

Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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

Intervention of the Delegation for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

3rd Period of Sessions for the Forum on Minority Issues

Minorities and their Effective Participation in the Economic Life, Labor, and Social Security

Geneva, December 14-15, 2010

Thank you Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would like to express its satisfaction for the realization of this third session of the Forum on Minority Issues, in this occasion, addressing the theme of Minorities and their effective participation in economic life.

In our country, the Government of President Hugo Chavez Frias has intensified its efforts for the promotion and recognition of the labor rights of all workers, as well as the strengthening of a just social security regime with strict adherence to the social principles established in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights.

In this sense, the Bolivarian Revolution has established the necessary mechanisms so that the most needy and excluded sectors of the country can be incorporated into the productive system through the formation of economic associations of work solidarity, as a means to guarantee collective development, which put in practice the principles of solidarity, equal participation and inclusion, and that are coherently opposed to individualism, the accumulation of wealth and to all hegemonic forms of domination, typical in the exploitative capitalist system. This is reflected in the unemployment rate, which has been reduced from 25 to 7 percent in the last decade.

In its compromise, the National Government has implemented a series of policies and national programs with the goal of guaranteeing the dignity of workers of Venezuela, within which we can highlight the following:

- The Che Guevara Mission, which follows the ideological formation and integral training in productive jobs, with the goal of promoting the transformation of the model of capitalist exploitation into a socialist model.

- The creation of individual and collective socio-productive units, located in lands dedicated to agriculture, defending the farmers that are traditionally excluded, all of who represent a fundamental piece in the growth of the national economy.
- The inclusion in the socio-productive area of the country for all those persons with any type of disability, it is obligatory by law to incorporate them into private companies or government entities, in a ratio no less than 5% of the total workforce.
- The recognition of the original rights of the indigenous peoples, bestowing special attention so that this vulnerable minority enjoys their right to social security.
- The rights of women have been recognized and defended in a remarkable manner, reducing the gap of inequality of the past, with equitable indices of participation in the labor market, highlighting the fact that four of the five Public Powers of the Venezuelan State are directed by women.
- Increasing the quantity of syndicate organizations, which demonstrates the respect in our country towards the right of liberty of syndicates and collective bargaining, in addition to the continued increase of the mandatory minimum wage for workers, this rate being one of the highest in Latin Ameirca.
- The prohibition of submitting workers to compulsory HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) tests in public institutions and private companies.
- The homologation of pensions to the minimum monthly salary.
- The effective payment of pensions as a right to workers the moment they are born; and
- The creation of programs that make possible via an exception a unique payment of the remaining contributions to accede pensions, in favor of those who have reached the required age.

In this manner, the Venezuelan Government seeks to incentivize the capacity of operation of different agents in the development of the Venezuelan people, to promote solidarity and development through directed actions that value contributions, that allow the diffusion and transmission of their abilities and experiences to new generations.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.