



-STUDY GUIDE-

Y-MUN TRAINING
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

UNSC

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I. Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed delegates of United Nations Security Council,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 10th edition of Yeditepe Model United Nations Training and Development Conference as the Secretary-General. Organized by the oldest Model United Nations Club in Turkey, every year we try to use our knowledge to provide our participants with an exceptional MUN experience.

Being aware of the current issues that our world is facing, Y-MUN 2017 will simulate 16 different committees. Most of the committees aim to give our participants a demonstration of the world's most urgent problems while some special committees will take you to the past to simulate some crucial events. With our brilliant Academic Team, we are working to provide you the finest academic experience.

In UNSC, the delegates will address the issue that is currently going on in Venezuela meanwhile dealing with crisis's. I would like to thank Mr. Atakan Yurdakul who accepted my offer even when he was out of the country and his assistant Ms. Zeynep Tuna Bayraktar for their efforts in creating this committee. Lastly, I would like to give my thanks to my Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Uygur Berk Edebali who supported me greatly during this process and also Mr. Onuralp Acar and his deputies Ms. Dilruba Akçınar and Mr. Ömer Cem Sipahi for their work in creating this amazing conference.

Welcome where the journey begins!

Ege SÜREK
Secretary-General of Y-MUN 2017

II. Letter from the Under Secretary-General

Greetings delegates,

I'm Atakan Yurdakul, currently studying at University of Warwick in United Kingdom and I'll be serving as an Under Secretary-General, alongside with my dear assistant Zeynep Tuna Bayraktar.

We will be focusing on the humanitarian crises taking place in Venezuela, affecting millions of lives and causing irreversible effects. I do believe that solving, or at least easing the harshness of this conflict requires a deep understanding on the events has been going on for many years on the background, which will provide new perspectives for you delegates in upcoming conferences. For this reason, I believe our committee will be able to fulfil Y-MUN goals by training you and developing your problem-solving skills, as you may never have experienced before.

Because of my continuous studies, I'll not be able to attend the conference in person, however, I'll be actively controlling the crisis-directive flow and will be in touch with Zeynep Tuna Bayraktar, who will be overseeing the committee for me. On the other hand, considering it is 21st century, I may greet you face to face through a camera.

Before finishing my words, I would like to mention two important people in my letter. Even though I would not be in Turkey during the time of the conference, when my dear friend, who you will be calling Secretary-General throughout the conference, kindly offered me a place in the academic team she was building, I had no other chance to proudly accept it. We started this journey together in this very conference and it is an utmost honour for me to serve under her as much as I'll be able to. She is an enthusiastic and promising lady and more than capable of being the head of the academics team, way more than anyone present. She will be teaming up with the one of the most dedicated and smartest people I've ever seen, Onuralp Acar, who proved himself many times in hardest conditions. Being two of the few people I admire, I am sure you will understand the honesty of my words during the conference. The conference they will be bringing to you will be the one you will be honoured to be a part of it.

Kindest Regards,

Atakan Yurdakul

Under Secretary-General of UNSC

III. Introduction

Alongside with the many other occurrences, political events of the 21st century consist of many different radical changes around the world, from the rise of the populism and right-wing ideologies to a power struggle between major economies. Mentioned events, triggered a series of irreversible consequences that affected the lives of millions, even maybe billions, all around the world. Venezuela, one of the most glaring example in the year of 2017, will be explained and examined from different perspectives in order to provide a useful handbook to the reader.

Definition of Key Terms will be providing terms that will be used through the research report, with their explanations.

In General Overview section, writing will be separated into two different subheadings. While the first subheading will be summarizing historical background that is needed in order to go deeper into the topic; the second subheading will be focusing on current problems (and their reasons & consequences) by dividing itself into three pieces, listed as the political situation, humanitarian situation and economic situation.

Involved Major Parties section will be pointing out major parties that have/had a role in this conflict, by underlining their current/past policies and their motives. Last but not least, Timeline will help reader's understanding by delivering a chronological order of important events took place.

