

PLAN

Pais



**POLITICAL AGREEMENT TO FREE VENEZUELA
FROM SOCIAL CRISIS AND ECONOMIC COLLAPSE**

DECEMBER 2019

PREAMBLE

i. Venezuela is undergoing the worst economic and social crisis of its history, caused by an economic and political model of domination and social control that has destroyed and criminalized productive entrepreneurship, impoverished the country, and engendered the collapse of the capacity of the State to fulfill its responsibilities.

ii. The vast majority of Venezuelans' salaries are not commensurate to buy daily required food, including protein and medicine that families need to survive. Children exhibit significantly stunted growth and adults are losing weight at alarming rates. The mortality rate has increased and the regime has devastated healthcare services. Inflation is the highest ever registered in the Western Hemisphere. Food sources, education, healthcare, electricity, water, and public transportation services have all collapsed as well.

iii. The imposition of a totalitarian political model and a failing economic system have destroyed the capacity of Venezuelan citizens to provide for themselves and support one another. This regime's policies are far from meeting the necessities of the most vulnerable populations; rather, the regime has furthered dependency mechanisms and social control through instruments of political persecution and aggravated the systematic violation of human rights.

iv. The national production capacity of Venezuela has been decimated by two decades of nationalization, arbitrary expropriation, and regulation oriented to not only restrict the

freedom of the proper functioning of the economy but also to confiscate the cash flow of the nation. The petroleum industry has been destroyed as a result of socialist policies. The excessive costs of these policies, coupled with overindebtedness, could not even be covered by the revenue from the collapse of oil production. Without other sources of revenue, monetary policy financed the public deficit which generated hyperinflation and aggravated the economic disaster and the current complex humanitarian emergency.

v. In compliance with the regime, public officials and institutions have created an illegal economic industry focused on the plundering of natural resources. This situation represents the worst environmental disaster in Venezuela's history. Indigenous populations in affected regions are facing significant sanitation problems. In a larger sense, the environmental degradation of Venezuela represents an obstacle to the economic and social recovery of the country.

vi. The regime continues to consolidate power while attempting to eradicate political forces at all levels: states, municipalities and parishes. Decentralization, as outlined in the Constitution, has been mocked by members of the regime that have not only usurped the government but have concentrated power in their hands to the detriment of Venezuelan citizens.

vii. In this context, millions of Venezuelans are fleeing the country due to death, disease, widespread hunger and malnutrition. This

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complex humanitarian emergency has produced a refugee crisis throughout the entire region.

viii. This disaster, which is only comparable to war zones or failed states, depicts the significant level of deterioration of the Venezuelan state's capacity to assure the appropriate issuance of public services, healthcare, food, the security of its citizens and other needs of the population.

ix. Venezuela's economic and social recovery requires profound change to the economic and political model of the state transforming it from a socialist economic model to a social state based on the rule of law and a market economy. It is necessary to empower citizens so that every working Venezuelan can earn a living and satisfy both the needs of their family and themselves. In order to achieve that, it is necessary to design and implement programs oriented at building up the capacity of the state to be able to meet its essential responsibilities to reestablish constitutional and democratic order.

x. Respect for the law and the re-institutionalization of the country will be paramount elements for the accomplishment of our proposed objectives. Fundamental references to carry out these policies are the Sustainable Development Objectives (with a special focus on gender equity) and the United Nations Habitat III Agenda.

xi. The political powers with parliamentary representation in the National Assembly and the spokespeople of trade associations, labor unions, academic institutions, and citizens that sign this document are cognizant of the

magnitude of this serious crisis and recognize that its solution demands a unified effort. In order to achieve Venezuela's democratic transition, this collective effort must be founded in authentic patriotism that prioritizes restoring the well-being of Venezuelans over party differences and interests.

I. AGREEMENTS ON POLITICAL ECONOMY

1. Economic policy actions aimed at raising the standard of living for Venezuelans will be framed in three stages:

- a) attention to the complex humanitarian emergency;
- b) stabilization of the economy;
- c) structural reforms.

