

# OGMUN - SHSID

Model United Nations Conference

牛津大学-上海中学国际部国际模拟联合国大会

## 2026

# Organization of American States (OAS)



#BACKGROUND GUIDE

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# Letter to delegates

Dear Delegates,

We are very much looking forward to meeting you all at the conference. The topic we are discussing is an ongoing issue, and has been one of the most relevant issues of the start of 2026.

The OAS is a regional body which has been very important in the diplomatic life of the Americas, and which has played an important role throughout its existence, including by mediating border disputes and other security issues. The issue of Venezuela is probably of the biggest challenges it has faced in the 21st century, and its approach to the status of the country in the organisation, as well as broader actions it can undertake, can set the tone for the relations within the Americas for years to come.

In light of this, we are particularly looking forward to hearing your ideas on how to approach this complex and ever-shifting issue. We hope that your ideas can contribute meaningfully to a pressing and topical problem, and give you insights into a different region of the world. We cannot wait to meet you in Shanghai!

All best wishes,  
OGMUN SHSID team

# Introduction to the OAS

The OAS' work is varied, and like the much larger United Nations, it goes far beyond sessions of the General Assembly, encompassing several organs pertaining to various matters; but of greatest importance for our session is their work in development, security and regional stability. The OAS is an important regional body which aims to promote integration across American states, and particularly to boost the region's participation in the international scenario. Due to this, delegates are encouraged to reflect on how the actions they propose will reflect beyond the limits of the Americas and contribute more broadly to global discussions.

The topic of Venezuela is a pressing one for the OAS, and it has been something of a focus of various organs of the OAS, perhaps especially the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, since 2010 but in particular since concerns around emigration from Venezuela to surrounding countries. Furthermore, the recent invasion by the United States and the forcible removal of President Nicolás Maduro have emphasised the precarious situation in the country, and highlighted the urgency of regional action. If the purpose of the OAS is to ensure the presence of international law and security in the Americas, then trust in the organisation could undoubtedly wane if it fails to realise these goals in Venezuela. Furthermore, the organisation seeks to continually become more efficient in its working areas; looking ahead to a future in which the resources available to the OAS may only become more stretched, the Organisation must consider its internal mechanisms in order to ensure that it remains effective in this field.

# History of the OAS

The Organisation of American States (OAS) was founded in 1948, having grown out of the Pan-American union, which held a series of nine conferences from the *First International Conference of American States* of 1889-1890, to the Second World War.<sup>1</sup> In 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's inter-American conference in Buenos Aires saw the proposal of Colombia, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic for the creation of a 'League of Nations of the Americas'.<sup>2</sup> However, it would not be until 1948, that is to say, after most of the Second World War, that the charter of the OAS would be drafted and signed. The founding direction of the OAS is often seen as being informed by a modern interpretation of the 1823 Monroe Doctrine, namely along the lines of non-interventionism and multilateralism, but equally by the principles of collective security, and concern for human rights and regional development.<sup>3</sup> This is highlighted in the 1959 inception of both the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Development Bank, and the following year's Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance.

The General Assembly, which functions as the supreme organ of the OAS, was established in 1970. The organisation grew as a number of newly-independent Caribbean nations joined through the late 1960s, and the last major holdout, Canada, joined in 1990.<sup>4</sup> There are seventy permanent observer states, as well as the European Union.<sup>5</sup>

The stated goals of the organisation have changed over time; it now follows a four-pronged approach, which looks at democracy, human rights, security and development, which, it claims, 'support each other and are intertwined through

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<sup>1</sup> "Organization of American States (OAS)." *Britannica Online Academic Edition* (2019): Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. Web.

<sup>2</sup> "League of Nations in Americas Urged by 3 Latin States" *The New York Times*, 13 April 1936, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> "Organization of American States (OAS)." *Britannica Online Academic Edition* (2019): Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. Web.

