

# CIMUN VI Research Report

**Committee:** SOCHUM

**Issue:** Addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, including political repression, refugee displacement, and protection of marginalized groups such as the LGBTIQ+ community

**Student Officer:** Ryan Kim, Olivia Huh, Akio Julian Etheart

## 1. Committee Introduction

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA-SOCHUM) is the third committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), focusing on the resolution of social, humanitarian, and cultural issues that affect the global population. Specifically, these resolutions focus on upholding indigenous rights, equal treatment of all genders, and the protection of global communities. SOCHUM was created in response to the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Abiding by these values, SOCHUM seeks to solve the questions regarding the rights of individuals. The committee, since its creation, has established 51 resolutions.

All countries are represented in SOCHUM, with 193 seats out of 193 countries. One key point that SOCHUM attempts to resolve is the ongoing Venezuela crisis. Due to the collapse of the domestic economy and hyperinflation, all citizens under the government face economic difficulties. As such, many have fled to other countries. In such a situation, marginalised or indigenous communities face disproportionate discrimination, with basic rights such as job placement or refugee protection being denied. In response, SOCHUM attempts to combat the unfair treatment of marginalised communities such as migrants or refugees, connecting to the specific case resolution in the first agenda and a broader discussion for the second agenda.

The experience of SOCHUM, as a delegate, will provide an authentic and orthodox experience of MUN for delegates to use in future conferences. The achievements of SOCHUM will greatly impact the world.

## 2. Agenda Introduction

Venezuela has been facing an ongoing severe humanitarian crisis, including political repression, refugee displacement, and protection of marginalized groups. Venezuela's humanitarian crisis is one of the largest international displacement crises in the world, with 7.7 million global displacers since 2014. Report from April 2024 shows that 6.5 million of the displaced Venezuelans are living in Latin American and Caribbean Countries, and 20

percent of the Venezuelan population has left the country. Over 211,000 Venezuelans have been accepted as refugees, and more than 1 million have lodged asylum claims globally. The main cause of the humanitarian crisis stemmed from the economic downfall of Venezuela following the hyperinflation of its currency. Venezuela was once the wealthiest nation in Latin America, with vast oil reserves and other natural resources. However, the decline in oil production and value led to the government's inadequate response, resulting in the printing of massive amounts of money. Meanwhile, the government attempted to control the prices of products. When price limits were taken off, prices of goods and services in the country had skyrocketed, with a 130,060% inflation rate in 2018, according to CNN. Following the inflation, the value of currency had plummeted domestically. Prices of goods and services were burdensome for lower-class individuals. Companies affected by low economic activity reduced the job market, leading to a large job displacement crisis. Many citizens attempted to move overseas, causing a huge refugee movement. Migrants and marginalized groups were oppressed by the government.

Due to the impact of the crisis, Venezuelans take dangerous journeys for migration. Most of the Venezuelans do not hold documents that allow them to reside legally in border states. This results in refugees and migrants facing vulnerability to exploitation and victimization by smugglers and traffickers, who want to benefit from their desperate situation and disadvantage in employment opportunities. Moreover, a lack of access to legal documents led to restricted access to fundamental rights. These individuals are susceptible to exploitation, violence, and discrimination. The crisis also caused the children to suffer from trauma from displacement, especially during the hazardous conditions of migration. The lack of financial stability in Venezuela led to a shortage of essential supplies and an unfavorable environment for children's education.

### 3. Definition of Key Terms

#### **Humanitarian Crisis**

A situation involving extreme deprivation, violence, or instability, with insufficient humanitarian needs and required external assistance. Humanitarian crisis often arises due to conflict, natural disasters, economic collapse, or political instability. A humanitarian crisis can lead to widespread human suffering and migrations among countries.

#### **Refugee Displacement**

The migration of individuals across borders due to persecution, conflict, or severe economic instability in a country. According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees are individuals who flee their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution or a desperate need for humanitarian aid. Political turmoil, economic collapse, and severely inadequate living conditions are significant factors contributing to displacement.

## **Hyperinflation**

An economic condition of uncontrollable rapid increase in prices, exceeding the inflation rate of 50 percent per month. Hyperinflation happens when the value of a country's currency severely erodes. Hyperinflation can lead to poverty and economic instability due to the poor policies or excessive printing of money.

## **Political Repression**

Systematic use of controlling the citizenry for political purposes, which limits individual freedom and restricts the citizenry's ability to control the political life of a society. It may also include unfair treatment in public or unemployment of a certain group of individuals.

## **Human Trafficking**

Unlawful act of profiting and exploiting from the expenses of the rights of others, coercively forcing labor, or sexual abuse.

## **Economic Collapse**

Economic breakdown of a nation's economy that often leads to a crisis. This includes mismanagement of the country, unemployment, destabilization of currency, and failure of law and order.