2. In order to promote rapid recovery, the country will depend on a strategy that includes extraordinary international financial assistance from multilateral organizations, bilateral loans, international donations, conditions that incentivize private investment, restructuring of foreign debt obligations and a significant increase in petroleum production.

3. In order to confront the complex humanitarian emergency and the collapse of public services, foreign resources will fuel a significant financial fiscal expansion which will eliminate the monetary policy financing the deficit.

4. The implementation of social investment will be handled in a manner consistent with medium-term fiscal sustainability, eliminating political clientelism and social control.

5. The unity of the Treasury will be restored, simplifying tax collection systems and eliminating confiscatory parafiscal contributions.

6. State-owned companies will be restructured, exploring mechanisms for the transfer of assets to the private sector and seeking methods to increase worker participation in hopes to increase efficiency and management quality.

7. A timetable for adjusting fuel prices and utility tariffs will be provided by direct subsidy social programs.

8. The autonomy, independence, and capacities of the Central Bank of Venezuela will be reestablished in order to fulfill its role in monetary policy. The National Assembly's constitutional control of the Central Bank will be restored.

9. Currency controls will be eliminated and the freedom to transact business in foreign currency will be established with proper regulation and oversight from the Central Bank, the Executive, and the National Assembly.

10. In order to reduce hyperinflation, an exchange-rate anchoring system will be adopted and supported by resources obtained through an international financing strategy and will be carried out by fiscal, monetary, and reform programs.

II. AGREEMENTS ON POLICIES TO EMPOWER CITIZEN

11. The current economic model based on the regime's control will be substituted with one based on a free market economy. This new model will be based on the right of every Venezuelan to work under guarantees of property rights and the freedom of enterprise.

12. The state will execute policies that stimulate production through a constructive dialogue between civil society and the organized private sector driven by entrepreneurship as a dynamic social force in the economy.

13. The centralized economic controls that destroyed Venezuelan entrepreneurship will be dismantled through legislation, giving priority to reactivation and the promotion of healthy competition as a mechanism of self-regulation in the market, understanding the vital importance of the sectors of agriculture, pharmaceuticals and industry in the production chain within the larger economic picture of the country. Specifically, the controls derived from the Organic Law of Fair Prices (*Ley Orgánica de Precios Justos*), the Law on the Foreign Exchange System (*Ley del Régimen Cambiario y sus Ilícitos*), the Organic Law of Agri-Food Security and Sovereignty (*Ley Orgánica de Seguridad y Soberanía Agroalimentaria*), the Law of Land and Agricultural Development (*Ley de Tierra y Desarrollo Agrario*), the Organic Law of the National Financial System (*Ley Orgánica del Sistema Financiero Nacional*) and the Organic Tributary Code (*Código Orgánico Tributario*) will be eliminated.

14. An overarching legal framework will be designed to generate confidence and stimulate production that effectively protects the rights of workers, their training, freedom to join labor unions, productivity and competitiveness. A central policy of the government will be to promote dignified work and living wages.

15. The right to private property will be reinstated so that every Venezuelan owns the means required to ensure their well-being and the well-being of society. Furthermore, the rights of all landowners affected by arbitrary expropriation and other similar actions will be reestablished including fair compensation where it is due. The laws that regulated the unconstitutional expropriation of land will be abolished.

16. Industrial sector public policies will add to and build national value to create an export platform that will strengthen the commercial balance and emphasize the development of human talent in manufactured products with companies focused on productivity and competitiveness.

17. The restoration of market mechanisms that favor productive growth will be supported by strengthening financial intermediation of the banking sector, requiring regulation that favors solvency, liquidity, and efficiency with criteria for inclusion, eliminating stifling controls that affect their role and unduly increase costs. The correspondent banking arrangement with the World Bank will be reestablished to leverage international business, encourage guarantee mechanisms and stimulate business.

18. Public governance will be transformed into an institution to service the productive development of Venezuelans respecting the law, citizen participation and transparency.

III. AGREEMENTS ON HYDROCARBON POLICY

19. Petroleum policies will be directed to establish a new relationship between citizens, the state, and oil through mechanisms that facilitate the empowerment of Venezuelans in relation to petroleum so that Venezuela is able to overcome its current Petro-State dynamic.

