Greetings, I am President Iván Duque Márquez, representing my dear country, Colombia, as I write to discuss the extremely urgent matter that is the current situation on Venezuela. I would like to formally introduce myself first. I am a lawyer and a highly recognized economist, having worked as the Presidential Consultant in the Inter-American Development Bank, as an Assistant in the United Nations Panel conformed by the UN’s Secretary and as Senator of the Republic of Colombia. As can be noticed on my past actions, I highly value justice, responsibility, success, leadership and peace. Regarding this crisis, I am a strong advocate for diplomacy as means of pacifically solving problems; however, I believe that international law should make justice for the crimes Nicolás Maduro and his government have committed against the Venezuelan population. Colombia does not recognize the illegitimate Venezuelan Presidential elections of 2018, nor do I believe that the United Nations should allow Nicolas Maduro’s dictatorship to continue on power after his and all of his government’s negligence towards the imminent crisis have left Venezuela—one of the strongest Latin American nations—struggling to thrive. Taking into account that Colombia is one of the countries most affected by the Venezuelan crisis, I will work tirelessly to ease this situation, being that everything that destroys Venezuela, destroys us.

As of 2019, the levels of hyperinflation and debt in Venezuela have been estimated at 2.30 million dollars— the highest levels of inflation registered this century in Latin America, affecting the Venezuelan people by the absence of necessary goods and services like food, clean water, housing, health care and security. The economic crisis is greatly attributed to the poor administration and socialist policies integrated by the Chavist revolution that collapsed the economy and the continuations of such policies by the Government of Nicolás Maduro, whose disregard towards the Venezuela’s situation has let the situation grow into a crisis difficult to manage. Furthermore, Nicolás Maduro and his government have used their political position for their own personal benefit, neglecting the people’s needs, resulting in riots and violent protests. Both the economic and political crisis have resulted in high levels of criminality, unemployment, homelessness, poverty and hunger that has driven 3 million of Venezuelans to emigrate from this inhumane conditions to nearing countries such as Colombia, which now fosters more than 1.03 million Venezuelan Refugees and receives an approximate of 3,000 Venezuelan every day through the Colombian-Venezuelan border. My government has had an open posture towards the Venezuelan Immigrants, granting half a million with documentation and providing them with basic goods with help of international aid. This has placed, however, a great strain on our country’s economy and threatens the hard-won economic stability I and past Colombian presidents have fought for. On top of everything, Colombia has to manage the fast increase of criminal activities inside our border, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, prostitution, and smuggling that the
massive entry of Venezuelan immigrants imports. Due to the precarious situation my country finds itself in, I am responsible to help resolve this matter by providing my own expertise and resources as well as asking for International Aid to global organizations like the UN, the OAS and UNHRC, focusing the international pressure on the Venezuelan Crisis. In addition, Colombia plays a crucial role on the resolution for this conflict due to the shared border of 2,219 km with Venezuela as well as our continuous collaboration with the United States, who has supported Colombia economically, militarily and diplomatically in the past two decades, to ease the Venezuelan Humanitarian Crisis.

As a high-rank politician and UN member, I seek to solve this crisis through negotiation and diplomatic means, seeking justice by the hands of law; however, if necessary, Colombia possess an annual GDP of $378,150 billion, in which $12,145 billion, or 3.1% of total GDP, conform Colombia’s Defense Budget that is at our disposal if violent actions are taken by the Venezuelan government. The Colombian Constitution grants me the right as President of Colombia to “direct the public forces and its disposition as supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic,” that consist of 142,450 reservists and supportive personnel and an active personnel of 369,100 soldiers. Through my political and work experience in the economic sector, I have made a large amount of contacts in strong American and world organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the UN that will help contend with the economic and political crisis. In addition, I possess 2,500,000+ followers throughout all my social media platforms. As president of Colombia, I have the duty to stop anything that harms my country and I will use any resource under Colombia’s power to cease the widespread crisis that the Venezuelan Governments have provoked and halt the collateral damage that Colombia suffers because of the economic and political havoc in Venezuela.

Attentively,

Iván Duque Márquez
President of Colombia.

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1 https://tradingeconomics.com/venezuela/inflation-cpi
6 http://mecometer.com/infographic/colombia/gdp-composition-breakdown/
7 http://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country_id=colombia
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