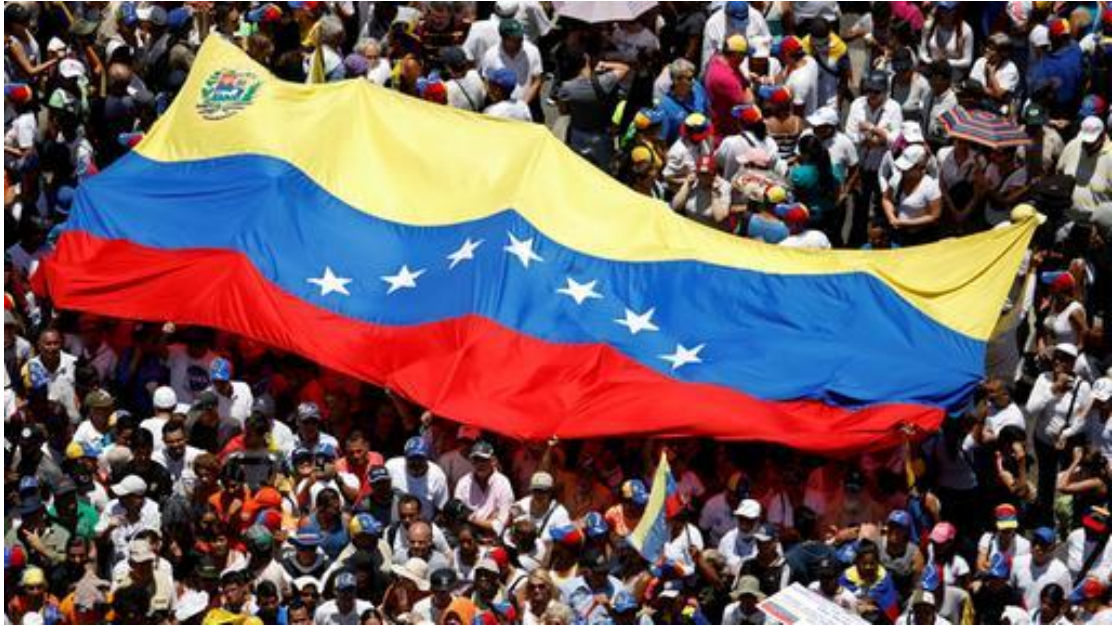


Committee Guide



Venezuela – Tackling a Humanitarian, Economic and Political Crisis

Security Council





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1. Personal Introduction

Dear delegates of this year's Security Council,

My name is David Sperling and I'm honored to welcome you to this year's conference, I'm sure that OLMUN 2019 will turn out to be the greatest of all time! I am 21 years old and enrolled at the law school of Münster, Germany, finishing up my fourth semester.

A few of you are going to be "first-timers" and I know that you probably have lots of questions regarding MUNs in general and also OLMUN in particular... Feel free to ask my colleague and me whenever you come across any! I have taken part in a couple of OLMUNs, a MUNSH as a delegate and organized some MUN related courses at my former schools and their participations at MUNs as local director. Interestingly, my very first English MUN was in Oldenburg, taking part in the GA 3rd as the delegate of Iraq.

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to take part in not only the debates, but also the social aspect of OLMUN! Don't miss out on improving your English, debating and social skills, trust me, it's going to be a fun week.

I am sincerely looking forward to meeting all of you,
David Sperling

Dear Delegates,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Security Council at this year's OLMUN conference and I am really looking forward to your engaged work when trying to solve the issue at hand, which is an excellent example for you to demonstrate how efficient the United Nations may work in order to achieve their most essential aim, maintaining international peace and security.

My name is Justus Neuendorff, I am 19 years old and happy to introduce myself as President of the Security Council at this year's OLMUN. Currently I am attending the Liebfrauenschule in Oldenburg. Due to my staying in the bilingual city of Montreal, Canada, for one year, I have restarted my MUN career last year by chairing the United Nations Industrial Committee. Since I have taken the role of a delegate at OLMUN 2015, I have been offered several opportunities to take part in MUN conferences such as the BERMUN and a conference in Malmö, Sweden. Hence, I have been involved in numerous committees and councils. Now I am looking forward to broadening my experience by working with all of you!

See you in June, Justus Neuendorff



2. General Introduction

Honorable delegates of the Security Council,

we are glad to welcome you to Oldenburg and we are looking forward to having some interesting debates. You all know that it is hard to debate when you do not have any information about the topic you are debating about. That is why we made this committee guide: To give you guidelines for your research and provide you with some general information. In order to be fully prepared we are also advising you to read the Rules of Procedure for the Security Council which can be found on the OLMUN website even though we are going to help you to understand how the OLMUN works during our time together. Another advice would be to not only do your research on your own country, but also concentrate on possible allies and supporters for the policy of your country. Furthermore, you will find links at the end of this guide that will help you to do your research.