<sup>4</sup> "Organization of American States (OAS)." *Britannica Academic* (2011): Encyclopædia Britannica

<sup>5</sup> "Permanent Observers." *Organisation of American States*, accessed 28 August 2019 [http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/perm\\_observers/countries.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/perm_observers/countries.asp)

political dialogue, inclusiveness, cooperation, and legal and follow-up instruments that provide the OAS with the tools to maximise its work'.<sup>6</sup>

Notable major past actions include the settling of border disputes. For example, it was instrumental in negotiating a lasting ceasefire in the 1969 'Football War' between Nicaragua and El Salvador.<sup>7</sup> Honduras' membership was suspended from 2009 to 2011 amidst a constitutional crisis.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> "What we do." *Organisation of American States*, accessed 28 August 2019  
[http://www.oas.org/en/about/what\\_we\\_do.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/about/what_we_do.asp)

<sup>7</sup> Luckhurst, T., "Honduras v El Salvador: The football match that kicked off a war." *BBC News Online*, 27 June 2019

<sup>8</sup> "Americas group suspends Honduras." *BBC News Online*, 5 July 2009

# The status of Venezuela in the OAS

## Statement of the Problem

The situation in Venezuela has become a regular subject for debate in the OAS, along with the wider world of multilateral diplomacy. Often referred to as being simultaneously a political, economic and humanitarian crisis', the situation developed out of policy changes after the turn of the millennium, causing a spell of hyperinflation and unleashing subsequent economic consequences. In addition, the latter has created increased immigration from Venezuela, displacing over 7 million people according to the UN Refugee Agency<sup>9</sup>.

In the latter half of the 2010s, the political crisis escalated, with the Maduro government citing 'interventionist' behaviour by the OAS as a reason for initiating procedures to leave the organisation. This followed a meeting by the OAS to discuss the expulsion of Venezuela from the organisation. The organisation believed, at the time, that this would pressure the Venezuelan government to address some of the issues it was concerned with, such as economic reform.

In 2018, economic upset became political when Juan Guaidó emerged to challenge the incumbent president, Nicolás Maduro. This created turmoil with the international community being split on their support for either the official Maduro government or the interim government of Guaidó. At the time, Maduro expressed the desire to leave the OAS, while Guaidó wanted to maintain membership; the OAS recognised the latter, however, that interim government was dissolved. Currently, the country exists in a diplomatic limbo, and further escalation and instability make the status of Venezuela in the OAS a pressing issue for the organisation and for the Americas more broadly.

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<sup>9</sup> UNHCR, 'Venezuela Situation' (UNHCR, n.d.) <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/emergencies/venezuela-situation>

## History of the Problem

### Modern Venezuela, and the OAS

Venezuela, then the Republic of Venezuela (Spanish: *República de Venezuela*), entered the Inter-American system in 1998,<sup>10</sup> under the presidency of Rafael Caldera. A year later, the country became the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Spanish: *República Bolivariana de Venezuela*), named after the eighteenth-century Venezuelan military and political leader Simón Bolívar, in a change brought about by the 1999 Constitution. The constitution, which was drafted under the auspices of new President Hugo Chávez, is notable for weakening the power of the legislature and increasing the term length of the President (though term lengths would later be abolished altogether in a 2009 referendum, and Chávez would govern until his death in 2013).<sup>11</sup>

The relationship between Venezuela and the OAS deteriorated in the last decade, particularly since the economic crisis, which will be discussed below. The difficulties trace back to the OAS adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (Democratic Charter) in 2001, and the challenges the organisation posed to the Venezuelan government, especially since the transition from Chávez to Maduro. As an organisation comprised of several states, the support for OAS resolutions concerning Venezuela became divided<sup>12</sup>. Simultaneously, the Venezuelan government highlighted this divide, claiming that the geopolitical tensions with the US government and its allies influence OAS decisions. The situation came to a head following the economic crisis and the following political crisis in 2017-18.

