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Permanent Mission of Italy
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56th Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

3 July 2024

**Statement delivered by Minister Stefano Pisotti,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner for his report.

The ongoing political, economic and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela remains deeply concerning, with reported cases of arbitrary arrests and detention, some of which may amount to enforced disappearances, as well as acts of persecution and intimidation of political activists, human rights defenders, journalists and any other dissenting voice. In addition, possible restrictions to the right to freedom of association risk impacting the work of civil society.

In view of the upcoming Presidential elections, we therefore call on Venezuela to fully implement the Barbados Agreement and to ensure free, competitive and inclusive elections, that encompass full and credible international electoral observation missions. We also urge the unconditional release of all persons arbitrarily deprived of liberty, including through the implementation of the decisions of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

We strongly encourage the Venezuelan authorities to meaningfully cooperate with the OHCHR and all other relevant human rights mechanisms. We particularly stress the importance of the resumption of all Office's activities in the country, in strict compliance with its mandate, including full access to all regions and detention centres.

I thank you