



pas

participación activa y social
comité por los derechos de la mujer y la paz

Afiliado a la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres (FDIM)



**Complementary Report on Participación Activa y Social por los Derechos de las Mujeres y la Paz¹, and the Red de Mujeres de Vargas, members organization of the Women's International Democratic Federation.
3rd Universal Periodic Review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
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I. I. Organization Information

1. The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) is an international, non-governmental organization, founded in Paris, at the International Congress of Women, held from November 26 to December 1, 1945. It was one of the founding organizations in 1949 of the Council World Peace. The WIDF obtained its consultative status in 1972. For many years, the WIDF actively promoted and participated in meetings called by different UN bodies in their relationship with women, but also with the rights of children and adolescents; and, on issues related to peace, national independence, and the sovereignty of the peoples; all aspects that are in the spirit of the basic objectives of the WIDF. The WIDF is made up of 120 affiliated organizations from 124 countries. In Venezuela there are 4 organizations members of the WIDF, two of these organizations are Participación Activa y Social por los Derechos de la Mujer y la Paz (PAS) and the Red de Mujeres de Vargas (RMV).
2. PAS, was created in 1984 as a need to organize Venezuelan women, to achieve their political, economic, social, and cultural participation; fight against gender discrimination, and achieve their inclusion in the historical processes of our country.
3. PAS's mission is to gain the organizational and participation spaces that serve to promote, disseminate, and consolidate the actions of women in terms of the unity of action and organization within the concept of class struggle, equality, with an orientation of genre.
4. Achieve the insertion of women in the struggles of the people for the conquest of political power. Likewise, promote actions based on peace in the world, solidarity, and support for women who fight for the independence, sovereignty, social justice, and self-determination of their peoples, against imperialism as an oppressive and warlike force that opposes development. , to the political, economic, and social independence of nations.
5. The RMV is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1999, to contribute to the political, educational, and economic development of women and the fight for gender equality.
6. The Network proposes to promote the participation and organization of women in the development of micro-enterprises, cooperatives, to contribute to their empowerment and

overcoming poverty.

7. Promote public policies with other public and private women's organizations to improve the quality of life of women.

8. PAS, was registered in the WIDF in 1985, and the RMV was registered in 2000, as a space for international articulation in the fight for the rights of women in their diversity, for peace and sovereignty in our countries, to articulate with the women's organizations of the world and contribute to the unitary impulse of the objective of our Federation. Since the beginning of the 2000s, in Venezuela, we act in a coordination space which we have called the Unitary Platform of WIDF Organizations.

II. On Equality, Non-discrimination of Women and Women's Human Rights

9. The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV) meant a great advance in women's rights since it expressly enshrines equal rights between men and women, additionally, it incorporated an inclusive and non-sexist language, making visible the woman, established the legal bases for the formulation of laws that guarantee the rights of women in the social and political spheres, some of these laws are:

10. **The Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence² (LODMVLV)**, approved in 2007, and amended in 4 articles in 2015, among which articles 57 and 58 of said law stand out. . A bill to reform the law (approved in the first discussion at the AN) is currently under discussion in the National Assembly (AN), in which 32 articles are modified, 12 new ones are incorporated, it has 04 transitory provisions, 01 repeals, and 01 final.

11. **The bill on the Promotion and Use of Language with Gender Consciousness** has just been approved in the first discussion in the AN, the text of the law contains 10 articles and is linked to the use of non-sexist language and the visibility of women as the subject of law.

12. The Organic Law for the Comprehensive Care and Development of Older Adults is in the process of the second discussion in the National Assembly, which will guarantee equal care to elderly men and women, from the gerontological beginning of guarantee an active, dignified, and happy aging, which in this case favors women.

13. For several years the Ministry of Women and Equality has been promoting plans to improve the situation of women, these are social plans aimed at addressing different aspects that affect the lives of women, we want to highlight two of these plans, the Humanized Delivery and Breastfeeding Plan (PHLM) and Soy Mujer Plan.