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<sup>10</sup> "Member State: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)", *Organisation of American States*, accessed 28 August 2019 [http://www.oas.org/en/member\\_states/member\\_state.asp?sCode=VEN](http://www.oas.org/en/member_states/member_state.asp?sCode=VEN)

<sup>11</sup> Braver, J., "Hannah Arendt in Venezuela: The Supreme Court battles Hugo Chávez over the creation of the 1999 Constitution", *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, Volume 14, Issue 3, July 2016, pp. 555–583, Oxford Academic.

<sup>12</sup> Johnson, S. (2019). Neorealism and the Organization of American States (OAS): An Examination of CARICOM Rationality Toward Venezuela and the United States. *SAGE Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244019887950>

## **Economic Crisis in Venezuela**

Before broaching the subject of political crisis in Venezuela, it is necessary to look at the economic and social conditions which could be said to either accompany or cause the later political crisis.

Venezuela once had the richest economy in Latin America, stemming from enormous deposits of oil, which are even larger than those of Saudi Arabia and Iran.<sup>13</sup> The idea of a crisis in Venezuela emerged as early as 2010, when, after a number of years of growing quality of life and economic promise, economic reforms ushered in a period of hyperinflation, and alimentary and medical shortages.<sup>14</sup> This crisis continued after Chávez's death in 2013, when Nicolás Maduro succeeded him as president.

However, both the Chávez and Maduro administrations highlight that economic difficulties are impacted by pressure from the United States and its political allies. This has created even further divisions within the OAS, with certain members siding with Venezuela and others with the US. With the implementation of sanctions, the Venezuelan government and its allies have consistently argued that part of the international community is furthering the crisis.

## **Political and Human Rights Crisis in Venezuela, 2018-present**

In 2018 Venezuela has been thrown into further political turmoil. The results of the 2018 Presidential Election were widely disputed; Nicolás Maduro claimed victory, but numerous irregularities were observed in the electoral process.<sup>15</sup> The OAS in Lima almost immediately approved a resolution of the Permanent Council declaring as illegitimate Maduro's presidency, urging new elections. Building upon the report of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights of February 12 2018 entitled "Democratic Institutionalism, rule of law and human rights in Venezuela," the resolution AG/Res 2929 (XLVIII-O / 18) of June 5 2018 emphasised

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<sup>13</sup> "The Crisis in Venezuela Was Years in the Making. Here's How It Happened.", *The New York Times*, 23 January 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/23/world/americas/venezuela-news-noticias.html>

<sup>14</sup> "Chávez declara "guerra económica" a burguesía en Venezuela." *El Universo*, 2 June 2010, <https://www.eluniverso.com/2010/06/02/1/1361/chavez-declara-guerra-economica-burguesia-venezuela.html>

<sup>15</sup> Hernández, J. I., "Rigged Elections: Venezuela's Failed Presidential Election." *Electoral Integrity Project*

that the electoral process lacked legitimacy and did not comply with international standards.

Opposition leader Juan Guaidó, with the backing of the National Assembly and the Supreme Tribunal of Justice (in exile in Panama), was sworn in as president on the 23rd January 2019, in spite of Maduro claiming an overwhelming victory, leaving the Western Hemisphere and the world divided on continued recognition of Maduro as President.

In a special meeting of January 2019, the Permanent Council of the OAS reiterated that it did not recognise the legitimacy of Nicolas Maduro's new term as President of Venezuela.<sup>16</sup> In April 2019, it recognised the legitimacy of Guaidó's envoy to the OAS, Mr H.E. Mr Gustavo Tarre Briceño. The recognition of Briceño as a representative of Venezuela had been decided by the Permanent Council as opposed to the General Assembly, this was voted upon on the 28<sup>th</sup>. With Uruguay having withdrawn in protest on the previous day, a majority of voting countries affirmed the position of the OAS in recognising Guaidó's envoy. However, Reuters reported that Bolivia, Mexico and Nicaragua expressed open disapproval to the opposition's presence.<sup>17</sup> The world was divided on its support for Maduro, or Guaidó (or, more generally, some support the National Assembly, of which Guaidó was the majority leader).

