

Intervención
Pre-Sesión EPU Venezuela
Ginebra 7, 8 de diciembre de 2021
En nombre de Convite AC

1.The organization

This statement is made on behalf of Convite AC, a non-profit civil association that works to guarantee and enforce social rights. Convite has taken part in the UPR process in two out of its three cycles.

2. Consultations carried out for our national report

We obtained information regarding human rights for the elderly, including the revision of the few official sources at our disposal.

3. Statement of the Declaration

This declaration refers to the following topics: (1) Violation of the right to proper nutrition, economic security, health and social protection.

4. Declaration

I. Violation of the right to proper nutrition, economic security, health, social protection and life itself.

A. Follow-up of previous cycles

In past UPR cycles, the Venezuelan government received and accepted the recommendations made with reference to the elderly from the following:

2011 – Vietnam – ACCEPTED

94.10 Place more importance on the protection of vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, the elderly and the poor.

2016 – Singapore - ACCEPTED

133.56 Fully implement its National Human Rights Plan to strengthen institutional coordination and supervision of human rights policies in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with particular regard to social protection programs that provide support for the elderly and the elderly with disabilities.

A. Overview about the actual situation since the last circle

- Since the second cycle, socioeconomic conditions in Venezuela have suffered significant setbacks that led to the need to implement a humanitarian response plan in 2019. According to OCHA in its report on humanitarian needs in 2019, 7.5 million people were in need of assistance, excluding the 9.3 million people in food insecurity. Nowadays the number of people in need of assistance is much greater.
- Similarly, the migratory process has been accentuated. According to UNHCR figures 5.5 million Venezuelans have already left the country.
- Forced migration and the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed greatly to our emergency, having a differential impact on older adults.
- According to a survey carried out by Convite between 2020 and 2021, we found that between 12-15% of the elderly population interviewed lived alone.
- It is worth noting the case of elderly people who, as a result of the migration of relatives, have been left to care for children, thus increasing the level of risk for both populations.
- In terms of livelihoods, an increase in the social pension coverage could be seen as progress.
- While in 2014 a social pension was able to cover 96.3% of the cost of the normative food basket, nowadays the amount of this pension does not even cover 5% of the same.
- A government program for the provision of food called CLAP is distributed to the needy. A recent survey carried out by Convite with 1,202 elderly people, showed that 36% receive the benefit quarterly, 14% bimonthly and 28% have never received it despite being registered. 60% of those interviewed stated that the products in the CLAP box last less than 15 days.
- The two main causes of morbidity in the elderly are diabetes and hypertension. According to Convite price monitoring for the month of August 2021, a box of 28 losartan potassium tablets exceeds the monthly amount of the pension.
- Although vaccination against COVID-19 has been increasing, vaccination mechanisms must be expanded and diversified for the elderly.
- The Venezuelan State has failed to comply with the Bilateral Agreement on Social Security, signed in 1988. Since December 2015, the Venezuelan State ceased payments to more than 16,000 pensioners outside the country.

B. Recommendations

- Develop a national aging plan that guarantees the protection and fulfillment of all human rights of the elderly, as well as their full inclusion, integration and participation in society.
- Implement subsidized medical supply programs for the two main causes of morbidity in the elderly (hypertension and diabetes).
- Support and increase the number of care institutions for the elderly in the country.
- Publish disaggregated statistical data for people who are above 60 years of age.
- Create an Ombudsman for the Rights of Elderly People.

- Recognize and pay the debt owed to Venezuelan pensioners residing abroad.