



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

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## **57th session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

*20<sup>th</sup> September 2024*

*Mr. President,*

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the Fact-finding mission for the report.

The international community and this Council must continue to monitor and address the human rights situation in Venezuela, which causes serious concern. Italy also stresses the importance of the updates from the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the country.

We are deeply worried about the increasing human rights violations, arbitrary detentions and widespread restrictions on fundamental freedoms, which particularly affect the political opposition, human rights defenders, and representatives of independent media and civil society. Italy reiterates the need for thorough investigations into human rights violations and for those responsible to be held accountable. Italy calls for the release of all political prisoners and stresses the need for a path to freedom and democracy for the people of Venezuela.

It is essential for the electoral results to be complete and independently verifiable to ensure that the will of the Venezuelan people is respected.

Italy calls on the Venezuelan authorities to allow the return of the OHCHR to Caracas, without any alteration to its current mandate and to cooperate meaningfully with it. We also call on Venezuelan Authorities to grant the Fact-finding mission access to the country.

*Thank you*