20. The Nation's ownership of hydrocarbon deposits will be preserved.

21. The production of petroleum and gas will be maximized to ensure the greatest benefit for the nation. Increased petroleum production will be accompanied by streamlined plans for the internal hydrocarbon market, increasing the utilization of natural gas and other alternative and renewable energy sources where their use is viable and can substitute exportable liquid hydrocarbons, especially in electricity, industrial, transport, services and residential sectors.

22. Given the PDVSA's level of destruction, PDVSA will be restructured and consolidated as a company that is both public and competitively focused on hydrocarbons. Both national and international private investment in hydrocarbons will be encouraged to pursue exploration and extraction activities directed by international companies and private capital.

23. A Venezuelan Hydrocarbon Agency (*La Agencia Venezolana de Hidrocarburos*) will be created to effectively and technically manage the deposits and regulate and supervise the sector.

24. A reform of the current Organic Hydrocarbons Law will be approved, while working on a new legal text that is the product of the greatest possible consensus, which allows, together with other legislative changes, to carry out the expansion of crude oil production and derivatives.

IV. AGREEMENTS ON SOCIAL POLICY

25. Venezuelan society demands the restitution of its social rights, in order to recover the ability to live productively and with dignity, liberty and autonomy. In order to do so, the state will prioritize its efforts in helping Venezuelans overcome the complex humanitarian emergency, foster their creative capacities and lay the foundation for new social policies that will reinstate the rights that were confiscated by an authoritarian regime. Venezuelans will be the protagonists of a process of sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

26. In this framework of new social policies, indirect, inefficient, and regressive subsidies will be substituted with direct, efficient, and progressive subsidies. These new policies will be implemented with the support of technological mechanisms and information that will be able to properly identify the sectors of the population that will benefit from these subsidies.



27. While addressing the complex humanitarian emergency, new social policies will focus on four areas:

- a) programs that ensure access to basic food;
- b) programs to ensure access to health;
- c) programs ensuring specialized care for the most vulnerable sectors of the population; and
- c) programs to promote quality jobs and protect family income.

28. The programs supplying access to basic food and water will fulfill two objectives:

- a) Promote the supply of essential products, with the support of distribution mechanisms developed by the private sector and the organizations that are attending the complex humanitarian emergency; and
- b) Facilitate vulnerable households' access to a system of direct subsidies to compensate for the fall in familial consumption.

29. The healthcare program will address the following objectives:

- a) Sourcing priority medicines, materials and medical teams necessary to assure appropriate diagnostics and treatments with the support of distribution mechanisms developed by private initiatives and organizations attending the complex humanitarian emergency;
- b) Creating direct subsidies that allow patients to access medicines to treat chronic diseases that affect a large percentage of the population, as well as distributing high-cost medicines;
- c) Promoting emergency hospital care in medical, surgical and paraclinical areas;
- and
- d) Promoting vaccination programs and programs to prevent communicable diseases.

30. Programs with special attention on the most vulnerable sectors of the population will have the following objectives:

- a) Developing a nutritional care program for children under five and pregnant women;
- b) Universalizing school lunch programs for public and subsidized private schools; and
- c) Developing scholarship programs for middle school students to promote school retention.

31. The social policies to promote quality employment and family income protection seek to promote the following objectives:

- a) Promote local employment through community entrepreneurship programs that contribute to address the complex humanitarian emergency and help remedy the deterioration of public goods and spaces;
- b) Implement transparent and consensus-based mechanisms to determine and update the minimum wage, retirement and pensions, as established by the International Labor Organization (ILO), to promote the dignity of wages in the framework of the preservation and creation of quality jobs; and
- c) Adopt supplementary assistance mechanisms for older adults in poverty.

V. AGREEMENTS TO ATTEND TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

32. A maternal, sexual and reproductive health support program will be implemented to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by supplying teams with obstetric tools, including nutritional support during pregnancy and assistance during childbirth.