14. The PHLM Plan, created on July 11, 2017, is part of the Higher Organ of Humanized Childbirth and Breastfeeding, which seeks to attend to pregnant and in lactation period women, it is comprehensive care that includes socioeconomic benefits, legal support, health assistance, training

² Gaceta Oficial N° 40.548 Nov, 25th, 2014

plans, and accompaniment community, this plan seems important to us because it promotes community participation through the figures of the promoters of humanized childbirth and breastfeeding, this is a clear example of the protagonist participation of women promoted by the CRBV.

15. The Soy Mujer plan, beginning on May 25th of 2016, is a social program of financial inclusion aimed at the initiatives of women in the country who develop or wish to undertake socio-productive activities individually or collectively, to overcome poverty and contribute to the economic development of his family nucleus, and the country. In the country, this plan has been particularly relevant for women with disabilities or women with children or family members with disabilities.

16. Regarding access to data, as well as the mechanisms for receiving complaints and reports on grounds of discrimination, it is something that must be worked on more efficiently, but we consider that it is a process under construction where social movements and Popular organizations have a lot to do to mobilize the authorities.

17. Regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities, at present we welcome the obligation to have sign language on TV; However, we point out that at the level of infrastructure and adaptation of spaces, there is still much to be done, disabilities are very diverse, which requires the adaptation of spaces, considering each one of the disabilities. Currently, a popular consultation process is being developed for a reform of the Law on Persons with Disabilities, which seeks to overcome the existing deficiencies for the comprehensive care of all people with some type of disability.

18. 19. Regarding Afro-descendant women, progress has been observed in their inclusion in some spaces for participation, despite the lack of specific legislation. In the last elections of the National Assembly, for the first time, the opportunity was given to participate with a quota of the Afro-descendant sector, the country currently has two women elected deputies in said institution.

19. Regarding the political participation of women, despite the changes that have been promoted since 2015 in the National Electoral Council with the regulations on equal electoral participation, the truth is that parity has not yet been reached, although We see as positive that the participation of women in political spaces such as the AN continues to increase, going from 27% in the last AN to 41.3% in the recent election of the AN in December 2020/9 + n.9h. Additionally, women represent 33% of the ministers. We also see with joy the increase in the participation of women in citizen security organizations. On the other hand, women represent 70% of the popular power in the street chiefs and spokespersons for Communal Councils.

20. We consider that the Venezuelan State has made important advances in terms of women's political participation, however, there are many obstacles to overcome, for this reason, we urge the State to assume with greater impetus the incorporation of women into the political sphere, establish

mechanisms that guarantee equal participation in electoral processes, we also invite the Government to incorporate more women in the leadership of the different ministries, and above all to incorporate the gender perspective in the formulation of national policies,

21. What is stated in the preceding considerations of PAS and the RMV regarding recommendations **133.101, 133.102, 133.103, 133.104, 133.105, 133.106, 133.107, 133.108, 133.214**, regarding equality and non-discrimination of women in political and economic spheres and social, as with all forms of discrimination.

22. Regarding recommendations **133.52, 133.67, 133.172**, regarding legal assistance to women victims of violence and training and training on gender violence for officials responsible for receiving and processing complaints of gender violence, we want to highlight the efforts made by the Public Prosecutor's Office that, since 2018, began a gender training program called "Cátedra libre de defensa para la mujer" to train the Prosecutors of Office and the members of the administrative structure of support from the Prosecutor's Public Office in matters of Defense for Women. Train, systemically and inclusively, prosecutors officials in national, supranational, and international legislation on the laws in force in the country in matters of Defense for Women. This training program is also open to officials from other government institutions and members of the community in general.

23. Additionally, the Ministry of Women together with the National Institute for Women (INAMUJER) has been training community defenders, women members of the community whose function is to support the prevention, approach, and accompaniment of victims of violence. Apart from the work carried out by the Legal Guidance Services, where women can have free legal advice in addition to the necessary support.