## **Oil dependency**

The term defines a state of heavy reliance of the domestic economy on oil production and exports. When a nation relies on a single industry, especially one that is a natural resource such as oil, the fluctuation of cost and global supply of such resources may result in huge fluctuations of the national economy.

## **4. Timeline of Key Events**

2013: Nicolás Maduro claims presidency following Hugo Chávez's (the former president) death. Elected within a month of Chavez's death, Maduro continues the spending on expenses and the oil industry. However, due to the halt on external monetary assistance, the country started to face economic turmoil.

2014-2016: Hyperinflation exceeds 100,000%; mass protests met with violent repression. The government utilizes police forces and the military to suppress civic dissatisfaction with its policies. Maduro establishes a regime of fear in Venezuela. Venezuela's revenue plummets due to the decline in oil prices.

2017: Maduro gains control of the supreme court, coercing its loyalty to himself. Even with the super majority of the national assembly in the opposition party's hands, Maduro can impose his policies in the country. In April, the opposing party is banned from participating in the following election, causing a nationwide demonstration. Once again, the situation is met with violence and repression.

2018: UN declares Venezuela's refugee crisis the largest in Latin American history, with 3 million people being displaced. Inflation reached an estimated 63,374.08% compared to the previous year.

2019: Opposition leader Juan Guaidó declares interim presidency, prompting a political standoff. The US supports Guaidó's policies, but they are met with a harsh response from Maduro. Maduro then orders the dismissal of all American diplomats within Venezuela in 72 hours. The U.S sends aid to the borders of Venezuela through Brazil, but Maduro closes all borders and isolates the country, bringing about further economic downfall.

2020-2025: Sanctions, COVID-19, and collapsing infrastructure worsen living conditions; displacement surpasses 7 million (UNHCR). The crisis persists, marked by ongoing shortages, unemployment, and emigration. The government attempts to make policy adjustments, but hyperinflation and poverty persist in severe forms.

## 5. Positions of Key Member Nations and Bodies

### **Venezuela**

Venezuela, being at the core of the political and humanitarian crisis, faces many challenges, the most serious of which is its unstable economy. The purchasing power of most people has dropped drastically, markets are no longer stable, and basic goods and services are in short supply because of hyperinflation. Making policies to fight inflation can cause unintentional difficulties, for example, leading to interruptions in the supply chain and reducing confidence in investment, which may intensify economic issues now. It is the economic issues that have led to the serious humanitarian crisis and have forced about 7.7 million Venezuelans to flee to countries around them.

Millions of Venezuelans leaving the country have made life tougher for those hosting them and harmed Venezuela's economy. If many people of working age move away, the nation's productivity drops, more people depend on those who remain, and the chance of recovery is lowered. When people move out of the country and no longer pay taxes, governments have less money and are unable to invest in services, infrastructure and safety programs.

Unemployment and many people moving out of their homes decrease overall economic activity which results in more stagnation and uncertainty.

It is important for Venezuela to quickly implement strategies that help its economy stabilize to face these problems. Part of this is to control inflation while it lasts, build faith in financial institutions and focus on creating more jobs and making goods in the country. Also, rebuilding international confidence and being more involved with multilateral organizations and regional partners should be a priority for Venezuela. Asking for both technical and humanitarian aid to deal with refugees could lessen internal struggles and help bring stability to the region. This collaboration might not only reduce the results of a disaster but also help the affected people reconstruct their lives and come back into the community.

## **United States**

The US has chosen a hard-line approach to respond to Venezuela's government. The US imposed a series of sanctions and reduced bilateral trade with Venezuela, pressuring the Venezuelan government to change its political and economic policies. However, such methods have proven to have only a minor effect. The recent increase in tension between the US and other countries has reduced the weight of the burden that sanctions have. The US, opposed to the economic policies of Venezuela and the social harms from Venezuelan refugees, will look for solutions to negotiate with Venezuela. These negotiations should prioritize a change from the current economic policies of Venezuela, but also ensure that all such actions are within the rights of the country.

## **Colombia**

Colombia is the largest recipient of Venezuelan refugees. Around 3 million refugees, of 7.7 million people, attempted to cross the border to Colombia. Colombia, despite having its own economic burdens, had to take care of the burden of Venezuela's refugees. Colombia is integrating refugees slowly into its country, but the economic capacity and dense population delay the process. Colombia represents many refugee-intaking countries, serving to uphold the rights of migrants who have been denied their rights in Venezuela. Meanwhile, Colombia is not hostile to Venezuela, seeking meaningful conversation to resolve the issue. Along with other recipient countries, Colombia seeks ways to effectively integrate refugees as citizens, while also eradicating the root cause of the problem in Venezuela. Colombia can play a key role in mediating tensions, bridging the collaboration between Venezuela and the recipient countries, setting the table for diplomacy.

