Nonetheless, those principles were clearly disregarded, taking into account the fact that there has never been a mandate or consent to produce such an assessment.

The approach taken by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has therefore resulted in an outcome document that is based on unofficial figures and that mostly uses secondary sources, including non-governmental organizations with questionable reputation in Venezuela, and that surprisingly neglects to make any sort of explicit reference to a key issue in understanding the dynamics and current situation in Venezuela, as is the illegal promulgation and implementation of unilateral coercive measures against the nation, which have had an irrefutable impact on the

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economy of the country and the well-being of our people. We cannot overemphasize that such an approach is neither impartial nor neutral.

Lastly, while we reaffirm our commitment to continue strengthening and scaling up our cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, programmes and funds; while we agree on the need to advance on the provision of technical humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering caused by the illegal unilateral coercive measures against the Venezuelan people; and while we recognize the role that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs may play towards that end; the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela underlines hereby the need for building a bilateral relationship on the basis of good faith and mutual respect, in line with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. That is the only way for working together constructively and for achieving a mutually beneficial collaboration, as well as a lasting partnership.

*(Signed)* **Samuel Moncada**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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