33. A plan to eradicate malnutrition in the country will be applied through the delivery of nutritional supplements to groups in a state of severe malnutrition to compensate for the deficiency of micro- and macro-nutrients in their traditional diet.

34. Hospitals and the ambulance network will be undertaken by the state, which will require a series of interventions to recover the basic functionality of public health establishments. The plan will include improvements in infrastructure and basic equipment and, in the medium-term, a preventative and permanent maintenance program of the services that make-up the healthcare system.

35. A national treatment and prevention system for chronic diseases with the highest incidence will be created, facilitating access to treatment. Similarly, a vaccine and epidemic control program will be developed to protect and mitigate preventable diseases among children and other vulnerable groups in Venezuelan society.

36. A “situation room” for notification and control of epidemics will be created, focusing on containment and prevention with two components: epidemiological vigilance and control of the epidemic.

VI. AGREEMENTS ON EDUCATION POLICY

37. The public education system will provide school-age Venezuelan children and youth the human right to quality education guaranteed by

the state so that every student is capable of realizing their talents and interests no matter their place of origin, their socio-economic background, ethnic identity, or political affiliation.

38. The emergency education plan will be comprised of:

- a) A School Food Program (*Programa Alimentario Escolar, PAE*) with the objective of ensuring the estimated student population of both public schools and subsidized private schools at least one meal with the appropriate caloric and nutritional value a day;
- b) An Infrastructure, School Transportation and Education Materials Program (*Programa de Infraestructura, Transporte Escolar y Materiales Educativos, PITEP*) to address the recovery of school infrastructure and make sure that schools are equipped with the indispensable elements needed for the assistance and pedagogic attention of both teachers and students;
- c) A Daycare Center Program (*Programa de Hogares de Cuidado Diario*) that creates a plan to care for children as young as two years old with the goal of assuring the well-being and early care for infants;
- d) A School Retention Program (*Programa de Retención Escolar*) to offer scholarships to increase attendance and retention in school for adolescents;
- e) Standardized Lesson Plans will be implemented to improve literacy skills, mathematics, science, democratic values, and cohabitation which will be reinforced by guides based on international standards and educational materials for teachers and students; and
- f) Comprehensive Teacher Care Program (*Programa de Atención Integral al Docente*) that

considers the direct attention of the state on teacher training programs fundamental to the fulfillment of the socioeconomic, nutritional and health stability, as well as their professional development of teachers.

39. The democratic government will recognize teachers as protagonists of the transformation of society and will commit itself to guarantee teachers an income commensurate with their responsibility, reestablishing the *Ipasme* and creating alternative retirement funds. The role of school directors as community leaders will be reaffirmed with incentives and an evaluation that drives optimum management and academic results of the schools.

40. An investment and access expansion plan will be developed for quality early education programs (zero to six years old) in order to recover the years of education that have been lost and ensure that all Venezuelan children enroll in first grade ready to learn.

41. The primary objective will be to create a teaching system in which Venezuelans learn and develop skills to generate wealth through productive work and entrepreneurship. This will take place through curriculum reforms along with the creation of academic programs that include a diversity of professional certificates with an effective and important linkage between school and the productive world.

42. An emergency education plan will be executed in coordination with the country's private education sector, perceived as a fundamental ally that complements and supports the work of promoting statehood. NGOs,

churches, universities and multilateral organizations will also be incorporated at the financial, institutional and human resources levels.

VII. AGREEMENTS ON AGRICULTURE POLICIES

43. An Agricultural Development Plan (*Plan de Desarrollo Agropecuario*) will be formulated to promote national production, guarantee Venezuelans strategic food supplies and drive exports.

44. A new agri-food policy aimed at increasing the production of food and raw materials will be adopted. This policy will focus on increasing the capacities of the private sector through a new alliance with the state in its role as a regulator of agri-food development.

45. These policies will promote private producer associations, which have established comprehensive production programs that promote models of primary production organization and vertical integration of the production process.

46. Agri-food policies will stimulate internal production and will be constructed with as little intervention as possible from the state. The center of state assistance will be the low-income consumer where subsidies or social transfers are directed.