Maduro maintained that the United States sanctions for the present spell of economic hardship being faced by Venezuela. In the 8452<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the UN Security Council on 26 January 2019, Jorge Arreaza, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, claimed that the U.S. was taking advantage of the situation in order to meddle in domestic Venezuelan affairs, in addition to describing Guaidó's presidential self-proclamation as 'illegal'.

'Listing some of Washington, D.C.'s numerous aggressions and interventions across Latin America, he said the Government of President

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<sup>16</sup> "OAS Permanent Council Agrees "to not recognize the legitimacy of Nicolas Maduro's new term", *Organisation of American States*. See English Translation of Press Release E-001/19: [https://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_release.asp?sCodigo=E-001/19](https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-001/19)

<sup>17</sup> Acosta, L. J., "OAS meeting ends in disagreement over Venezuela opposition delegation", *Reuters*, 29 June 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-oas-vote/oas-meeting-ends-in-disagreement-over-venezuela-opposition-delegation-idUSKCN1TU023>

Donald Trump is trying to build a physical wall on its border with Mexico, while also erecting an “ideological wall” and resurrecting Cold War strategies aimed at bringing misery to Latin America.<sup>18</sup>

He estimated that unilateral sanctions imposed upon Venezuela amounted to around \$23 billion, which added to the economic turmoil. However, this has also been disputed by the US and its allies, which consider that the economic issues are caused by the government's own reforms.

While the OAS had voted to recognise Guaidó’s interim regime, this meant the situation between Maduro’s government and the organisation continued to deteriorate over the years. The status of the country as a member was also in limbo, with Guaidó maintaining the country in the OAS while Maduro left it. This situation became even more fraught with the end of the Guaidó interim government in 2023. This means that Venezuela is currently listed as a suspended/inactive member.

With this in mind, it is therefore the goal of the OAS to respond to the ongoing political discord and concerning reports concerning the humanitarian situation in Venezuela, and work towards finding a solution which guarantees peace, regional stability and respect for human rights. In order to achieve this, it is necessary first to engage in multilateral dialogue over whether the current situation of OAS membership is tenable and what other actions that OAS can undertake to support the solving of the crisis.

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<sup>18</sup> “With Venezuela Buckling under Severe Shortages, Security Council Emergency Session Calls for Political Solution to End Crisis, as Divisions Emerge over Path Forward.” *United Nations*, 26 January 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13680.doc.htm>

## **Current Situation**

### **The US intervention in Venezuela (2026)**

On the 3rd of January, the US launched a military strike in Venezuela and captured President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cillia Flores. The US justified this decision due to alleged ties of Maduro with narcoterrorism. In response, the Venezuelan vice-president (and current acting president), Delcy Rodríguez, classified the action as a kidnapping.

The international community had mixed reactions to the situation. Many Latin American countries condemned the action, with Brazil declaring it to cross 'an unacceptable line' and Colombian President Gustavo Petro calling it an assault on Latin American sovereignty<sup>19</sup>. However, other countries have highlighted that the situation escalated due to Venezuela's inability to answer to concerns of the international community<sup>20</sup>.

The OAS released an official statement highlighting the depth of the concerns, as well as the different perspectives across the hemisphere<sup>21</sup>. The organisation also noted the importance of building a stable governance and using the country's existing institutional arrangements<sup>22</sup>. The current scenario poses important challenges for the region, and situates the OAS as a space in which dialogue can occur. However, in order to do that, it is important for delegates to consider the status of Venezuela in the OAS, and how the organisation can interact with the current government to build regional stability.

