

International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 46TH SESSION

ITEM 4 INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE –10 MARCH 2021

FACT-FINDING MISSION

INTERVENTION BY PROFESSOR ALFRED DE ZAYAS, IHRAAM DELEGATE

Distinguished President, Delegates ---

IHRAAM cannot endorse the report of the fact-finding mission because of its methodological flaws.

IHRAAM endorses the preliminary conclusions of the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures, who has just returned from a two-week mission to Venezuela. IHRAAM also endorses the report of the first Independent Expert on International Order, presented to this Council in September 2018. Both rapporteurs engaged with a large number of stakeholders on the ground, opposition, chamber of commerce, diplomats, professors, students, churches, economists, non-governmental organizations and civil society as well as government officials. They made pragmatic and implementable recommendations.

IHRAAM calls for direct dialogue between the government and the opposition, as that hosted by former Spanish prime minister Rodriguez Zapatero and more recently by Mexican president Lopez Obrador.

What the Venezuelan people urgently need is international solidarity. IHRAAM knows that there are multiple causes for the Venezuelan crisis, but the most important is the economic war which has been waged against Venezuela not just since 2015 but already since 1999, according to the same playbook used against Salvador Allende in Chile, when Nixon ordered Kissinger to “make the Chilean economy scream”. The combination of the dramatic fall in the price of oil together with the draconian sanctions and financial blockade have led directly to the death of tens of thousands of Venezuelans.

IHRAAM calls upon this Council to demand the lifting of the killer-sanctions.