

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MINORITIES (IHRAAM)

Item 4 – ID Venezuela 17 March 2022

By Prof. Alfred de Zayas

Excellencies

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MINORITIES welcomes the oral update of High Commissioner Bachelet and the enhanced cooperation between the Office and the government of Venezuela, which today benefits from advisory services and technical assistance by the Caracas Office and other UN agencies. In particular IHRAAM welcomes the direct contacts between the High Commissioner and President Maduro and the videoconference held on 14 March to review progress achieved, including in combatting the Covid pandemic.

IHRAAM welcomes the submission of Venezuela's fifth periodic report to the UN Human Rights Committee, which documents how Venezuela has been investigating and prosecuting allegations of human rights violations by the police and other authorities and the measures taken to suppress them in law and practice.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were consulted during the report's preparation and their concerns are reflected in the text.

The report makes reference to the successful country visits carried out by the Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures and by the independent expert on international order, both of which resulted in concrete improvements and generated progress in the enjoyment of human rights by the Venezuelan people, notwithstanding the economic crisis caused by illegal US sanctions.

IHRAAM considers that the work of the fact-finding commission has no added value, since the government is already cooperating with OHCHR and with the treaty bodies. IHRAAM recalls that the commission emerged from a political strategy by the moribund Lima Group.

IHRAAM calls for the lifting of illegal UCMs against Venezuela in keeping with Human Rights Council Resolution 46/5 and GA resolution 76/161.