47. The principal lines of action in the Agri-food Plan will be the following:



- a) Emergency supplies through the acquisition of food and raw materials, with the objective of guaranteeing the population a minimum diet of calories and nutrients;
- b) Reactivation of agricultural and industrial production securing access to consumable goods, seeds, fertilizers, machines and other equipment;
- c) Recovery of private distribution channels through agreements between private and public sectors as well as the rehabilitation of wholesale distribution centers; and
- d) Redesign of the institutions and regulations that affect the countryside in order to restore property rights, repeal laws that impede an increase in production and prioritize the use of resources from financial and technical cooperation with multilateral entities and allied countries.

VIII. AGREEMENTS ON MINING

48. A reform of the regulatory framework of the mining sector will be carried out to place Venezuela at the forefront of international practices around responsible mining, integrating the concept of human, social, economic and environmental sustainability, which in turn will allow the maximum development of the sector.

49. Norms and standards of obligatory fulfillment will be applied to develop mining activity ensuring the use of responsible sourcing practices and the deployment and implementation of comprehensive mineral certification schemes.

IX. AGREEMENTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

50. The guiding principle of the infrastructure policy will be based on the right of Venezuelans to have access to housing, water, electricity, gas, telecommunications services, public spaces and the freedom of mobility on different forms of transportation.

51. Existing infrastructure and key projects will be recovered and harnessed to attend to and alleviate the precarious situation of the most affected sectors of the population and drive the rehabilitation and consolidation of productive sectors.

52. The presence of a high percentage of the population in urban areas will be maximized through the creation of a system of cities and their inhabitants, as well as its connection with the rest of the countries in the region and the world. Extraterritorial compensation mechanisms will also be developed.

53. A housing plan will promote the recovery and creation of a healthy and vigorous mortgage securities market through the design and establishment of a pertinent regulatory marker with legal effectiveness. Furthermore, it will establish incentives and an appropriate economic strategy in order to obtain newer and larger resources from the private sector in the granting of mortgage loans, which will ensure the recovery, stability, and sustainability of long-term urban development and housing plan.

54. A scaled plan will be executed to deliver property titles to the beneficiaries of the Venezuela Housing Mission (*La Misión Vivienda Venezuela*) and all other social housing programs in Venezuela.

55. The infrastructure, services, and mass transport efficiency processes will be rehabilitated and recovered based on their technical and financial sustainability, in association with the private sector. Transportation system assets will be protected, reinforcing the physical safety of facilities and equipment. An immediate mobility recovery plan will be implemented, including, among other things, the restitution of fleets, the organization and support to carriers, financial assistance from the state, the creation of infrastructure to support public transport, organizational modernization of urban transport and the integration of a multimodal system that includes new systems and technologies.

56. The administrative control of air facilities and security will be guaranteed with a plan that will focus on strategic airports. Regulation of this sector, which will be open to national and international competition, will be streamlined.

X. AGREEMENTS ON ELECTRICITY, WATER, GAS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

57. The reconstruction of the system of public services by networks will serve electricity, water and sanitation and telecommunications, becoming a fundamental strategy in the fight

against poverty and the revival of the economy. The goals of coverage, continuity, trustworthiness and quality of the services must be achieved in the shortest time possible.

58. The institutional reconstruction of the system of public service companies will be reorganized to guarantee professional and quality management. The regulatory bodies for each service sector will enjoy functional and administrative autonomy to achieve its responsibilities.

59. Public services require large investments, thus, international financing and technical cooperation will be vital for recovering the system. Additionally, these changes will generate conditions conducive to attracting domestic and foreign private investment while advancing a tariff transition that will ensure the financial sustainability of public service companies, guaranteeing access for disadvantaged communities.

60. The urgent needs of the electric system will be secured by the recovery of the capacity of thermal generation, assuring the maintenance of hydroelectricity generation in the country.

61. Immediate and urgent actions include the reconstruction of the interconnected national system of transmission lines and substations in order to increase the transportation of energy and power and achieve the stability and reliability of the system.