## **Ecuador**

Ecuador has the fifth-largest number of Venezuelan refugees in America. According to Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, 445,000 migrants settled in Ecuador in 2023. Ecuador assisted Venezuelan refugees in migrating by modifying its migration policies and implementing regularization processes. Ecuador intends to diminish barriers to regularization processes by permitting Venezuelans to apply with passports and identification documents that are up to five years. Ecuador aligned its humanitarian response with the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the

International Rescue Committee (IRC) by providing financial assistance, food, healthcare, and protection services to Venezuelan migrants. In March 2025, Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa publicly criticized Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro for refusing to accept deported Venezuelan migrants. President Noboa argued that Venezuela's government stance shows a lack of empathy towards its own citizens. The criticism escalated tensions between Ecuador and Venezuela.

## **Mexico**

Mexico has made agreements with Venezuela to deport migrants and with Mexican and Venezuelan businesses to hire them. There are 4,000 to 5,000 Venezuelan migrants in Mexico. The Mexican government announced that it would provide migrants in the country with about \$110 a month and job opportunities. Mexico has coordinated with the United States to manage Venezuelan migration through agreements allowing Venezuelan migrants to enter the United States legally while returning others to Mexico if they cross illegally. The closure of the United States border in early 2025 resulted in Venezuelans staying in Mexico, which increased the demand for humanitarian support for migrants. While Mexico has not taken a leading political stance in the humanitarian crisis, it has been assisting Venezuelan migrants and balancing regional pressures.

## **6. Questions A Resolution Must Answer**

What aid organisations would cooperate with SOCHUM in providing medical care and food to Venezuelan refugees? If so, how can it be done without the interference or violation of Venezuela's national stances?

What actionable measures can SOCHUM take to help nations hosting Venezuelan refugees implement to offer shelter, healthcare, and employment opportunities?

To what extent can other countries or international bodies such as the ICJ or UN intervene to research and investigate the allegations of killing and oppression of citizens? How can such interventions happen without exacerbating the situation?

How can the UN help facilitate fair elections held in Venezuela? Would current government leaders agree to such assistance?

What are the strategies to tackle the hyperinflation in Venezuela? Are there approaches to decrease the economic turmoil itself?

How can SOCHUM work collaboratively with the government of Venezuela to reduce unemployment rates of marginalized or indigenous communities within Venezuela? To what extent can SOCHUM intervene?

How can recipient countries make the process of refugee integration more efficient and less economically burdensome for the country? If so, what are the requirements that countries must abide by?

## 7. Bibliography

- “All-American Model United Nations.” *What Is SOCHUM?*, All-American Model United Nations, <https://www.allamericanmun.com/what-is-sochum/>.
- “Colombia’s Refugee Crisis and Integration Approach Explained.” *USA for UNHCR*, <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/colombia-s-refugee-crisis-and-integration-approach-explained/#:~:text=Colombia%20hosts%20the%20largest%20population,employment%20in%20their%20host%20countries>.
- “IOM, UNHCR Commend Ecuador’s Efforts to Regularize Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants.” *UNHCR*, 11 Oct. 2022, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/iom-unhcr-commend-ecuador-s-efforts-regularize-venezuelan-refugees-and-migrants>.
- “Mexico and Venezuela Strengthen Cooperation on Migration.” *Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores*, <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-venezuela-strengthen-cooperation-on-migration?idiom=en>.
- “MEXICO: Mexico Reaches Agreement with Venezuela to Deport Migrants.” *Reuters*, 21 Mar. 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexico-reaches-agreement-with-venezuela-deport-migrants-2024-03-21/>.
- “SOCHUM.” *United Nations General Assembly - Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural)*, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>.
- “Timeline: How the Crisis in Venezuela Unfolded.” *Frontline*, PBS, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/timeline-how-the-crisis-in-venezuela-unfolded/>.
- “Venezuela Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help.” *World Vision*, 3 May 2024, <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/venezuela-crisis-facts>.

“Venezuelan Crisis Explained.” *USA for UNHCR*,  
<https://www.unrefugees.org/news/venezuela-crisis-explained/#CanrefugeesinEthiopiagotoschool?>.

“Venezuelan Immigrants in the United States.” *Migration Policy Institute*, 3 Aug. 2023,  
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/venezuelan-immigrants-united-states>.

“Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.” *Center for Disaster Philanthropy*,  
<https://disasterphilanthropy.org/disasters/venezuelan-refugee-crisis/>.

“Venezuela Profile - Timeline.” *BBC News*, 25 Apr. 2019,  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19652436>.

“Venezuelan President Slammed over Deportations.” *Anadolu Agency*, 11 Apr. 2024,  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/ecuadorian-president-slams-venezuela-counterpart-over-deportation-issue/3505397>.