

Permanent Mission of Venezuela

We appreciate the holding of this 13th session of the Forum on Minority Issues of the Human Rights Council. We reiterate our support for this important Council mechanism.

We are gravely concerned by the intensification of hate speech, xenophobic rhetoric and incitement to hatred towards minorities around the world, and by the rise of extremist movements and political parties with neo-Nazi and extreme right-wing ideologies, which jeopardise the gains made in protecting the human rights of these vulnerable groups.

We regret that Ms. Agustina del Campo, a professor at the University of Palermo, referred to my country as an example in her presentation as a result of her handling of misinformation. In Venezuela, the 2019-2025 Plan for the Homeland includes among its objectives the consolidation of the vision of the heterogeneity and diversity of the Venezuelan state, under the respect and participatory and protagonist inclusion of all persons belonging to minorities, in accordance with our constitutional [?]

In turn, the Venezuelan constitution establishes that everyone has the right to freely express their thoughts, ideas and opinions through any form of expression and to make use of any means of communication and dissemination, including the internet and social media, and that censorship can be established without any limitations other than those established in the constitution and the law, such as the constitutional prohibition of war propaganda, discriminatory messages and those that promote religious intolerance.

In this regard, the Venezuelan people have the Constitutional Law against Hatred, for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance, which aims to generate the necessary conditions to promote and guarantee the recognition of diversity, tolerance and reciprocal respect, as well as to prevent and eradicate all forms of hatred, contempt, harassment, discrimination and violence. This law expressly prohibits the dissemination of messages through social media and electronic media that incite national, racial, ethnic, religious, political, social, ideological and any other kind of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, intolerance or violence, especially against vulnerable groups.

We must continue to make progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, with special emphasis on the protection of people belonging to vulnerable groups. Thank you very much.