62. The national electric dispatch center and the regional dispatch centers will be recovered and modernized. Furthermore, the entire

population will receive information about the performance of the national electric system, performance indicators, and progress on its recovery, procurement and modernization in real-time via the internet.

63. The electric sector will be subject of a reorganization process that will allow it to have a decentralized management model, both in the areas of energy generation and marketing.

64. The water sector will be decentralized and regionalized. Furthermore, new systems will prioritize training workers and promoting an informative campaign about the importance of water conservation.

65. Water companies will increase the supply of water to Venezuelans through the incorporation of international technical assistance; investment in basic equipment; the acquisition of chemicals to optimize water quality; and the automation of distribution systems to improve monitoring and control and reduce distribution costs for the benefit of the population served.

66. In order to promote investment and improve telecommunications services, the sector will be liberalized, allowing the entry of new operators with clear rules and a modern regulatory framework that stimulates competition.

67. Investments for technological updates and improvement of coverage, data transmission, and internet services will be promoted, with the participation of the private sector, national and foreign, as well as contributions from multilateral financing entities.

68. The import and distribution of gas cylinders to meet the needs of Venezuelan families in the short- and medium-term will be guaranteed by the private sector. At the same time, conditions to expand the gas pipeline network and distribute the supply of domestic gas by pipeline throughout the country will be created.

XI. AGREEMENTS ON CITIZEN SECURITY POLICY

69. The citizen security plan will have two fundamental axes: preventive policies and land control policies. To this end, the structure and function of law enforcement will be modernized and updated to ensure the respect of human rights, a modern and efficient judicial system and a model of social security that protects officials.

70. In response to recommendations from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Action Forces (*Fuerzas de Acciones Especiales, FAES*) will be eliminated due to their involvement in extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations. Police institutions will be distinguished by their professional character and will be comprised of honest officials who act under the parameters of the law and have a culture of transparency. These agents will be protected by the state, which will compensate civil servants and their families in cases of death or disability during the exercise of their duties.

71. A new anti-narcotic police force will be created based on international cooperation

agreements. Moreover, alliances between the government, private sector, civil society, NGOs and communities to combat organized crime will be consolidated.

72. An effective policy on controlling arms and ammunition will be implemented and disarmament of the general population will be promoted. A comprehensive policy for the prevention of different forms of violence will be developed with an emphasis on the physical and social integration of the city, as well as the promotion of a culture of peace and coexistence.

73. Public lighting on streets, avenues, highways and public spaces will be updated in order to increase personal security, create improved public spaces and promote recreation and leisure amongst Venezuelans.

74. A new registration system will be designed, in accordance with international protocols, in order to optimize and improve the processes of citizen identification.

75. A plan to build, improve and expand the country's prison infrastructure will be promoted, and new prisons will be managed by professionals with university and technical credentials, as established by the Constitution and international standards.

76. Maximum security enclosures will be created, with the aim of effectively isolating prisoners that belong to organized criminal groups. Furthermore, guards will enforce regulations to limit cell phone communication and internet time in prisons, while ensuring that those deprived of liberty still retain their rights to

contact their families, relatives and have access to information.

77. Economic resources will be allocated for equipment and technological innovation in risk management and disaster mitigation.

XII. AGREEMENTS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

78. The Armed Forces (*Fuerzas Armadas Nacionales, FAN*) will play a leading role in building a prosperous, just and plural democracy as established by the Constitution. Consistent with the principles laid out in the Constitution, the military will ensure the independence, sovereignty and security of the nation; reestablish the monopoly of weapons; and will not tolerate the presence and activities of paramilitaries within national territory.

79. The indispensable objective of the military will be to assume the highest degree of professionalization, guaranteeing the greatest respect for the criteria of merit, rank and capacity in advancement, promotion and command assignment.

80. Military education will have all the necessary support of the Venezuelan state, attending carefully to the specificity of the different components of the military institution and the requirements that derive from such specificity to their respective planning guides.

81. Greater attention will be given to the operational tightening of the military, responding

to the strategic objective of ensuring the necessary investment for the armed forces to have front-line capabilities without exclusive commitments to any company or supplier country.