IV. Definition of Key Terms

Inflation: "... is a situation of a sustained increase in the general price level in an economy. Inflation means an increase in the cost of living as the price of goods and services rise." (Pettinger, 2016)

Dictatorship: a form of government in which one person or a small group possesses absolute power without effective constitutional limitations. Dictators usually resort to

force or fraud to gain despotic political power, which they maintain through the use of intimidation, terror, and the suppression of basic civil liberties.

Coalition: the joining together of different political parties or groups for a particular purpose, usually for a limited time.

National Constituent Assembly: A National Constituent Assembly is essentially a constitutional convention, a gathering for the purpose of writing a new constitution or revising an existing constitution.

V. General Overview

A. Historical Background

Venezuela has a deep history with full of struggles for power between civilian and military authorities, especially starting from the year of 1945 when civilian-led powers conduct a coup that ends decades of military rule. However, first elected president of the country, Romulo Gallegos, overthrown within months with a military coup that steered by Marcos Perez Jimenez. After ten years of the military rule once again, Admiral Wolfgang Larrazabal displaces Jimenez and brings back elections.

In following years, country's economy increases thanks to oil trade and its peaks against US Dollar. That being said, rapid growth causes an economic depression in Venezuela during the reign of Carlos Andres Perez (1974-79, 1989-93), elected president, who tries to conduct an austerity programme with the fund generated by IMF. This plan backfires and causes dozens of protests, hunger strikes and clashes between civilians and police force, resulting hundreds of deaths. In the year of 1992, led by Colonel Hugo Chavez and his supporters, a group of military officials tried to make a coup, failing at both.

B. 1998 Elections and Hugo Chavez

When the calendars showed the date of 1998's Venezuelan elections, among the nominees, Hugo Chavez could be seen with his party MVR (The Fifth Republic Party) who had a promising campaigning scheme that focused on three major points; ending corruption, abolishing *puntofijismo*, a two-party-dominated political system and resolving the problem of increasing poverty.

In order to understand the impact of his promises, it must be pointed out that each problem mentioned was triggering the expansion of other ones until given time, creating a vicious circle. Venezuela had a problematic history with economics that caused five different recession eras in less than ten years, among the reasons corruption and incapability of government could be shown. With the effects of recessions, a number of people living under the poverty line rose significantly, widened the gap between poor and rich, generally seen as political elites that dominating the political scene.

Because of the given reasons, alongside with the failure of other nominee's present, he managed to have large amounts of support from the poor and other unsatisfied portions of people. He won the election with nearly %56, as never candidate managed to do so for forty years, however, with an unseen amount of low turnout (Nelson,2009).

C. Presidency of Hugo Chavez (1999-2013)

1. Presidency of Chavez Between 1999-2002

As soon as his placement on the office in 1999's February, he plans to start series of programmes in order to fulfil his promises, specifically centring his campaign's political-system-change and anti-poverty aspects. However, oil prices that have the sheer volume of effect on Venezuela's economy fall down to a historically low point, shaking the economy once again and changing the priorities of Chavez government. Chain of changes starts to take place in the oil industry with a remarkable increase of focus on nationalisation of several holdings

including oil companies (Ellner, 2005) and attempts of renegotiation with the private oil industry while encouraging other OPEC countries to follow the same trend.

With the belief of changes will improve the economy incrementally, Chavez starts series of social plans that he has been designing, naming it *Plan Bolivar 2000*. This plan that has a variety of aims from increasing the number of vaccinations to the construction of houses and public services and puts into operation jointly with military forces. However, its criticised by some, claiming it costs almost five times higher than expected (Marcano & Tyzska, 2007) and encourages the military to intervene to social life, causing dissatisfaction by other communities and further corruption which will plant the seeds of the military coup that will take place in 2002.

In the period between April and December, 350 article-length new constitutions that will provide more power to president and strips of a portion of former powers of National Assembly, the parliament of the Venezuela, being approved with a referendum.

