

# **YOUTH MUN** **MADRID** MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**Study Guide**  
**Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**  
**Topic: The Venezuelan Humanitarian Crisis and the**  
**consequences on the borders**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

- 1. ABOUT THE MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS**
- 2. ABOUT YOUTH MUN MADRID**
- 3. ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**
- 4. ABOUT TOPIC**
- 5. GUIDING QUESTIONS**

### **1. ABOUT THE MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS**

The Model United Nations is a simulation of the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, or other multilateral bodies, such as in this case the Human Rights Council.

The objective of this research process is for the delegate to identify the country's position on the issue he or she represents, in order to construct viable policies and solutions. To do this, the participant must study the history and current situation, its legal framework (treaties, resolutions, agreements, etc.), the positions and decisions that have arisen in favour or against, the groups or blocs that have been created, the proposals and solutions that have been presented, among others.

### **2. ABOUT YOUTH MUN MADRID**

Our mission is to empower tomorrow's leaders sensitized to the problems of the world through Model United Nations.

This initiative, promoted by the Social Promotion Foundation, was born in 2017 with the aim of raising awareness of global education amongst young people in the Community of Madrid through their participation in the United Nations Models.

The project arises from the need to promote Women's Empowerment so they could be "agents of change" for sustained economic growth, political stability, and social transformation of our country. For this reason, it currently relies on non-profit associations and educational centers with this concern.

The general objective is to favor the construction of a global citizenship aware of the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the engine of universal, inclusive and transversal change that promote the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The **position paper** can be sent **until 3 May 2022** to the following address:  
**youthmunmadrid@promocionsocial.org**

Important: Send a **word document** titled with the name of the committee and country you represent, e.g. 'HHRR USA'; 'ONU MUJER ALEMANIA'. The subject of the email should contain the same title ('HHRR USA'; 'ONU MUJER ALEMANIA').

Please note that you can consult the **rules of procedure** and other supporting documents for submitting the position paper and preparing the Conference on the online platform to which you have access: <https://online.youthmunmadrid.com/>.

**Dress code:**

Delegates' attire must be at all moments appropriate to the relevance of the event. Therefore, compliance with the so-called Western Business Attire is mandatory.

Female: full suit or blazer, with blouse or dress or formal shoe. No jeans or sneakers are acceptable. Cocktail dresses will neither be accepted.

Male: full suit or blazer and formal trousers (no jeans accepted), shirt, tie or bowtie, and formal shoes. Again neither sneakers nor cocktail clothes will be accepted.

**3. ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its; Institution-building package; to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.

## **4. ABOUT THE TOPIC: THE VENEZUELAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND THE CONSEQUENCES ON THE BORDERS**

### **4. 1. Topic background**

Throughout history Venezuelans have opened their arms to welcome immigrants from all over the world. After World War II around half a million Europeans migrated to Venezuela hoping to start a prosperous life. Venezuela has united the most different people<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, this land that was not so long ago a flourishing country, rapidly became one of the countries with the highest rates of poverty, with one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 21st century.

From 1999 to 2013 the former president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, established a welfare model in the country which included raising pensions, and building houses by expropriating private land. During his administration Venezuela's crime rate started increasing while the national currency, *El Bolívar*, started losing its value everyday, which can also be identified as currency devaluation. Some of the biggest consequences of the previous, was the hyperinflation in the country. Currently, it is higher than 1400%<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, considering that Venezuela used to be one of the biggest oil producers in the world, since the populist party gained power, the oil industry started deteriorating at a fast pace. The oil crisis in Venezuela, due to the poor management and corruption of the country's government, has raised the levels of poverty, being more than 76%<sup>3</sup> of the population, corruption, criminal activity, hyperinflation, emigration, insecurity, and scarcity of primary resources such as water, electricity, oil, gas, food, and many more.

Besides, it is important to mention the repression coming from the dictatorship that has taken many innocent lives due to the support from the Armed Forces.

