

MGoS statement: Venezuela

Thank you for giving me the floor. My name is Dalia Marquez, I speak on behalf of Major Groups and other stakeholders.

We emphasize that we are concerned because the report has no data recent information, there are surveys until the years 2013 and 2014. We, civil society need to have access to current, consistent, transparent and verifiable data. The actual situation is different because at that time we used to have an economy with a barrel of oil in 90\$, now we have an economy in crisis.

We are also concerned about the difference in the data submitted by the State in the report, and the data collected by the three most prestigious universities in the country and its social observatories, by example the actual percentage of poverty is 73%, which worries us, because the goal is to achieve zero poverty.

The lack of quality and bilingual education, as well as the lack of teachers fluent in Venezuelan Sign Language. Thus, we encourage the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela address these significant gaps, and ensure the right of education for all the children and youth. Does the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have any measures to ensure people with disabilities, with opportunities participation in the implementation of the SDGs?

Venezuela has been living the last year with a food crisis and increase of poverty. For that reason we wonder, taking into account the current economic state of emergency according to the presidential decree? How will Venezuela achieve "0" poverty to 2019? Through which mechanisms will production be promoted in the micro, local, general and national levels?

It's necessary to promote the development of the industry in Venezuela, to ensure the growth of the national production of food. We request financial support, basic goods and elements that farmers need, and we need Venezuela to ensure the right of the propriety of the soil to give them security of investment.

The lack of medicine, people are dying because they don't get their medicines. We asked what are the structural actions planned by the Venezuelan government, aimed to reducing infant and maternal mortality, ensuring access to expensive drugs, and contraceptive methods, restore the provision of hospitals and prevent the deaths generated by these causes.

To be consistent in the discourse of "building an alternative model of development based on respect for Mother Earth" and practice, how does the Venezuelan government think mitigate the environmental impact caused by the "Arco Minero del Orinoco", taking into account that it is committing one of the major aquifers deposits of the country, and has 12% of the national territory for the mining practice in wooded areas? An area of almost 112 km² will be affected by mining for a project called Arco Minero, the water will be affected by chemicals used for mining, and mining carries cutting wooded extensions. Although the project has recently been rejected by the plenary session of the National Assembly. We know Venezuela has good environmental rules, but we do not have knowledge of their implementation.

We stress the need to stop the project called (Arco Minero), make environmental impact studies, and make a national consultation.