

PERMANENT COUNCIL



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NOTE FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF  
VENEZUELA ENCLOSING A COPY OF THE LETTER DENOUNCING THE CHARTER OF  
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 143 AND  
INITIATING THE PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF  
VENEZUELA FROM THE ORGANIZATION. APRIL 28, 2017

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OAS

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The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Organization of American States (OAS) presents its compliments to the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS and encloses herewith a copy of the letter denouncing the Charter of the Organization of American States pursuant to Article 143, thus initiating the permanent withdrawal of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from the Organization.

In that regard, the Mission kindly requests the good offices of the Chair in distributing the aforesaid communication to the member states and permanent observers in the official languages of the Organization.

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OAS avails itself of the occasion to convey to the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Washington, D.C., April 28, 2017

His Excellency Ambassador Diego Pary  
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia  
Chair of the Permanent Council of the  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C.

Nicolás Maduro Moros  
President of the  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Caracas, April 27, 2017

Mr. Luis Almagro  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States (OAS)

Mr. Secretary General,

I write in my capacity as Head of State of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to notify you of our irrevocable decision to denounce the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) pursuant to Article 143 thereof, thereby initiating Venezuela's permanent withdrawal from the Organization.

This decision is in sovereign accord with the historical and doctrinal precepts of our Bolivarian independence process. It should also be noted that the history of the Organization, in both the distant and recent past, regrettably shows it to be a body hijacked from inception by interests counter to the spirit of integration and union, enlightened teaching of our Liberator Simon Bolivar, the Hemisphere's greatest son, who ever dreamt of a free and independent Integrated Hispano-America. The OAS was conceived and consolidated as a heinous tool at the service of well-defined imperialistic and hegemonic interests that deprived it of its viable mission as an international organization that upholds and respects the principles of international law—primarily sovereign equality, independence, and self-determination.

The OAS has become a vehicle for interventions patently detrimental to the principles and the rule of international law. It is a profound shame that this institution kept silent, not a single denunciation or even a declaration against acts of interference—not even in response to the executive order of Barack Hussein Obama of March 9, 2015, an action as absurd as it was arrogant—that are reinvigorating a minority faction of OAS member states, whose aim was to portray Venezuela and its Revolution as a regional threat.

Many other states, like ours, suffer and complain about the Organization's lack of direction and pointlessness. Venezuela has done everything within its power to prevent the institution of an institutional framework gone astray that proved to be counter to the aims of the region's peoples, becoming a mere incubator, replicator, or executor of Monroe doctrine-inspired hegemonic interests and of their vassal clients.

Venezuela, with profound dignity and supreme patience, turned to the various forums and official bodies of the OAS to explain the country's reality, which contrasts starkly with the staged scenes and false positives you have ignobly erected, applauded, and publicized, using resources of the Organization supposedly intended for the tasks set out in its Charter and even engaging in misappropriation by using those resources to attack my country.

We have also vigorously denounced the malicious plan for interventionism and hegemony far exceeding a perverse intent to overthrow my government, with the historic aim of destroying the Bolivarian model, intimidating other member states, and encouraging new and destructive ways of

attacking my country, brutally imposing hegemonic acts at the behest of the main executors of this evil imperialistic design.

Mr. Almagro, you have performed the worst act ever known in the history of the Organization. History will point to you as the most despicable and unfortunate functionary ever to have trodden its corridors, and how you must have applied yourself to have earned that distinction.

The special meeting of April 3 was a milestone in the long litany of illegal acts and irregularities at the OAS. Under your auspices and with a minority of member states taking part, the institutional framework of the OAS was defied by a de facto Permanent Council whose sole purpose was to force the adoption of spurious and unlawful decisions in order to take action against a sovereign state.

By the same token, the special meeting of the Permanent Council of April 26, 2017, which again ignored the will of our Republic, was held to effect a reprise, this time with Bolivarian Venezuela, of the Organization's immorally orchestrated persecution of the worthy Cuban Revolution, using the self-same mechanism of calling a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as that which, in 1962, led to Cuba's expulsion from the OAS and prompted Commander Fidel Castro to coin his now-famous expression, dubbing the Organization the "Ministry of the Colonies."

The Bolivarian Government will continue to pursue peaceful diplomacy in the interest of strengthening the relations of cooperation and friendship that have characterized our foreign policy. Therefore, it reaffirms its wholehearted commitment to the principles and purposes of international law, and of the United Nations Charter, PETROCARIBE, ALBA-TCP, UNASUR, and CELAC, mechanisms of integration, union, and cooperation forged by Commander Hugo Chávez with devotion to an Integrated Hispano-America aimed at genuine integration and unity in diversity, as expressed by Simón Bolívar's in his Jamaica Letter.

Venezuela has all the knowledge it needs to exercise in full and advance yet further the first article of its Constitution:

"The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is forever free and independent, basing its moral heritage and values of liberty, equality, justice and international peace on the doctrine of Simon Bolivar, the Liberator.

Independence, liberty, sovereignty, immunity, territorial integrity and national self-determination are inalienable rights of the Nation."

This protective shield of self-determination, independence, peace, territorial integrity, and sovereignty marks the inexorable path—legacy of our Liberators—to be taken in defense of the dignity of the homeland.

Therefore, this note constitutes our irrevocable notification of denunciation of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), for suspension of its international effects insofar as they pertain to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Accordingly, the OAS, in its capacity as depository, should immediately notify the member states of this decision.

I take my leave, secure in the knowledge that we have exhausted all recourse—which, as history and practice show, is our wont—to preserve lawfulness in the actions of that institution, but, since

it is impossible for it even to abide by the basic legal provisions of the OAS Charter and international law, we hereby withdraw, pointing to you as a brazen aggressor against my homeland.

Free and independent Venezuela will never return to this Organization, conceived from the outset as an instrument to validate imperialist aims to the detriment of sovereign peoples.

With this sovereign act, we embark on the third glorious undertaking for the definitive independence of an Integrated Hispano-America.

*“The United States seems destined by Providence to plague America with wretchedness in the name of liberty.”*

Simon Bolivar

With Bolívar and Chávez, we shall overcome!

NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS  
President