Even though the crisis in Venezuela is a complex situation, the previous summary includes important aspects to consider the reasons behind the huge exodus that Venezuelans are passing through. A lot of people crossing the border have come to the realization that they have nothing else to lose. "No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land". This quote refers primarily to the migratory crisis in Cuba, but both Venezuela and

---

<sup>1</sup> Nations Encyclopedia. *Migration: Venezuela*. 2012. <https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Venezuela-MIGRATION.html>.

<sup>2</sup> World Data. *Development of inflation rates in Venezuela*. 2020. <https://www.worlddata.info/america/venezuela/inflation-rates.php>.

<sup>3</sup> Reuters. *Extreme Poverty in Venezuela*. US News. 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-09-29/extreme-poverty-in-venezuela-rises-to-766-study>.

Cuba could be considered parallel scenarios, taking into consideration the similarities between them, such as the common source, and analogous consequences.

#### **4. 2. International community: past actions**

In consequence of the crisis stated before, in 2020, representatives from Latin American countries hosting most Venezuelans who have fled met as part of the Quito Process, created in 2018 to chart a common response to the Venezuelan exodus. In a meeting in October, participating foreign ministers committed themselves to strengthening international cooperation to address Venezuela's migration and humanitarian crises<sup>4</sup>.

In May, the EU and Spain co-hosted the International Donors' Conference, which raised over €2.5 billion (US\$2.9 billion) to support Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region. The European Parliament adopted two resolutions on Venezuela, focusing both on the political and on the humanitarian crisis.

An estimated 7 million people needed humanitarian assistance in 2020, the UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Venezuela noted. The plan calls for \$762.5 million to assist 4.5 million of the most vulnerable Venezuelans<sup>5</sup>.

#### **4. 3. Statement of the problem**

The drop of oil price due to the USA measurements and the huge inflation Venezuela is suffering due to product shortage which causes prices to rise has led to a huge economical crisis. In fact, Venezuela's inflation was said to be the highest in the world by the Banco Central de Venezuela (BCV) which in 2021 closed with an annual accumulated inflation of 686.4%. However, it is common knowledge that the numbers given by the government authorities are not accurate, considering that in reality inflation is higher than 1400% and is constantly rising.

This economical crisis in addition to the political crisis which the country has undergone since 2013 due to the problems of Maduro's government led to a dramatic humanitarian crisis, which is denied by the president.

---

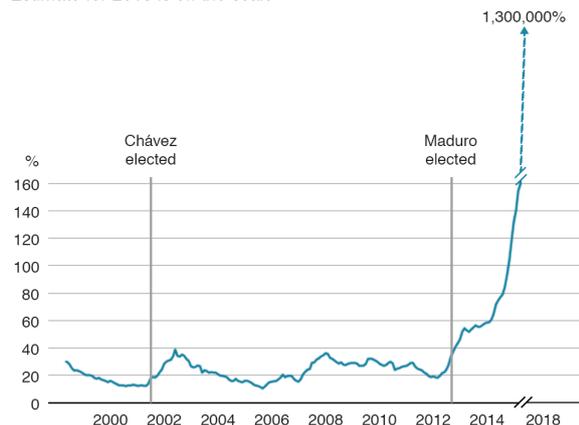
<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch. *World Report 2021: Venezuela*. 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/venezuela>.

<sup>5</sup> OCHA. *Venezuela: Humanitarian Response Plan with Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 (HRP)*. 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/venezuela-humanitarian-response-plan-humanitarian-needs>.

