

Intervention of the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

7th Period of Sessions of the Forum on Minority Issues

Preventing and Addressing Violence and Atrocious Crimes Directed against Minorities

Geneva, November 25 and 26, 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers the present space opportune for the contribution and exchange of good practices to contribute to the defense of the marginalized in the world, in this particular case minority groups, which in many cases continue to see their rights violated, subjugated to discrimination and racism.

Mr. President,

In the present theme, on the prevention of violence and its atrocities, our country, as a firm defender and lover of peace, is of the idea that only through genuine dialogue and international cooperation between nations, as well as the prominent participation of all peoples without any discrimination and with equality of opportunities and life conditions, can vile practices of violence be prevented and reverted, practices that sever the most basic rights and liberties of minorities throughout the world.

We do not support the focus of the theme on the prevention of violence against minorities from the perspective of the supposed responsibility to protect, the use of which has served to intervene militarily in sovereign nations, diminishing the sovereignty and independence of nations with massive violations to human rights which has created thousands of victims, and whose ultimate goal is to destabilize and topple legitimate governments through the use of violence to impose the expansionist, imperialist, and colonialist interests of those who are behind these initiatives.

With this practice, the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations have been flagrantly violated, and it has nothing to do with the true protection of minorities.

It is highly worrying to expect an incorporation in the sphere of the mechanisms of the Council on Human Rights—such as this Forum on Minority Issues—discussions about the theme of the “responsibility to protect,” whose natural political space for discussion should continue to be the General Assembly, the principal organ where all the Member States of the UN are represented.

On the contrary, we do not take issue in respect to the prevention of genocide and atrocities, a theme that we have taken up in different multilateral fora where it has been debated. That is why in this occasion, we wish to reiterate our firm position in rejecting all types of attempts to impose the notion of the responsibility to protect in our work.

Mr. President,

In our country, a model of socialist development moves forward, which has as a fundamental axis on human beings, in a new social scheme based on values of solidarity, justice, social inclusion, equality, respect, the realization of human rights and the participation of the people in the decision-making process of public affairs, of all persons who establish their lives in Venezuelan territory, with the support of democratic institutions.

To conclude, we wish to reaffirm one more time our decisive support for all initiatives which in this or other spheres are developed in favor of the promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of all our peoples, to continue moving forward with the goal of guaranteeing a dignified life, through the enjoyment of their economic, social, cultural, environmental, political and civil rights, including the right to development.

Thank you very much.