### **The present diplomatic situation**

As mentioned, since the dissolution of the Guidó government in 2023, Venezuela's membership in the OAS remains unstable. The country is currently considered an

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<sup>19</sup> BBC, 'World leaders react to US attack on Venezuela' 4 January 2026  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czx1rpxzyx9o>

<sup>20</sup> BBC, "Trump's toppling of Maduro is fraught with risk - what happens next is unclear", 3 January 2026 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czx1rpxzyx9o>

<sup>21</sup> Organization of American States, 'Press Release E-001/26' (OAS, 2026)  
[https://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_release.asp?sCodigo=E-001/26](https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-001/26)

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

inactive/suspended member, and while the government had previously declared the desire to exit the organisation, the removal of Nicolás Maduro could signify a shift in the country's foreign policy. Simultaneously, the escalating situation in the country has raised concerns within the OAS, and the organisation is compelled to discuss how to address the crisis.

Internationally, the world remains divided in its approach to Venezuela. While there was widespread condemnation of the US action in 2026, several countries have expressed support for regime change<sup>23</sup>. This means that any OAS decisions need to take into account a complex international scenario.

Venezuela has been particularly supported by allies such as the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and India, all members of the BRICS. In Latin America, many governments have been aligned with the country, including Bolivia, Brazil, Nicaragua, and Uruguay. Other regional actors have been historically a bit more ambivalent, including Mexico, while the governments of both El Salvador and Argentina have supported US intervention. Other members of the OAS, such as Canada and the US itself, have also been critical of the Maduro government, with Canada closing its embassies in Venezuela in 2019<sup>24</sup>.

The position of a number of other European states, including Italy, Cyprus and Norway, is somewhat more nuanced. Italy has repeatedly voiced support for the National Assembly, but stopped short of completely supporting Guaidó in 2019, and instead supported fresh elections.<sup>25</sup>

Finally, a number of countries have voiced support for non-intervention, while still raising concerns over the then-Maduro government. An example of this is the EU – its member states have not uniformly condemned US action, and have been vocal in hoping that the current situation might metamorphose into widespread

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<sup>23</sup> Reuters, 'World Reacts to US Strikes on Venezuela' (Reuters, 3 January 2026) <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/world-reacts-us-strikes-venezuela-2026-01-03/>

<sup>24</sup> Government of Canada, Global Affairs Canada, 'Canada Reacts to the Situation in Venezuela' (3 January 2026) <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2026/01/canada-reacts-to-the-situation-in-venezuela.html>

<sup>25</sup> "Italy blocks EU's bid to get tough on Venezuela." *The Local*, 19 February 2019.

political and economic reform in the country<sup>26</sup>. Globally, this includes India, Indonesia, and New Zealand; in the Western Hemisphere, OAS member states Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago also take this position.

In recent weeks, Venezuela has boosted oil exports to India<sup>27</sup>, signalling a potential future collaboration. The reintegration of the US into the Venezuelan oil market also signals a win for the Trump administration, which has aimed to regain access to the former. The economic aspects of the political situation – both internally for the Venezuelan people, and externally due to the international economy’s reliance on oil exports – add to the prominence of the issue in the global scenario.

However, with the advent of the US operation earlier this year, the international community has raised concerns about the upholding of international law. This has increased the importance of a unified OAS approach to the situation in the country.

### **The humanitarian situation in Venezuela**

The Human Rights situation in Venezuela has been broadly condemned by observers. In early 2019, as part of its World Report 2019, the NGO Human Rights Watch observed persistent violations of international Human Rights law, and furthermore noted persistent impunity for Human Rights abuses. This comes in addition to allegations of extrajudicial killings.<sup>28</sup>

Furthermore, a report on *Human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was compiled in 2025, highlighting that citizens “ continued to face significant challenges in accessing health services, decent work,

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<sup>26</sup> The Guardian, European leaders appear torn in face of new world order after Venezuela attack, 4 January 2026. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/04/venezuela-european-leaders-divided-and-torn-in-response-to-us-ousting-of-maduro>

<sup>27</sup> Times of India, ‘How Venezuela is chartering very large crude carriers – with focus on boosting oil exports to India’, 25 February 2026. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/how-venezuela-is-chartering-very-large-crude-carriers-with-focus-on-boosting-oil-exports-to-india/articleshow/128777018.cms>

<sup>28</sup> “Venezuela Events of 2018.” *Human Rights Watch*, accessed 29 August 2019 <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/venezuela#5c1ee9>

and an adequate standard of living” in Venezuela<sup>29</sup>. The report also noted that increased sanctions could worsen this scenario and highlighted that the Venezuelan government had committed to working with the UN to address these challenges.