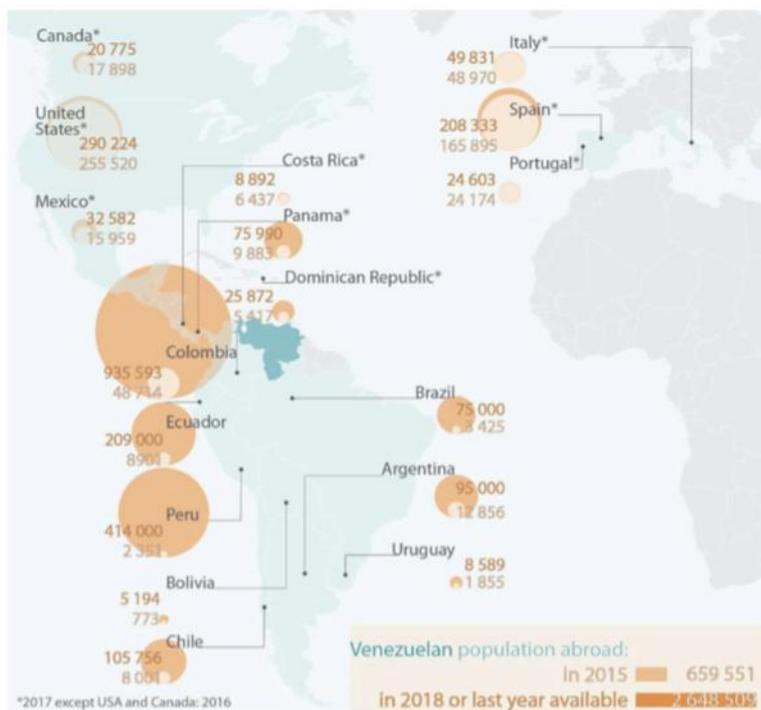
Venezuela is suffering an exodus as people want to run away from violence, threats, insecurities and the lack of food, medicines and essential services. More than 5 million Venezuelans are living in other countries, the majority of them in those which Venezuela has borders, becoming one of the biggest migratory crises in the world.

### Venezuela's inflation spiked after Maduro's election

Estimate for 2018 is off the scale



Source: Bloomberg/Reuters estimate for 2018



Source: UN International Organisation for Migration (IOM, September 2018), based on official available data and estimates.

The number on Venezuelan women, men and children leaving the country due to the crisis keeps growing and they arrive at the borders scared, tired and in situations of extreme necessity to be assisted. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimated that 1.1 million kids, considering those going out of their country, those going back

to it and those living in host and transit communities need protection and access to basic services.

There has been a rise of 8 thousand percent in the number of Venezuelans who ask for the condition of refugees since 2014, mainly in South America. Many Venezuelans which fulfill the criteria to be recognised as refugees decide to choose other paths which provide them a legal residency in the country, which are quicker to obtain and provide access to work, education and social services.

However, hundreds of thousands Venezuelans remain without any kind of document or permit in order to stay in a legal way in the bordering countries, leading to a situation in which they lack access to rights and basic services. This makes Venezuelan immigrants vulnerable to labour and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, violence, discrimination and xenophobia.

#### **4. 4. Case studies**

The complex migratory crisis of Venezuela can be seen from different approaches, and analyzed from diverse perspectives. Therefore, we advise delegates to look for their country's specific position and opinions regarding further actions to take on this matter. Specifically, it would be beneficial to focus on the three main case studies. This case studies reunite real-life situations that are currently taking place, but unfortunately, the International Community has failed to develop effective plans to mitigate the consequences of the Venezuelan crisis.

##### **Case Study 1: Colombia-Venezuela border<sup>6</sup>**

For Venezuelans leaving the country, Colombia is one the most reachable countries for people in extremely poor conditions. Therefore, when crossing the border Venezuelans can suffer physical abuse, violence, and even death. People in the most desperate conditions (which constitutes most of the population) spend days walking, even with their babies in their arms, hoping to get somewhere where they can simply survive and earn enough money to support their families.

One of the biggest problems for the Colombian government due to this situation is the fact that most of the people entering the country are illegal immigrants. It would be important to consider the previous and explore alternatives to create a consensus between the Colombian government and the immigrants in order to stop the violence on the border. Another challenge is that no country wants to negotiate with the current dictator of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, because of his lack of reliability. Furthermore, the dictator of Venezuela supports the FARC, helping them with monetary resources, creating more disruption in their neighbor country.

---

<sup>6</sup> Valero, M. *La frontera colombo-venezolana: escenarios de conflicto*. Nueva Sociedad. 2020. <https://nuso.org/articulo/la-frontera-colombo-venezolana-escenarios-de-conflictos/>.