Simultaneously on the world market, oil prices started to rapidly increase in Chavez's first year – giving him the capability of implementing his planned changes that he centred around 49 different law. on the Venezuelan society that approved by the poor and condemned by the rich. For example; a plan of Chavez takes place in the same year, this time as a land reform. However, different than most of the examples of land reforms through the history, *Ley de Tierras* (The Land Law) was mainly focusing on giving legal recognition to the makeshift homes that constructed illegally in previous years, as well as an increase in taxes on large-land owners, that criticised by farm owners. Alongside with it, government, first in its history, starts state-funded healthcare system, free education and increase in poor relief.

2. Presidency of Chavez Between 2002-2010

After controversial steps taken by government, which includes close relations with ‘problematic’ leaders such as Gaddafi of Libya and Saddam Husein of Iraq in addition to Fidel Castro of Cuba and huge increase socialist propaganda that do exist from school books to political agenda. Additionally, this re-creation of Cuba image in Venezuela triggered the emergence of paramilitary groups that had a huge and negative impact on the popularity of Chavez (Nelson, 2009).

On 11th of April 2002, a group of high-level military personnel led by a right-winged businessman named Pedro Carmona attempts *coup d'état* on 11th of April 2002. However, after 48 hours, loyalists in army seizes the control back and recovers the presidency of Chavez. This event, even though followed by series of opposition members’ strikes and protests, was the peak point of threats directed to Chavez’s government, at least until 2010. After establishing his control over the military and placing his political allies into important decision-making roles in various positions across the country, Chavez continues his reforms that started to be harder to fund. However, due to rising prices of oil, which was consisting its %50 of government income, programmes were still in place and active. According to the Venezuelan government, results were highly satisfactory; remarkable decrease in poverty, the creation of social programmes with the rise in the number of educated people.

In 2005, promotion of his anti-capitalist agenda starts to influence country’s external policies. Chavez government decides to increase their ties with Iran, China, Russia and other “anti-capitalist” countries, especially after calling American President George W. Bush “a devil”. This followed by, at the end of the year of 2006, a radical and contradictory offer made by Chavez, just after reclaiming his victory on re-election. Creation of one single party under his leadership, named *Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela* (United Socialist Party of Venezuela) from his and other political parties supporting his “Bolivian Revolution”, which opposition refused to join. New party starts a chain of nationalisation and centralisation of private sector-

owned telecom, several oil and electricity companies alongside with Central Bank, replacing it with Bank of The South with the aim of “funding projects around the Southern America”.

Until the year of 2012, concerns over authoritarianism, suppression of media, human rights abuses, limitation on freedom of expression has been on the rise and a controversial president Chavez was still ruling the country with an almost no-real challenge. However, due to rapidly falling oil prices that vital for the Venezuelan economy and mentioned plans for the society, support for him was running low and this emergence showed itself in the percentage of turnout to elections of 2012, decreasing to almost %50. Even with historically low turnout level, opposition candidate Henrique Capriles managed to have %44.

3. Death of Chavez and Presidency of Nicolas Maduro (2013-...)

Chavez passed away because of cancer in the year of 2013's March. His prime minister Nicolas Maduro announces his death and points out new elections will take place in less than a month, narrowly defeats the opposition candidate. One of his first steps as president was putting *Plan Patria Segura* which include increased surveillance, random checkpoints and by establishing other sorts of control mechanisms, justifying it by saying “fighting for a secure homeland”. Chavez's legacy in last years of his life continues with Maduro: increasing centralism, oppressive governance with oppression. However, in the year of 2015, coalition managed to have more seats than the Maduro's party. Maduro's response was taking the control of the Supreme Court of Venezuela by firing several judges and replacing them with his supporters. In the March of the following year, he tries to overrule National Assembly but fails, triggers continuous protests all around the country.