Previous reports consistently reported scarcities of food and unaffordability (due in part to hyperinflation and further economic difficulties). It notes that the lack of access to food has a particularly adverse effect on women, who are the primary caregivers. A 2019 report has also noted the seriousness of the ‘situation regarding the right to health in Venezuela as dire,’<sup>30</sup> citing lack of access to almost all kinds of contraceptives in some cities, and reduced access to essential medicines across the country. Venezuela has previously requested and accepted foreign aid, but not enough to plug the gap in supplies of food. Currently, with the growth of instability following the removal of Maduro, international organisations are worried that access to food and medication will deteriorate. The debates around Venezuela’s status as an OAS member should also take into account if and how the organisation will support the country during this period.

## **Refugees and Emigration**

As previously mentioned, it is also important to note the extent of outward migration from Venezuela when assessing the current situation and ramifications for neighbouring states; the number of people leaving Venezuela has consistently increased over the last decade. It is believed that the lack of access to food and healthcare violations of the rights to food and health are the primary drivers for this large migration.<sup>31</sup> The growth of instability could fuel this crisis, and create

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<sup>29</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Situation of Human Rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Report’, 2025.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5958-situation-human-rights-bolivarian-republic-venezuela-report>

<sup>30</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Situation of Human Rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Report’, 2025.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5958-situation-human-rights-bolivarian-republic-venezuela-report>

<sup>31</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Situation of Human Rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Report’ 2025  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5958-situation-human-rights-bolivarian-republic-venezuela-report>

further displacement in the region. There are some potential improvements on the horizon, with Delcy Rodriguez welcoming Venezuelans who had previously been exiled<sup>32</sup>. The OAS is particularly concerned with how it can support effective measures to solve the migration element of this issue, and whether Venezuelan membership of the OAS would aid in this development. This issue primarily affects other countries in Latin America, but it also has repercussions throughout the continent. Colombia is currently hosting the highest number of Venezuelans, followed by Peru, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador and Brazil.

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<sup>32</sup> France 24, 'Venezuela petitions UN for Maduro release' February 2026.  
<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20260223-venezuela-petitions-un-for-maduro-release>

# Relevant OAS Actions

The OAS's actions on Venezuela are numerous and do not consistently enjoy universal support amongst voting members; actions passed, however, have been critical of the previous Maduro government and concerned with the economic and humanitarian crises in the country. The organisation has raised issues with previous electoral processes in the country and highlighted its worry about the well-being of Venezuelans.

As discussed, the OAS recognised Guaidó's representative in 2018, and this recognition triggered the process by which the status of Venezuela in the OAS became disputed. While the country had previously decided to withdraw from the organisation, the interim government announced it wanted to refute this claim and remain in the OAS. The organisation then had a representative of Guaidó's National Assembly, but the latter was dissolved. Now, with the situation changing in Venezuela since the US actions and the removal of Maduro, there is the potential for the rebuilding of OAS-Venezuela relations.

## Proposed Solutions

Solutions need to bear in mind the diverging views within the OAS, and seek to create a space in which consensus can be built. Historically, OAS members have hesitated to resort to the use of sanctions, and equally many hesitate to empower independent monitoring agencies;<sup>33</sup> however, certain countries might be disposed to enforce stronger measures to promote stability. In particular, the US and countries aligned with US policy have highlighted their concerns with the current government and would be reluctant to welcome Venezuela as a full OAS member without important concessions.

