

Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Before the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Intervention Forum on Minorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

“Right to Education and Minorities”

December 16, 2008

Our delegation congratulates the Madame President for her excellent performance in this event. In this respect, we would like to highlight the following aspects:

The access to education in Venezuela constitutes a human right and a fundamental social obligation, it is democratic, free and compulsory, just as enshrined in our Constitution. The educational policy is oriented to guaranteeing the access, permanence and continuation of everyone for their whole lives.

Education is a path for the integration of the cultural, political, religious, ethnic, gender, and linguistic diversity of our peoples, guaranteeing the access to a quality education, as much for migrants, refugees, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants, the handicapped, persons deprived of liberty and rural populations, among others.

In reference to cultural diversity, the educational programs must be characterized by the respect of traditions, histories, cultures and the necessities of minorities; adapting them to the cultural and linguistic requirements.

In this sense, my delegation would like to formulate the following recommendations:

1. The States must double their efforts to eradicate illiteracy as a strategy toward the accomplishment of providing education for all, during any stage of life. For this, we invite all to initiate with a sense of urgency programs of literacy that serve as a fundamental mechanism for inclusion directed to the vulnerable sectors of society, while respecting their particularities.

As an example, we highlight the case of our country, which was declared on October 28, 2005 by UNESCO as a territory free of illiteracy, thanks to the Educational Missions implemented by the National Government as State policies and particularly with the successful use of the method “YO SI PUEDO/YES I CAN” in cooperation with the Republic of Cuba.

2. In the actual context of the global economic crisis, we should unite efforts to achieve the millennium development goals, increasing cooperation and solidarity, efforts which are complementary and disinterested, guaranteeing the materialization of an inclusive education, without affecting the financial resources of educational matters.
3. Lastly, we highlight the role of the social means of communication, we recommend that from an ethical exercise of their function, they actively participate in inclusive educational processes, diffusing values of equality, non discrimination, solidarity, and respect for diversity.

In this context, Venezuela has just put in orbit the satellite Simon Bolivar, through which new opportunities of information and education will come into view from a distance for the most remote sectors through the application of information and communication technologies.

Thank you very much.