The economic and social situation worsens following the event, inflation skyrockets to 946% (CATO Institute) as well as CPI (Consumer Price Index) to 2146.10 (*Banco Central de Venezuela*, 2017). Almost no international reserves left in the hands of the government and

according to The Economist article, "Over the past year around three-quarters of Venezuelans have lost weight, averaging 8.7kg per person, because of a scarcity of food" (The Economist, 2017).

In the year of 2016, Maduro creates an assembly called National Constituent Assembly which eventually re-writes the constitution of the country and replaces National Assembly. Following year, elections take place again with even lower due to opposition's boycott and results with Maduro's victory – later on, followed by the arrests of several opposition leaders by police forces. Currently, it is known that Venezuelan government, in order to sustain itself, is borrowing large amounts of money from People's Republic of China and Russian Federation.

VI. Involved Major Parties

A. Political Parties

1. Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela / United Socialist Party of Venezuela

Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela, hereinafter PSUV, is a socialist party led by Hugo Chavez who encouraged all left-wing parties in December 2006 to dissolve into PSUV and create a single party named as the united Socialist Party of Venezuela. The formulation of PSUV had two essentials: the socialism of the twenty first century and the goals of the Bolivarian Revolution. The party has seven ideals, yet the party doesn't explain how to achieve them. Goals: Defence of the Revolution, Internationalism, Build-Popular Power. Socialize Power, Planned Economy, Communal State, Defence of Nature, Planned Production, Defence of the Revolution and Sovereignty, A State Based on Popular Power.

After the death of Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Mundo became the president. Falling oil prices and the economic crisis of Venezuela caused the party to be referred as weak.

2. Comite de Organizacion Politica Electoral Independiente / The Committee for the Organization of Independent Electoral Politics

The Committee for the Organization of Independent Electoral Politics, referred to as COPEI, is a Christian democratic party established in 1946 after World War II.

"The real drama of this regime is hunger and the economy," Molina, a member of the opposition Social Christian Party, said. "It's not the politics that are going to take this government down, it's the economy, it's the hunger. The economy in Venezuela is being strangled."

3. Mesa de Unidad Democrática/ Democratic Unity Round Table

The opposition party obtained fifty-six percent majority in National Assembly in December 2015. The opposition demands new election for Maduro and the restoration of the power of the National Assembly. The MUD has been divided currently over strategy and policy with the government.

4. Anti-imperialist and Antifascist Popular Front

On May twenty-third, the Communist Party of Venezuela, referred as to PCV, announced the foundation of the Anti-imperialist and Antifascist Popular Front, hereinafter AAPF, with participation of the Communist Party of Venezuela, Homeland for All (*Patria para Todos*), Networks (*Redes*), Revolutionary Labor Party (*Partido Revolucionario del Trabajo*), Brave South (*Bravo Sur*), Anti-Imperialist Voices (*Voces Antiimperialistas*), and *Gayones*, with a declaration.

The declaration points out to the profound political, economic and social crisis in Venezuela, as the reason for establishment of the Popular Front. The declaration underlines that the Popular Front aims to respond to need to mobilize without delay the broad anti-imperialist alliance in order to defeat the terrorist and pro-coup conspiracy, to create the joint action and articulation

between the revolutionary organizations, the forces of the workers' and popular movement, and the patriotic officers of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces.

B. Non-Governmental Organizations

United Nations Watch urged the secretary general of United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, to respond to the appeal by fifty Venezuelan non-governmental organizations, hereinafter NGOs, expressing their anger to United Nations humanitarian agencies such as Pan American Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, UNDP, United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and World Health Organization that are recognizing the regime of President Nicolas Maduro and ignoring the current situation in Venezuela by taking passive stances. Some of these Venezuelan NGOs are: Acción Solidaria, Centro de Educación y Capacitación para la Vida, Centro de Justicia y Paz, Civilis Derechos Humanos, FUNCAMAMA, Red Rosa, Red de Activistas Ciudadanos por los Derechos Humanos, Transparencia Venezuela.