82. Special attention will be given to the families of military members, assuming as a priority the improvement of the socioeconomic aspects of officers, enlisted soldiers and their families, as well as access to education, medical attention, social security, dignified retirement and a standard of living in accordance with the prestige and importance of their work.

83. Military justice reform will be carried out ensuring respect for the National Armed Forces, thus ending the injustices and political retaliation that affect all ranks.

84. All necessary measures will be taken to ratify and defend the legitimate and historic claim of the people of Venezuela over the Essequibo Territory; the state's territorial sea; its exclusive economic zone; and its continental shelf, reaffirming the territorial integrity of the republic, in accordance with the rules established in the Geneva Agreement of 1966. Likewise, due to the legitimate claim on the Essequibo Territory, an unwavering policy defending the full sovereignty of the state over both the marine and submarine areas that correspond to the projection of the current Atlantic facade of the territory will be developed, not only ensure control of resources, but also sovereign access to the international waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

XIII. AGREEMENTS ON DECENTRALIZATION AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

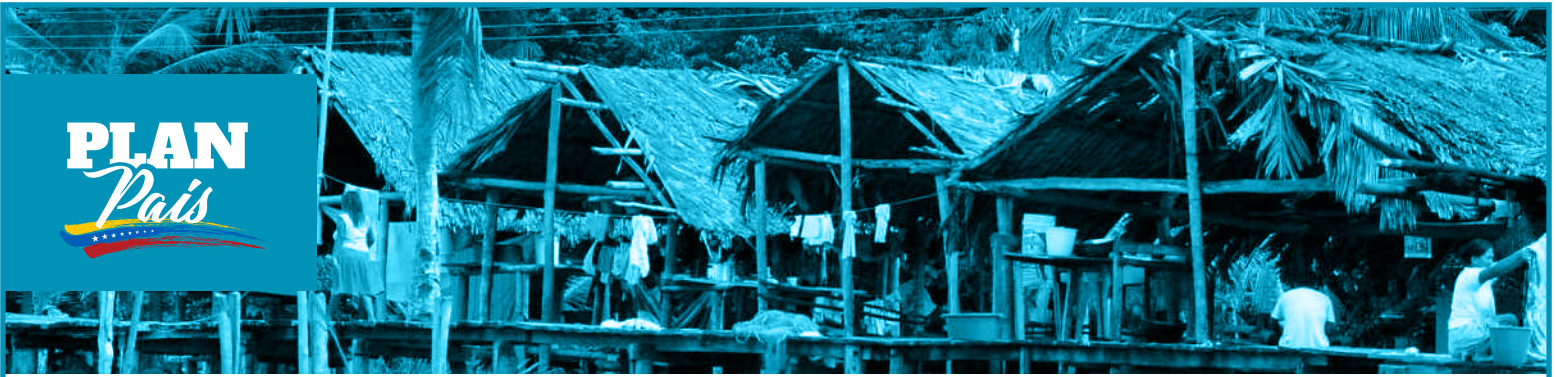
85. Decentralization will be the ideal mechanism to transfer the central government's skills and powers to states and municipalities, further engaging citizens in the work of their local governments.

86. A gradual transfer of power, financial resources, technology and human resources will be executed from the central government to states and municipalities. In the case of concurrent competences between the national government and state and/or local governments, those attributed to federal and local entities in the legal code will be respected and enforced.

87. In order to achieve political, administrative and fiscal decentralization, necessary institutional transformations will be pursued to improve and endow the financial autonomy of the states and strengthen municipalities as the primary political unit of the state.

88. The power to control national ports will gradually be returned to the respective state/local governments.

89. The demarcation of indigenous lands and territories will be achieved in accordance with the laws that govern the matter. This process will ensure necessary spaces for the development of indigenous communities in terms of economic, social and cultural activities, as well as the protection of biodiversity.



90. The serious health and nutrition issues that indigenous communities are facing will be attended to by state policies seeking to protect cultural habits, heritage and customs. The transmission of their knowledge and way of life for future generations will be ensured through the strengthening of intercultural education and community-based education.