3. How to Use this Guide

Even though this guide is supposed to help you to get started on your research, your research should not only consist of the information given in this guide. Try to find other information about your country's past, present, cultural factors, political structure, you name it... Another important thing to remember is that your opinion might not be similar to your country's opinion. For the sake of the debates it is necessary that you stick to your country's policy. Furthermore, we ask you to write a policy statement for your country and a resolution that you are supposed to send to us by the **third of June**. If you have problems formulating one of these, you will be able to find more detailed information to either one in the Official Handbook.

4. Introduction to the Security Council

The Security Council is the most important part of the United Nations. It consists of 15 members, five of them are permanent member states. Those are France, Russia, Great Britain, the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. The others are elected for a two years term by the General Assembly. For 2019 those countries are: Equatorial Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Belgium, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, and lastly South Africa. In June, Russia will have the Presidency. The permanent members have special rights in the council such as the right to veto important resolutions or decisions.

The Security Council has the power to create international sanctions, establish and legitimize military operations for peacekeeping and it is the only organ of the UN with the ability to pass internationally binding resolutions. This makes it the most powerful organ of the United Nations.

5. The Situation in Venezuela

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has lately been afflicted by critical situations on the economic, humanitarian and also on the political level, which have eventually led to a severe crisis that is deeply rooted within the present conception of the Venezuelan state itself. Its temporary climax was marked by January 23 when the current President of the National Assembly of Venezuela took a public oath to serve as acting President, based on Article 233 of the Venezuelan constitution. Thereby he officially dethroned Nicolás Maduro who serves as President since 2013. Maduro has been the target of massive protest and disapproval by the Venezuelan people since the oil price increased considerably in 2014.

Regarding the topic at hand, it is crucial to take into consideration that Venezuela possesses the largest oil reserves and the eighth largest natural gas reserves in the world according to the OPEC. Delegates should imperatively keep the economic factor in mind when searching for possible roots of the conflicts within the country and its connections on the global level. When Hugo Chávez, Maduro's predecessor, came into power in 1999, he implemented socialist politics redirecting the economical wealth resulting of the natural resources in order to ameliorate the living conditions of his proper constituency, the working class and the poor. He implemented measures such as subsidies on food and the improvement of the educational and health system. He eventually even managed to reduce poverty by half. But when the oil price collapsed in 2014 the Venezuelan dependence on oil and its huge deficit became evident. Venezuela couldn't help but to tremble in a hyperinflation, which had harsh consequences especially for the poor. Thus, the Venezuelan currency has become practically worthless. This implies day-to-day problems for the Venezuelan people as it becomes more and more difficult to get employed in the present economic situation, which results in struggles to support one's families as the breadwinner's living gets more and more complicated. Even if international help has been offered, Maduro opposes himself to letting foreign help enter the country. Maduro has established a corrupt system around him, which is build out of the military and political allies. Moreover, he is exploding the current economic system for his proper benefits.

On the political level, Maduro has also begun to transform the legal system set by the Venezuelan constitution by for example replacing judges at the Supreme Court with his party men adhering to his idea of a more autocratic system in 2015. Not acknowledging the public protest his actions, Maduro held a vote in July 2017 to elect a totally new chamber called the National Constituent Assembly, which even possesses the power to rewrite the constitution. As the opposition called for a boycott of the election Maduro won an outstanding majority and claims the vote to be legal as according to the data provided by the government over 40 percent of the Venezuelan people participated in the election. On the international level this vote has never been recognized and several countries have even gone a step further by imposing financial sanctions. In addition, the Maduro regime also started to persecute political opponents.



5.1 The Economy of Venezuela

The economy of Venezuela is largely based on the petroleum sector and manufacturing of goods. In recent years, up to 20 percent of Venezuela's GDP were based on the export of oil, mainly due to Venezuela having the largest amount of oil reserves in the world. For example, agriculture, accounting for a fourth of Venezuela's landmass only accounts for a few percent of its GDP. To only be relying on a single sector is bad for obvious reasons, which can also be seen in the UAE or other oil exporting countries, of which most recently started to shift away from being a *product specific economy of scale* (see: <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=3527>).

Speaking of economy, we expect all of you to be able to differentiate the terms *economic* and *economical*. Those have different meanings and those should be known.

Generally, Venezuela once was close to having a reasonable stable economy around the 1950s, as for example shown by a GDP per capita half of U.S. American figures. After years of socialism, the GDP per capita stagnated to 15 percent of U.S. levels, all within 40 years of bad monetary policies, socialist thinking regarding the market and no reforms. The numbers from the late 1990s continued to worsen until today, showing that only (some of you will have to argue about that!) radical market reforms will enable Venezuela to recover from more than half a century of mismanagement. Similar to that, Georgia underwent enormous change after they abandoned their socialist regime, leading towards success. The pro-market reforms increased Georgia's income per capita about 40 percent, lowered infant mortality by 30 percent, and increased employment by about 10 percent, all while not increasing inequality. Examples for reforms could be privatizing government owned companies and assets, such as the state-owned oil company (PDVSA); eliminating such corrupted institutions as the Bolivarian National Guard; reducing administrative personnel; turning more federalist; creating a better tax system; regaining access to the world market.