C. Countries

Brazil: At first, Brazilian government kept quiet and intended to promote political changes inside its borders, but their own political turmoil restrained them to take further steps. Brazilian media suggests that Brazil might be the next Venezuela regarding its current political crisis. Brazil is facing with a huge forced migration like Colombia and Argentina. Approximately eighty thousand Venezuelans poured into Brazil between 2015 and 2016 and there are approximately ten thousand who have officially claimed asylum in 2017.

Canada: The Canadian sanctions came after U.S. President Donald Trump criticized Venezuela. Canada sanctioned forty Venezuelan government officials and individuals, including President Nicolas Maduro.

China: China is an important element to highlight the significance of Venezuela which is the foremost receiver of Chinese investments in Latin America. By the end of 2015, the China Development Bank and the China Exports-Imports Bank conveyed nearly sixty-five billion US dollars to projects in Venezuela, which represents more than half of the total debt of Latin America. Bankrupt Venezuela owes twenty-eight billion dollars to China.

Russian Federation: Russia agreed with Venezuela over the past years. During the first months of 2017, there had been a delay of Venezuelan oil deliveries to Russia and this became a reason of concern for the countries engaged in the relationship. Venezuela is now dealing with Russia to delay the repayment of more than three billion dollars of its debts. The full amount need to be paid back within four years. Bankrupt Venezuela also owes eight billion dollars to Russia.

United States of America: Venezuela ended the relationship with USA in 1999. Nowadays, President Donald Trump announced new sanctions against Nicolas Maduro. On July 26, the U.S. officially sanctioned thirteen current and former government officials in Venezuela, warning that it could impose harsher sanctions if Maduro carried out vote. Neither the Trump administration nor the U.S. military has offered any signs that military intervention in Venezuela is necessary, but Latin American media quoted a U.S. military report expressing concern over the “destabilizing” crisis in the region.

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru have signed the “Lima Declaration” to condemn the Venezuela’s democratic order on eight of August.

VII. Timeline

April 2013	Largely supported President Hugo Chavez dies because of cancer.
March 2014	Anti-government protests due to poor security spread to capital city Caracas.
November 2014	First cut of public spending, given reason is decreasing oil prices.
December 2015	Opposition parties win a majority of seats in National Congress, ending 16-year Socialist domination in Congress.
February 2016	President Maduro declares measures, such as rise in oil prices and currency devaluation.
September 2016	More than hundred thousand gathers for a protest in capital city against Maduro.
March 2017	The Supreme Court, steered by the government, takes the legislative powers of Opposition controlled Congress, triggering large-scale protests again.
April 1st, 2017	Court steps back and gives legislative powers back, however, protests continue.
April 19th, 2017	Protests turn into even larger-scaled ones.
May 3th, 2017	Maduro announces an election for a newly founded body, Constituent Assembly, that will have enough power to rewrite country's constitution and sweep Congress's powers.
May 18th, 2017	The death toll in protests reach 45, USA imposes sanctions on Supreme Court's members.
June 20th, 2017	Oscar Perez, a police officer and actor, throws grenades to the Congress with a stolen helicopter, causing injuries.

June 27th, 2017	Opposition announces their plans for an independent referendum, as a response to Maduro's upcoming elections.
July 3rd, 2017	Referendum by Opposition, being a symbolic one, takes place.
July 28th, 2017	Death toll exceeds 100, USA orders embassy workers' family members to leave the country.
July 30th, 2017	Venezuelan government holds a vote for Constituent Assembly, which boycotted by Opposition. The result is in favour.
July 31th, 2017	The USA imposes a new series of sanctions, restricting Americans to conduct a business with Venezuela.
August 1st, 2017	Two Opposition leaders forcefully taken from their homes into custody.
August 2nd, 2017	UK-based overseeing company Smartmatic declares elections as manipulated.
August 4th, 2017	Constituent Assembly opens its doors.
August 5th, 2017	Attorney General Luisa Ortega is fired with the decision of Constituent Assembly, being replaced with pro-government Tarek William Saab.
August 6th, 2017	Venezuelan authorities claim that they have stopped a military action targeting the government in the city of Valencia.

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