

International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM)

Human Rights Council 48th

Item 4 ID FACT-FINDING COMMISSION ON VENEZUELA

September 22 Wednesday 2021

Delivered by Professor Alfred de Zayas

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MINORITIES

acknowledges that the Venezuelan people deserve international solidarity and the assistance of this Council to fully enjoy their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

IHRAAM recognizes that human rights are violated in Venezuela, and calls on the Venezuelan authorities to take appropriate action. The recent report of the Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures identifies problems that are the direct result of sanctions. She confirms the findings of the former Independent Expert on International Order, who had also visited Venezuela, spoken with the authorities and civil society, whose report was presented to this Council in 2018.

IHRAAM welcomes the work by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Venezuela, especially through the provision of advisory services and technical assistance and liaising with UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNHCR and ILO.

Bearing in mind that Venezuela is going through a crisis caused in part by sanctions generating hunger, scarcity of medicines and emigration flows, IHRAAM notes that certain violations of civil and political rights are also attributable to the emergency situation brought about by sanctions.

IHRAAM considers that the report of the fact-finding commission does not take into account root causes of the problems and believes that the first step toward improving the human rights situation in Venezuela must be the lifting of sanctions.

IHRAAM is concerned about the duplication of work by this Council and considers that coherency demands focusing the Council's efforts on the constructive initiatives of OHCHR in Caracas and the visits by UN rapporteurs on the ground.

I thank you.