



## **RESOLUTION**

**on**

# **Venezuela**

The Executive Committee of the Centrist Democrat International, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 March 2014, considering:

- The peaceful demonstrations, by a significant part of the population, which have been persistently and permanently carried on since 12 February 2014, in demand of solutions to the serious economic and social problems – high inflation, increase of unemployment, lack of basic consumer food - to the growing insecurity, and threats against the democratic way life ;
- The violent means employed by the government in order to stifle the right to freedom of expression, of free thinking, of information, of opinion and meeting, have caused for the moment the death of 23 persons, more than 350 persons wounded, and more than 1300 persons detained, mostly university students ;
- The total lack of readiness and willingness to act on these social demands within a democratic framework, as evident from the daily increase of the number of fatalities, wounded and detained, either they are young or union representatives or members of the civil society, from the increase of denunciations of violence against Human Rights, from the use of torture and threats, and the incitement of irregular armed groups to fight against dissident demonstrations ;
- The lack of consistency of the government, which is calling for an open dialogue but which, at the same time, orders the detention of opposition leaders, represses social demonstrations, blocks the social media and conventional as well as alternative means of communication, which decrees the closure of mass media supporting the opposition, and detains, threatens and censors journalists for ensuring the right to information, national as well as international;
- Both in words and in deeds, the Venezuelan government is violating the fundamental principles of democracy, International Human Rights Conventions, the dispositions of the constitution and laws that guarantee universal, inalienable, indivisible rights that can never be overruled or overturned ;
- The call to attention and solidarity of the international community, formulated by Venezuelans who are victims of political repression and violence through the campaign “SOS Venezuela”.

- The Venezuelan Armed Forces are sustained by repressive countries of its surroundings as Cuba and the consent of other authoritarian countries, with a common objective to give international support. This endangers democratic countries around Venezuela.

The Centrist Democrat International, considering its ethical obligation to assist nations, organizations and persons in defense of universal human rights and the dignity of the human person, demands from the Venezuelan President Maduro, to :

1. Put a stop to all violence and acts of coercion against peaceful demonstrations and condemns the repression of the Venezuelan army.
2. Guarantee respect for human rights, civil liberties and political rights for all Venezuelans, particularly the right to life and personal security, the right to meeting, expression, opinion and information and the right to oppose and dissent ;
3. Respond to, and act on social demands as fit in a democratic system ;
4. Foment a sincere, authentic, egalitarian and constructive dialogue in order to stop the violence, resolve the problems affecting the country and strengthen democracy ;
5. To grant and develop, together with the political and social opposition, the basic conditions to create a climate of confidence and respect needed to make possible a viable and realistic dialogue, including the release of all those detained for organizing or taking part in public demonstrations, to guarantee now and in the future the exercise of the legitimate right of the people to peaceful protest, annul the closing of opposition mass media, stop measures of censorship, sanction those responsible for the death, torture and aggression against demonstrators, reestablish all democratic rights, in full respect of international conventions and the Inter-American democratic charter ;
6. To facilitate the work of national and international human rights observers, to provide democratic guarantees and full compliance with all the International Treaties and Conventions.
7. Calls on the United Nations Organization and the Organization of American States (OAS) to activate all the mechanisms to defend democracy as well as to send missions or representatives to monitor the Human Rights situation in Venezuela and its compliance with International Treaties and Conventions.