

**Statement by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.  
Human Rights Council Inter-Sessional Seminar on the GP20  
Initiative and Internal Displacement**

**Geneva, October 29, 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Special Rapporteur.

Venezuela appreciates the celebration of this virtual seminar.

Twenty years after the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by the General Assembly, the challenges faced by this vulnerable group continue to grow.

At the time of its adoption, an estimated 25 million people were displaced.

Today the stage looks bleaker. It is estimated that there are more than 65 million internally displaced persons in the world, of which some 40 million are due to armed conflicts; while it is estimated that another 25 million people are displaced each year as a result of natural disasters.

Similarly, the imposition of unilateral coercive measures by some Powers against developing countries can lead to the internal displacement of

people who are affected in the enjoyment of their most basic rights.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on all States to empower vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons, through effective actions and measures in accordance with international law, to strengthen the support that should be provided to people living in areas of conflict or subject to the effects of climate change, in order to eliminate obstacles and restrictions to the exercise and enjoyment of their human rights.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

In Venezuela there are no internally displaced persons. In any case, the Venezuelan Ombudsman's Office -with a presence throughout the national territory-, in exercise of its constitutional powers of defense and monitoring of human rights, remains active in the prevention of situations that potentially generate the impairment of these rights, especially, of the most vulnerable groups.

Internal displacement of people has a high impact on all human rights, including the right to development; they dismantle families, breaking

social and cultural ties; they expose innocent people to acts of abuse and violence, while also denying access to the most basic needs.

To achieve more effective results in this matter, it is necessary to promote solidarity and cooperation among States, which allows progress towards a democratic and equitable international order, based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as on peaceful coexistence among the nations.

Only in this context we will be able to overcome the conditions that generate internal displacement of people who are victims of armed conflicts and the perverse effects of climate change, contributing to the well-being of our peoples.

Thank you.