

**Speech by the President of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, MP.
Juan Guaido**

There is no parliamentary governance in Venezuela

August 20, 2020

Dear President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Dear Speakers of Parliament of the World :

I thank the Inter-Parliamentary Union not only for allowing me to address you today, but also for the support and solidarity you have demonstrated in the face of the continuous attacks against the National Assembly of Venezuela and its Members, who have been persecuted, attacked and imprisoned since 2016, when the administration of the ONLY LEGITIMALLY ELECTED BODY IN VENEZUELA effectively began.

We are here today to talk about parliamentary governance. It is well known that the legislative branch is the most direct link between citizens and their government, and that is exactly why the Maduro regime wants to destroy it. It is no secret that Nicolas Maduro's tyrant dictatorship has acted as an outlaw and usurper regime, whose only strategic objective is to maintain and perpetuate itself in power at any cost. That is why Maduro has damaged and altered one of the key principles of any Modern Democracy. That is, "the division, autonomy and balance of public powers".

It must be clearly stated that the attacks against the National Assembly have continued and worsened, through events such as the violent seizure of the Assembly's headquarters by military forces on January 5, preventing democratically elected MPs from entering the premises. In addition, using corruption mechanisms, Maduro appointed a parallel board of directors within the National Assembly without even having the required quorum, because in spite of all his tricks, he cannot manage to break the resounding majority of the democratic forces in our Parliament.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that, in Venezuela, we are not only fighting against a classic dictatorship that curtails both individual and collective freedoms. We are also fighting against a Criminal Corporation that is based on the support and non-cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the support and funding of irregular and terrorist groups, links with international drug trafficking networks and with groups that promote illegal mining and extract minerals that are considered by the UN as "blood gold".

The tyrant regime of Nicolás Maduro Moros has driven Venezuela into a complex humanitarian emergency, which constitutes the worst crisis in the history of our country, surpassing even that of the War of Independence. Their sole interest is to maintain and perpetuate themselves in power. All this has provoked an unprecedented exodus, in which at least 5.5 million Venezuelans have left the country fleeing the crisis and searching for new opportunities in other latitudes.

Maduro wants to put an end to the current National Assembly by means of an electoral fraud to be carried out next December. For this purpose, he illegally seized the functions of the National Assembly by appointing the directors of the National Electoral Council (CNE), in clear violation of Articles 295 and 296 of the Venezuelan Constitution, which state that this can only happen through the establishment of the Assembly's Nominations Committee.

In addition, our political parties have been hijacked by Nicolas Maduro, who illegally appointed figures linked to the regime as party authorities. Therefore, the necessary conditions for participation do not currently exist in Venezuela.

Hence, cohabitation with the Maduro dictatorship IS NOT, NOR SHOULD IT BE, AN OPTION FOR ANY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

We are already clear on the WHAT. Now, HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE IT?

For all the reasons mentioned above, we ask all our parliamentary colleagues:

- To reject the parliamentary fraud that the Maduro regime wants to carry out on December 6th.
- Due to the worsening of the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we request your support for the urgent constitution and implementation of a National Emergency Government, with the participation of all political sectors of Venezuela. This would allow us to address humanitarian and social problems as a matter of priority, to re-institutionalize the country, and finally manage to call for free presidential and parliamentary elections, thus recovering democracy and establishing governance mechanisms. This National Emergency Government has the support of the National Assembly and is backed by 45 countries, including bodies such as the OAS, the Lima Group and the European Union.

As you have seen, dear parliamentary colleagues, we cannot talk about parliamentary governance in Venezuela, since the Venezuelan political system doesn't have the capacity to satisfy the needs of the governed, nor does it have the intangible elements linked to politics such as credibility, trust, equity, inclusion and transparency. In this sense, the National Assembly that I have the honor to preside is the only legitimate power that seeks to promote governance in the midst of a dynamic in which an usurper regime wishes to make Venezuela "a failed state" through its actions.

Thank you for your attention.