

CJI/DEC. 01 (XCIV-O/19)

**DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION
IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE,

CONSIDERING with great concern the current grave situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the Committee has been a promoter of the strengthening of the “effective exercise of representative democracy”, pursuant to the provisions contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States and in the Inter-American Democratic Charter; and,

BEARING IN MIND THAT since the year 1945, the Committee, which is known as the “juridical conscience of the Continent”, has produced several reports on various aspects of democracy in America, and that since 2001 it has adopted numerous resolutions on the follow-up of the application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

DECLARES:

1. That the current crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela constitutes a grave alteration of the democratic order, that must be resolved as soon as possible, pursuant to the provisions contained in Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, by means of free and fair elections, based on universal suffrage and secret balloting as an expression of the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people.

2. That the necessary humanitarian aid sent to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not infringe the principle of non-intervention in the domestic matters of States, and therefore, whatever the State of its origin, it must be accepted and distributed in an equitable manner among the Venezuelan population.

3. To send this Declaration to the political organs of the Organization.

This Declaration was approved unanimously at the regular session held on February 22, 2019, in the presence of the following members: Doctors Mariana Salazar Albornoz, Luis García-Corrochano Moyano, George Rodrigo Bandeira Galindo, Ruth Stella Correa Palacio, Carlos Alberto Mata Prates, Milenko Bertrand-Galindo Arriagada, Miguel A. Espeche-Gil and Íñigo Salvador Crespo.