24. Regarding the Human Rights of Women, reflected in recommendation **133.246**, relative to sexual and reproductive rights. PAS and the RMV consider that there has been an important advance by the Government, such as the PHLM plan mentioned above, which guarantees access to health services for pregnant and lactating women, currently 3,226 have been treated through this plan .163 women, who have received comprehensive support.

25. However, maternal mortality in federal entities in which indigenous communities live mainly, there are high rates, in some cases triple the national maternal mortality rate, and it continues to be a challenge for the Venezuelan State, the plans that are being implemented must **include a multiethnic and multicultural vision, continue to promote the "Medicina Integral" training program so that the communities furthest from populated centers have quality care and follow-up, encourage community participation in the follow-up and accompaniment of women pregnant and guarantee care services according to the needs of women. We suggest that the State publish the maternal mortality indicators on time, to generate policies and**

implement actions aimed at solving problems.

26. Regarding the sexual and reproductive rights of women, there are two important elements to note. First, we recognize that the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States government significantly affect a myriad of economic activities, preventing or making it difficult for the Venezuelan State to acquire medical and pharmaceutical supplies, such as contraceptive pills and other contraceptive methods, making it difficult for women to access these supplies. Secondly, we consider that both the legislative and executive branches must take steps to guarantee the full enjoyment of women's sexual and reproductive rights, therefore we urge the Venezuelan State to join a large number of women's organizations, social movements, and other social organizations, **to promote the necessary debate on the decriminalization and future legalization of the interruption of pregnancy**, recognizing it as a sexual right of women, as well as the recognition of sexual diversity.

27. During the last decade, Venezuela made progress in meeting goals such as the reduction of infant mortality, or the access of all to medicines for the treatment of HIV. Additionally, it has made an effort to reduce maternal mortality (with less success), as well as to reduce mortality from catastrophic diseases and easy prevention and early diagnosis (breast and cervical cancer).

28. However, we note with concern that in recent years many of the goals achieved have been reversed, all because of coercive measures. For example, patients with endocrine-metabolic diseases have received less treatment than in previous years, being only those drugs that are acquired through bi-national agreements with Cuba, China, or Russia, which we have, to meet the needs of It is essential for the population to have access to other drug markets, since the quantities that are accessed through the agreements are not sufficient.

29. Regarding cancer treatment, the situation is not very different from that described above, with the aggravation that many of these treatments can only be purchased from transnational pharmaceutical companies, which as a result of the coercive measures cannot sustain commercial relations with the country, putting the health of the Venezuelan population at risk.

30. Our organization works, among other populations, with women of the Warao indigenous ethnic group, they represent one of the most numerous indigenous peoples in the country, we note with concern the increase in cases of cervical cancer, as well as the increase in sexually transmitted infections, mainly HIV.

31. The Venezuelan State makes great efforts to care for the entire population in the face of the Covid-19 Pandemic, maintaining one of the lowest numbers of contagion and deaths, thanks to the biosecurity measures ordered to the population in a timely and effective manner. . Currently, despite the coercive measures and the blockade that hinder the purchase of vaccines, the Venezuelan government is advancing in the second phase of mass vaccination free of charge to the entire

population, thus guaranteeing the right to health of women.

32. We are grateful for the collaboration of WHO, PAHO, and UNAIDS, among other organizations, those support treatments for these diseases, as well as vaccines. But the coercive measures must cease, if this does not happen, the social situation in Venezuela will be degrading no matter how much the Venezuelan State tries to shovel the situation.

33. We would like all countries to take with the same importance the documents issued by the different bodies and organizations of the United Nations, that from that Organization greater emphasis is placed and measures are sought to guarantee that the countries that are victims of coercive measures unilateral, we will stop suffering the consequences of these, and above all that they are no longer used.