On the other hand, Venezuela's allies in the hemisphere see this as a turning point for the OAS, and to ensure the organisation fully represents the sovereignty of all the region's states. Important diplomatic powers such as Mexico and Brazil have expressed their concerns that they view as US intervention and breaches of

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<sup>33</sup> Lee, B., Renwick, D., « The Organisation of American States », *Council on Foreign Relations*, April 11 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/background/organization-american-states>

international laws and agreements. There is the risk that stronger measures could be interpreted as undermining internal affairs in the country, which would be unpopular amongst governments sympathetic to Maduro (for example, Bolivia, Dominica, Grenada and Nicaragua).

Other resolutions might seek to put measures in place which deal with the humanitarian consequences of the crisis, and furthermore, the impact of emigration on neighbouring states (such as Colombia). Delegates are also engaged with the status of Venezuela in the OAS; the majority of states, it should be remembered, have supported Guadó's delegate as a representative of Venezuela and its people.

# Bloc Positions

## The US and other Western Allies

The United States is possibly the most pro-regime change power, and it enjoys the support of other Western Nations, as well as within the OAS itself. The current US actions in Venezuela show that the current administration is willing to undertake direct forceful action to safeguard interests in the region. However, despite being opposed to the current Venezuelan government, other Western nations are also concerned with the maintenance of principles of non-intervention and sovereignty. This is the case of many of the states which are part of the European Union, for example. Therefore, they will be more critical of direct interference, while supporting reform and advocating for crisis stabilisation.

## The BRICS

This international bloc is not fully unified in its approach to Venezuela, though the majority (South Africa, Russia, China and Brazil) being the most critical of the US action and highlighting the importance of maintaining Venezuela's sovereignty. India has historically been more neutral on the issue – its government has not condemned US actions, however, it has expressed its deep concern with the well-being of the Venezuelan people<sup>34</sup>. This critical position of the BRICS showcases that the geopolitics surrounding Venezuela are linked with broader geopolitical disputes, highlighting the sensitivity of the issue.

## OAS member states

The OAS member states remain divided on the issue of Venezuela, with countries such as Bolivia, Uruguay and Colombia expressing deep concern over the recent US military actions. Similarly, many Caribbean countries have previously been allies of Maduro and are looking forward to a solution that brings further political

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<sup>34</sup> The Diplomat, 'India Avoids Ruffling Trump's Feathers over Military Strikes on Venezuela', 6 January 2026. <https://thediplomat.com/2026/01/india-avoids-ruffling-trumps-feathers-over-military-strikes-on-venezuela/>

stability. Recently, a statement was released by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay (as well as Spain) expressing a desire for the crisis to be resolved through peaceful means, without external interference and respecting international law<sup>35</sup>. On the other hand, countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, as well as Argentina and Canada have expressed support for a government change and have not condemned the US' actions.

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<sup>35</sup> La Moncloa, 'Statement on Venezuela', 4 January 2026.

<https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/news/Paginas/2026/20260104-statement-on-venezuela.aspx>

# Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- The first major question must concern the position of Venezuela in the OAS; Maduro, at the time of being removed from the OAS, contended that he had no ambition of engaging with the OAS, however, the political situation has changed, potentially opening an avenue for reintegration of the country into the OAS. With this in mind, how should the OAS conduct its affairs with Venezuela?
- How can the situation in Venezuela be de-escalated whilst emphasising the need for peace and taking into account the different regional and international perspectives?
- How can individual member states contribute to finding a peaceful and mutually beneficial outcome (for instance, in looking at humanitarian issues and migration in particular)?
- What initiatives can the OAS sponsor or support in the country and/or region, and would there be any conditions for these to be implemented?
- How can the OAS more effectively represent the varying concerns of its member states to ensure the organisation remains responsive to crises?

## Further Reading

The sources below can be of use when researching the broader situation in Venezuela and the issues that the OAS must contend with while discussing the country's presence in the organisation.

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United Nations Security Council, 'Meetings and Press Statements on Venezuela'  
(United Nations, 2026) <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

World Food Programme, 'Venezuela Country Brief' (WFP, 2026)  
<https://www.wfp.org/countries/venezuela-bolivarian-republic>  
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