**3. Do sanctions have an impact on non-targeted third States and their citizens in the course of emergency, including the pandemic? Can you provide examples of this impact?**

The unilateral coercive measures imposed on Venezuela have had an impact that transcends the Latin American and Caribbean region, generating difficulties in third States that maintain economic and commercial relations with the Venezuelan nation.

In the case of the Caribbean region, the countries have been subjected to intimidation or obstacles in the access to economic or financial resources, as well as in free trade, as the threat of retaliation for trading with Venezuelan ports or ships looms large. This is a serious situation, considering the instability of the Caribbean economies, which is accentuated in the context of the pandemic caused by Covid-19.

As regards energy cooperation, through the PETROCARIBE Agreement, the countries receiving hydrocarbon supplies have been affected by the decrease in the dispatch of the agreed volumes, as a result of the measures imposed against Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A., which reduced its operating capacity.

It is worth noting that, between 2005 and 2018, the PETROCARIBE Agreement provided its members with **357 MMbbl between refined products and crude oil**, a figure that was reduced to **zero (0) barrels during 2019**, affecting the energy supply of the countries that depended on this supply, **30 Mbbl for the countries with larger populations**, due to the fact that they do not have the resources to acquire them under market rules.

In this way, the decrease in supply would end up affecting the signatories of the Agreement in a detrimental way, because the benefits provided by the acquisition of hydrocarbons, under special conditions, derived in state investment to promote the development of important and strategic sectors of society, such as infrastructure, education, health, culture, among others, providing a source of affordable financing for the signatory states, especially for the Small Island States.

Likewise, the strong economic activity that was developed through **chains and productive units built on the commercial exchange between Venezuela and the countries of the region**, with the vision of promoting the development of Latin American and Caribbean integration, has been systematically pursued by the U.S. Treasury Department **to prevent access to monetary exchanges through the international financial system**, which has affected these third countries and their peoples, **resulting in job losses, declining trade balances to the detriment of economic growth**, as well as the welfare and social protection capacity of the countries in the region.

Thus, as coercive measures were strengthened, the capacity to carry out payment transactions to the trade of hydrocarbons through the compensation bill was restricted. This capacity established special exchange conditions that, between 2008 and 2018, allowed the **commercialization of food and medicine from the Caribbean to Venezuela, for an amount of USD 4,298.21 million**, that is, approximately **USD 429.8 million annually**, affecting companies in the region that provided inputs for social programs of food and health for the Venezuelan population.

Moreover, the financial blockade limited the banking operations of the Joint Ventures in the region, subsidiaries of PDVSA, making it impossible to pay for purchases to replace inventories, receive payments from clients and comply with long-term debt obligations, which resulted in the expropriation of the Venezuelan stockholding in the PETROJAM refinery (Jamaica); the suspension of the provision of operational and financial management information at the REFIDOMSA-PDV refinery (Dominican Republic); the temporary cessation of operations of the Joint Venture APBEL (Belize); as well as the financial and operational restrictions imposed on Joint Ventures such as ALBAPES in El Salvador and PBSAM in Haiti.

On the other hand, the scheme of coercive measures affects third country nationals, in particular, because they are persecuted by the US Department of the Treasury and the Office of Foreign Assets Control affecting their individual capacity or as a representative of a sovereign State, to act in the context of the economy and international trade.

In the area of free transit of persons, the coercive measures aimed at attacking Venezuela's air connectivity capacity, affects nationals of third countries, considering that due to its geographical position, our country has historically been used as a hub for regional and extra-regional air connections.

In the area of health, coercive measures have also had a negative impact on eye care for the poorer populations of the countries of the region. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in cooperation with the Republic of Cuba, promoted the internationalist programme Mission Miracle, which provided eye care to the continent's most vulnerable population, attending tens of thousands of people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is important to note that, in times of natural catastrophes or disasters, especially in Caribbean States, the economic funds created through the PETROCARIBE Agreement provided financing to ease the burden of public expenditure, in favor of social welfare, while providing humanitarian assistance and, at times, the cancellation of the debt of countries affected by energy supply.

In this context, the availability and mobility of economic resources through PETROCARIBE would make it possible to generate conditions that would benefit the containment of the spread of SARS-Cov-2 and the mitigation of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, making it possible to face the unilateral coercive measures.

The global emergency that has been generated due to COVID-19 pandemic has mainly affected the development of the tourism sector, a fundamental pillar of the Caribbean economies. With a decreased income, the need for funding is urgent, due to the consequences that can generate a humanitarian emergency.

In this sense, if one takes into account the adverse conditions for the countries of the region to access loans through international financial institutions, the impossibility of resorting to funds from the PETROCARIBE Agreement as a result of its persecution, leading to increased expenditure by Caribbean States; it can be included that the impact of COVID-19, as well as of any other emergency that may arise in the near future, is much greater when compared to the countless benefits from the Agreement which have been repressed after the imposition of the coercive measures against Venezuela.

**IMPACT OF MEASURES ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

In addition to third countries, the unilateral and illegal coercive measures have had a negative impact on the Latin America and Caribbean integration system, particularly in the sub-regional space, where the Union of South American Nations, USAN, was the main integration tool for the development of South American countries and the main element for the maintenance of peace and security of the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean, and in particular South America, is the only region of the world that is not organized around a regional integration mechanism, unlike Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania. The organization of the region around a scheme of aligning satellite States with the interests of Washington has become a re-print of the Cold War-era with Pan American practices. For the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it is understood that U.S aggression is aimed at hindering the integration process of Latin America and the Caribbean.

As a result of the dismantling of USAN, by governments of countries that adhere to the spirit of coercive, unilateral and illegal measures against Venezuela, South America lacks venues of political coordination to jointly address and solve actions to contain the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; an element that should be taken into account when observing that the region is becoming the new epicenter of the pandemic.

In the scheme of isolation against Venezuela that is promoted from coercive, unilateral and illegal measures, a restriction has been imposed around the coordination of public health policies with the authorities of the Venezuelan Bolivarian Government, which translates into greater vulnerability towards the Venezuelan people.

The scheme of the coercive measures has gone to the extreme of sponsoring initiatives that seek the inexcusable concealment of the massive return of Venezuelan migrants motivated by xenophobia, discrimination, mistreatment and, more recently, by the poor management of the pandemic in the host countries. Since mid-2019, thousands of Venezuelan men and women have returned to the country. It should be noted that no testimony from the returnees attests to any support or economic assistance by those governments through the alleged donors.

As in the case of affecting third countries, unilateral coercive measures have prevented the successful experience of Venezuela in the process of containing the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to be part of regional initiatives to minimize contagion and mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

This situation has its correlation in each and every one of the common problems, of different nature, which affects Latin America and the Caribbean and makes impossible not only the integration and regional development, but also the maintenance of peace, security and stability of all the countries that integrate it.