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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Agenda:

**Addressing the Venezuelan
Crisis**

2019



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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

This background guide will provide you with a basic understanding of the agenda. We hope you thoroughly read through it. As UNSC delegates we expect you to be proficient with agenda, the extra legalities concerning the UNSC, and actively try to reflect your country's stance. This includes directives. Though we, the executive board, will be rewarding more for debate (as muns are more debate centred events), directives will still play an essential role in determining your performance in committee. Directives, along with any other UNSC procedure you are required to know has been specified later on in this document.

The Venezuela crisis in the past few months has escalated even more. We expect you all of you to be updated with all the current issues. This includes understanding the fall of Venezuela. As an economic student (Kailash VS) I will be looking forward to intuitive solutions for Venezuela's status quo. However, the main topic of debate will be the current political developments in Venezuela.

Feel free to contact us through the UNSC email, or through facebook: sc@apl.edu. in.

The UNSC Executive Board,
Chairperson, Kailash
Vice-Chairperson, Rushat.

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About the United Nations Security Council

The UN Security Council (the Council) was established in 1946 under the UN Charter and is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is one of six principal organs of the UN and is generally viewed as the apex of the UN system (although its powers and functions are separate to the UN Secretary-General).

The Council's powers include the establishment of peacekeeping and special political missions, authorisation of military enforcement action, the imposition of international sanctions on member states, and the ability to refer matters to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is the only body in the UN system that can make decisions that are legally binding on all members.

The Council also has an important role in the governance of the UN system. It has responsibility for approving the admission of new member states to the UN, the appointment of the UN Secretary-General and senior UN officials, and is jointly responsible with the UN General Assembly for the election of judges to the International Court of Justice.



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The Venezuelan Crisis Explained

To explain the crisis in the country of Venezuela we have to look back to 1990s. After a failed coup d'état Hugo Chavez gained vast popularity. He then ran in the presidential elections following, introducing many reforms. He gained even more support from the Venezuelans as they were dissatisfied at the status quo at the time.

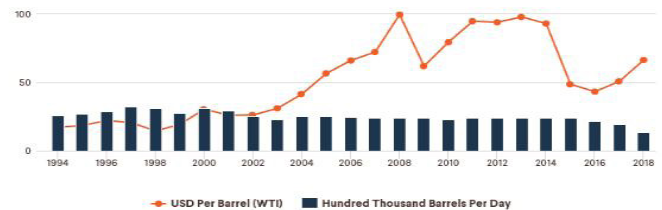
Part of the reforms Chavez introduced was increased social spending. He improved upon unemployment and poverty, subsidised food, and reduced crime rates. As 2004 came, oil prices inflated very fast. Chavez proportionately increased the spending as the revenue increased. A large part of the cause of the economic collapse of the country was due to its dependency on oil. Chavez did not develop on less fluctuating sources of revenue such as agriculture. However, he continued developing the oil sector while also increasing government spending. Chavez also took large loans which increased foreign debt.

Chavez had died in 2014. He passed on the mantle to his finance minister at the time: Nicholas Maduro. During his treatment, he had asked the country to allow Maduro to take the presidency. The elections followed soon after, and Maduro barely won: a 50.6% victory.

A few months down the line the prices of oil plummeted. Maduro's did not respond to the drop in prices. He continued spending large amounts on social welfare programs. This led to Venezuela receiving more loans, and thus more acquiring debt. The Venezuelan economy soon started inflating rapidly. This was due to how the government had responded to the issue: they produced more notes.



Venezuela's Crude Oil Production Versus Global Prices, 1994–2018



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Crisis in 2019:

Presidential Crisis

In addition to the economic crisis, Venezuela is currently suffering from a political one as well. There is much debate over who the legitimate President of Venezuela is. There has been a divide in belief and power over who the legitimate president of the country is: Nicolás Maduro or Juan Guaidó. Juan Guaidó is the leader of the National Assembly.

The process and results of the May 2018 Venezuelan presidential election are widely disputed. On the second day of Maduro's inauguration the opposition filled National Assembly had declared the presidency illegitimate. The National Assembly soon declared a plan to set forth an interim president, Juan Guaidó. The National Assembly bases its actions on the 1999 Venezuelan Constitution, specifically Articles 233, 333 and 350. Though, the assembly does not hold much power, as Maduro had replaced the organ with his own, the National Constituent Assembly, it has gained popularity world wide. Soon following, the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, in support of Maduro, declared that the presidency of the National Assembly as illegitimate and declared the body to be unconstitutional.

Humanitarian Crisis and Aid

There has been significant increase in unemployment in Venezuela(45% predicted by the IMF). Access to food, water, and electricity is limited. The residents in Venezuela are truly suffering. Sanctions play a major role in this. The Sanctions and Bans placed on Venezuela limit the amount of investors companies in the country get, and it makes it more difficult to export products. For example, the sanctions placed on the PDVSA (a nationalised oil company) significantly reduce the revenue of the country. The country has limited sources of income and any hinderence has major impacts. However, it should not be on this basis that one concludes that sanctions should not be placed. Firstly, there differing sanctions. Some are on companies, where as others are on individuals. Nicholas Maduro, for example has sanctions, placed on him. Secondly, it can well argued that the fault here does not lie on the countries that impose sanctions, but the Maduro regime. The presidency has rejected all forms of humanitarian assistance from foreign bodies ,exluding the Red Cross.

many areas are finding it difficult to cope with the large influx of refugees. Refugee camps are now, in many cases, over filled with people.

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The second part of the humanitarian crisis is something that is negatively impacting neighbour countries. It is a migration crisis. This environment in Venezuela forces many to leave the country. UNHRC informs us that there has been an 8,000 per cent increase in the number of Venezuelans seeking refugee status worldwide since 2014. Countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the southern Caribbean have been generously welcoming Venezuelans, however Additionally, Venezuelans, who would meet the criteria, are not registering for refugee procedures and are instead opting for alternative legal forms of stay, which are easier and faster to obtain and allow access to work, education and social services. However, there are hundreds of thousands of cases where Venezuelans reside in surrounding countries without any documentation or legal permission, and due to such lack guaranteed access to basic rights and needs. This allows for sexual exploitation, trafficking, violence, discrimination and xenophobia.

Definitions and other things you must know:

The National Assembly: The National Assembly is a form of legislature for Venezuela that was first elected in 2000. It is a unicameral body made up of a variable number of members.

The National Constituent Assembly: An elected temporary parliament that has the mandate to draft or reform the Constitution. President Maduro invoked article 347 of the Venezuelan Constitution, which reads as follows:

“The Venezuelan people are the depositary of the original constituent power. In the exercise of that power, it can convene a National Constituent Assembly with the purpose of transforming the state, creating a new legal system and drafting a new Constitution.”

The first paragraph of Article 233 states: “when the president-elect is absolutely absent before taking office, a new election shall take place (...) And while the president is elected and takes office, the interim president shall be the president of the National Assembly”.

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Directive Format

From:

To:

Cover/Overt

Primary Objective:

As the name suggests, this area should define your main goal of what you are doing.

Secondary Objective:

Any, other goals that you, if possible, you would like to meet.

Mission Brief:

This is a detailed section where you specify how you would like to proceed with your plan. Try being as detailed as possible. Mention how you will execute it, when you will carry it out, and where it will take place. Try adding as many details as you can.

Other webpages to look through:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-economy/job-losses-low-wages-add-to-venezuela-economic-hardship-idUSKBNI6926M>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-48559739>

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/venezuela-crisis>

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