## **Case Study 2: Trinidad y Tobago**

Despite the fact that Colombia is one of the countries with more Venezuelan immigrants, surpassing one million, earlier this year a child was killed in her mothers arms by the National Armed Forces of Trinidad y Tobago. This is not the first case of extreme violence against venezuelan immigrants. Also, there have been cases of shipwrecks of Venezuelans trying to enter this nation. In this case a lot of questions must be considered. Should Trinidad y Tobago welcome these Venezuelan immigrants? How can these violence acts be prevented in the near future? What role does international law play in these situations?

## **Case Study 3: Criminal groups in Peru**

In 2018, authorities in Peru detained five members of a dangerous Venezuelan criminal organization, or what is commonly referred to as a “mega-gang,” known as the Train of Aragua (El Tren de Aragua) that operates in one of Venezuela's central coastal states.

Since the start of mass migration of Venezuelans to places like Aruba, Panama, Colombia and the United States, migrants have been captured committing petty crimes. However, the capture of several Train of Aragua members in Peru is an example of the expansion of Venezuelan organized crime groups in the region. The Train has more than 200 members who operate on the streets and thousands more that work from within Venezuela’s prisons, including Héctor Guerrero, alias “Niño,” the group’s leader who is serving time in the Tocarón prison where he is the shot-caller, or “pran,” as they are known inside the jails<sup>7</sup>. In this case, we must consider the migratory regulations that should be applied in order to prevent criminals entering other countries in the region. If this is not stopped, this could lead to major problems in the already damaged security of Latin America, and even the whole continent.

The following questions will be very useful to approach the previously explained situations, where ethics, national security, law, and human rights should come together to protect the innocent people affected by this issue.

---

<sup>7</sup> Venezuela Investigation Unit. *Capture of Venezuela Megabanda in Peru is Ominous Sign for the Region*. 2018. <https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/capture-venezuela-mega-gang-peru-ominous-sign/>.

## **5. GUIDING QUESTIONS**

- To what extent should regional governments protect Venezuelan refugees?
- What role does international law play in this migratory crisis? Should there be new suggestions in order to be truly respected by all countries?
- How does the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis affect your country?
- How does your country deal with Venezuelan refugees?
- Should policies be taken to ensure the security of Venezuelans (legal and illegal)?
- Should nations like Trinidad y Tobago welcome immigrants, despite the fact that they are also a country with economic, political, and humanitarian problems?
- How can developed countries help in these situations?
- What is the role of NGOs?

## **6. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

- Gómez, E. *The Venezuelan Migrant Crisis*. European Parliament. 2018. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630343/EPRS\\_BRI\(2018\)630343\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630343/EPRS_BRI(2018)630343_EN.pdf).
- Human Rights Watch. *World Report 2021: Venezuela*. 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/venezuela>.
- Nations Encyclopedia. *Migration: Venezuela*. 2012. <https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Venezuela-MIGRATION.html>.
- OCHA. *Venezuela: Humanitarian Response Plan with Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 (HRP)*. 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/venezuela-humanitarian-response-plan-humanitarian-needs>.
- Reuters. *Extreme Poverty in Venezuela*. US News. 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-09-29/extreme-poverty-in-venezuela-rises-to-766-study>.
- UNHCR. *Situación Venezuela*. 2021. <https://www.acnur.org/situacion-en-venezuela.html>
- UNICEF. *Crisis migratoria en Venezuela: 1,1 millones de niños y niñas de toda la región necesitarán asistencia en 2019*. 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/comunicados-prensa/crisis-migratoria-en-venezuela-1.1-millones-de-ninos-y-ninas-de-toda-la-region>.
- Valero, M. *La frontera colombo-venezolana: escenarios de conflicto*. Nueva Sociedad. 2020. <https://nuso.org/articulo/la-frontera-colombo-venezolana-escenarios-de-conflictos/>.
- Venezuela Investigation Unit. *Capture of Venezuela Megabanda in Peru is Ominous Sign for the Region*. 2018. <https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/capture-venezuela-mega-gang-peru-ominous-sign/>.
- World Data. *Development of inflation rates in Venezuela*. 2020. <https://www.worlddata.info/america/venezuela/inflation-rates.php>.