



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters

### **Note verbale dated 19 March 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations based in Switzerland presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to enclose herewith the statements pronounced on 6 March 2013 by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cuba, Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Angélica Navarro, on the passing away of President Commander Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba requests the secretariat to publish both documents as documents of the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council, in all official languages of the United Nations.

## Annex I

[Original: Spanish]

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Cuba,  
Ambassador Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, on behalf of the  
Community of Latin American and Caribbean States  
(CELAC), on the death of the President of the Bolivarian  
Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías. Twenty-  
second regular session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva,  
6 March 2013**

Mr. President,

It was with profound sorrow that our countries yesterday received the sad news of the death of Comandante Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Before continuing this statement, we ask for a minute of silence to be observed in his honour.

Mr. President,

We wish to express our deepest solidarity with the people and Government of our sister State, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and particularly with the relatives and friends of Comandante Chávez.

It is difficult to come to terms with this painful event. His death has moved us all. This exceptional, extraordinary, man, who was respected and admired around the world, and whom everyone, including his political rivals, wished a speedy recovery, no longer exists in body.

Let us mention especially the encouragement he received from his fellow Venezuelans, who gave him their full support, affection and solidarity at the most difficult of times.

Mr. President,

It is impossible to do justice to the enormous achievements of Comandante Chávez in so short a time. Chávez was a key figure in Latin America's march towards its second independence. He fought and worked tirelessly not only for the well-being of the Venezuelan people, but also for that of many other nations and in particular those of Latin America and the Caribbean. Like the great liberator, Simón Bolívar, he fought for the *Patria Grande*, the Greater Homeland.

As Venezuelan singer Alí Primera put it, "Those who die for life cannot be called dead." Chávez has not died. Chávez did not enter history yesterday, he entered history more than a decade ago, when he launched the Bolivarian Revolution and the struggle for a truly integrated Latin America. His life and achievements will always be remembered as a paradigm. His person and legacy are an inspiration to all, particularly to those peoples who are striving for a better world.

Under the leadership of Comandante Chávez, Venezuela has reached a high point in its history. It has attained nearly all the Millennium Development Goals, done away with illiteracy, democratized access to education, even at university level, and introduced

universal health coverage with high-quality services. The minimum wage is far higher, inherited poverty has been pushed back significantly and people can control their destiny and are free to build their political, economic and social future. A clear example is Operación Milagro, which has given millions of people in Venezuela, Latin America and the Caribbean back their eyesight, and with it a better quality of life.

Mr. President,

Comandante Chávez is not of Venezuela; he is of the world and of Our America. Now more than ever he will be in our hearts, and our peoples will carry on his work: this is the best possible way to pay homage and tribute to a man of such political stature and leadership.

We are convinced that the peoples of Our America, guided by his example, will continue to advance towards true unity and integration. His initiatives for integration, such as ALBA — the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of Our America — Petrocaribe, UNASUR — the Union of South American Nations — and CELAC — the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States — will not die but, on the contrary, will only grow stronger.

We reassert our steadfast solidarity with the spirit of the Bolivarian Revolution, its people and its leaders, confident that they will be able to continue this great labour of love and social justice begun and driven by Comandante Chávez in the land of Simón Bolívar.

President Chávez, you will always be with us!

## Annex II

*[Original: Spanish]*

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the  
Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ambassador Angélica  
Navarro, on behalf of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples  
of Our America (ALBA), on the occasion of the death of the  
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo  
Rafael Chávez Frías**

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of Our America (ALBA).

We are overwhelmed by grief. The peoples to the south of the Rio Bravo feel in the very depths of their being the loss of one of their most beloved leaders, the Comandante, President Hugo Chávez Frías.

The ALBA countries in particular feel a deep sadness. The statesman who has left us transcended the borders of his own land in thought and deed and became a symbol of the struggle for the causes that were most just and the achievement of our peoples' most cherished aspirations and dreams.

President Chávez was capable of interpreting the thinking of Latin American and Caribbean heroes on independence and unity in the most sophisticated way, and of expressing it in its fullest form, as exemplified by the establishment of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of Our America.

ALBA has been a growing political force at the regional and international levels and now supports some of the most progressive positions in the stand against the doctrines of domination it is sought to impose on our peoples. ALBA's unquestionable success in the social sphere has transcended its borders too, and is a true example of the promotion of genuine human rights for all.

And at the forefront of this array of peoples, leading this battle for integration, has been, is and always will be Comandante Chávez, the architect of ALBA, that work of love and dignity!

So from grief springs resolve, and from sorrow comes commitment, commitment to continue his work, which now has universal significance.

President Chávez will live on because his thinking and his example live and flourish. He has taken his place in the pantheon of Latin American and Caribbean heroes and there, in the American firmament, like Bolívar, will stand, ready to keep fighting for the dignity of all the peoples of the world.

Thank you.

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