XIV. AGREEMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

91. The social, economic and political recovery of the country will be coterminous with environmental sustainability, emphasizing the values of environmental responsibility and the protection of environmental human rights as detailed by the 2030 UN Agenda, the United Nations Global Compact, the Kyoto Protocol, the Escazú Accords and the 2015 Paris Climate Accords.

92. The construction of a new independent environmental institution will be promoted at the highest level of the Venezuelan state. It will follow the primary functions of respect, protection, and adoption of all the approved measures to achieve the full realization of environmental human rights. The specific actions taken will emphasize a healthy, safe and ecologically balanced environment that will ensure clean and potable water as well as protection against the negative effects of climate change, especially for the most vulnerable communities.

93. The Orinoco Mining Arc Decree will be repealed, and people affected by mercury

poisoning, malaria and other diseases derived from environmental degradation will receive treatment.

94. Environmental education will be strengthened so that citizens have the capacities and knowledge to act as responsible actors in environmental management and the creation of sustainable development.

XV. AGREEMENTS ON JUSTICE

95. Rule of Law will be recovered and will push for reforms and priority investments for the restructuring and appropriateness of the judicial system, in line with the Constitution. Judges will be hired so that the number of judges per citizen complies with international standards. Officials in the judicial system will undergo a strict selection and training process. Furthermore, validly signed contracts will be enforced.

96. The government and the administration of the justice system will be re-institutionalized, professionalizing the Executive Directorate of the Magistrate (*Dirección Ejecutiva de la Magistratura*).

97. Public Defense will be strengthened, as an effective mechanism for people with scarce resources to access justice.

98. Transitional justice mechanisms, or a justice system in transition, will be introduced, oriented at restoring human dignity, justice, protection and comprehensive reparations for victims of human rights violations, including

actions to determine truth and promote national reconciliation according to international provisions and human rights standards.

99. Necessary steps will be taken in order to reinsert the entirety of Venezuela into international systems of human rights and a national plan for the protection of human rights will be adopted.

100. The Venezuelan state will fulfill its duty to encourage and protect national and international human rights covenants.

XVI. AGREEMENTS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

101. A communication model that fully ensures the right to freedom of expression and guarantees a participatory and plural democracy that is diverse and inclusive will be promoted, guided by the mandates of the Constitution, and by international standards for freedom of expression, press, information and access to public information.

102. Policies will design a legal order that ensures the democratic and transparent administration of the radio spectrum, awarding concessions for reasons of public interest and not for political means; reestablishing the right to private transmission; and establishing the independence and technical criteria of the bidding process for granting private and community-based concessions.

103. The public service media system will be structured on autonomy, credibility and the right to inform the public to ensure plurality and diversity.

104. The National Telecommunications Commission's (*Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones*, CONATEL) role will be transformed into a regulatory telecommunications organ, eliminating its control and censure functions, resituating its autonomous and independent character so that it can take on the regulation of radio and electronic communication with the criteria of inclusion, neutrality, and diversity.

105. Governance of the internet will be harmonized to democratize its access and use in all parts of society; guarantee internet neutrality, freedom of expression without censorship; and respect privacy and digital security. The censorship of sites and webpages for political reasons will be abolished. A thorough reform of the Organic Law of Telecommunications (*Ley Orgánica de Telecomunicaciones*) and the Law of Social Responsibility in Radio, Television, and Electronic Media (*Ley de Responsabilidad Social en Radio, Televisión y Medios Electrónicos*) will be promoted.

NEXT STEPS

- i. Continue this conversation with a variety of sectors in Venezuelan society to build consensual solutions to problems, with the goal of achieving new agreements and improving Plan País.
- ii. Translate the agreements presented here into a legislative agenda to allow these initiatives to be codified in a set of laws.
- iii. Develop working plans for each of the areas mentioned herein and adapt the proposals into achievable plans in each region of the country.
- iv. Strengthen the process of diffusion and debate about Plan País, within and outside of the country, so that every Venezuelan actively commits to the Country Recovery Plan.