5.2 The Humanitarian Issue

The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela not only started with the high inflation and rising of unbearable costs of day to day life.

Due to the lack of medication, social benefits and the missing ability to purchase basic goods, such as food products, many Venezuelans, who were able to, decided to leave their country of origin (numbers of Venezuelan migrants for 2018 are depicted below).

Main destinations for Venezuelan migrants in 2018



https://icchef.bbc.co.uk/news/624/cpsprodpb/18AB/production/_105051360_venezuela_map_migration_destinations_2_640-nc.png

5.3 The Political Situation

It is rather easy to describe the political situation in one question: "Who is the president of Venezuela?" Depending on the country you ask, you will get different answers, even within Venezuela's borders. The issue is that different players are trying to gain power and influence. Maduro, the former elected president, Guaidó, the newly elected (?) president, the military, the cartels and foreign organizations, all of these have different interests, which do not align, but are similar in that everyone tries to profit.

A great quote describes this:

"The army doesn't have any ideology. There are some soldiers whose heart is to the left or the right, of course. But I think on the whole the army just wants to maximise (sic!) their profits." (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-48030691>)



6. Possible Solutions and Research Ideas

Solutions will differ from country to country, but keep in mind, that you will need to find one, which not only will be supported by a majority, but further, will not be vetoed! Still, we would like to encourage you to start the debate with relatively extreme opinions, you can calm down your argumentation down the road. Interesting takes on the crisis can be found here:

- I. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-breaking-views/breakingviews-breakdown-how-to-fix-venezuela-idUSKCN1PT1Q0>
- II. <https://www.wola.org/analysis/focused-pressure-smart-engagement-u-s-government-can-advance-negotiated-non-violent-solution-venezuelas-crisis/>
- III. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/06/opinion/venezuelan-maduro-quaido.html>
- IV. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/venezuela-crisis-latest-updates-190123205835912.html>
- V. <https://venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/14203>
- VI. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2014/02/20/toward-a-peaceful-solution-for-venezuelas-crisis/>
- VII. <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/OxCDzZwhWfcDTaNt5sstUJ/Opinion--How-to-end-Venezuelas-nightmare.html>
- VIII. <http://fortune.com/2016/02/20/venezuela-oil-bolivar/>
- IX. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/venezuela-crisis-latest-updates-190123205835912.html>

7. What Should I Do Next?

First and foremost: **START EARLY**. The earlier you will begin your research, the better the results will be. The knowledge we provide to you with this Committee Guide will not be enough and individual research is indispensable. We know, in a time of Memes, Netflix and YouTube it is sometimes hard to work consistently and procrastination has become an international issue (maybe we should debate about that next time?), however if you want to inform yourself adequately and participate in the debate properly, we recommend starting your examination on the Venezuelan crisis out of your country's perspective as early as possible. This includes using a **variety of sources** for your research to get a comprehensive understanding. You might want to check out the links, which we included in this Committee Guide to get a hold on what has been done on a global level concerning the topic. Nevertheless, make sure to use diverse information to back up your knowledge. **ATTENTION:** using Wikipedia might be a good start for your research, but you know what is even better? Using the sources in this guide for further investigation!

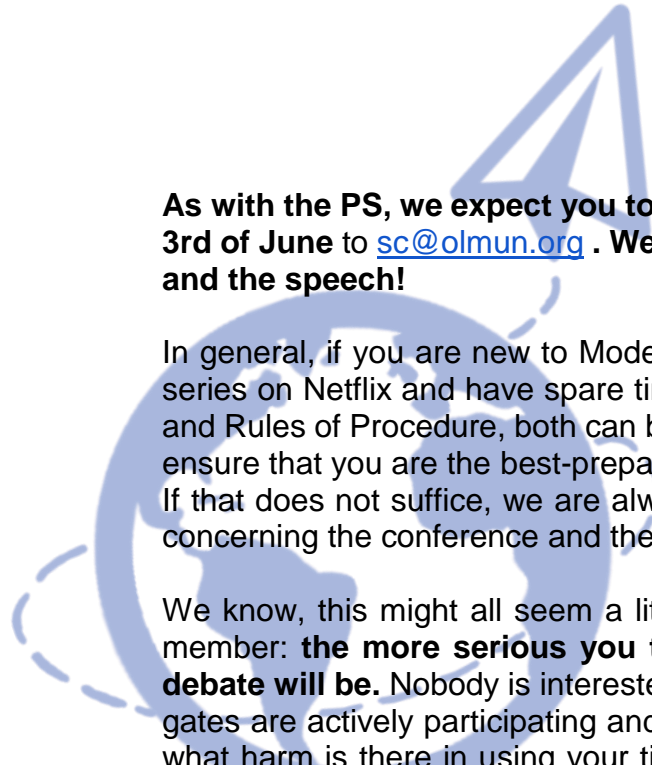


Subsequently, we just want to quickly remind you to ensure that whatever your personal opinion on the issue is: you are expected to present your country's position on the topic, no matter how problematic it is. Model United Nations are a certain form of a play and the more convincing you portray your delegation, the more fun we will have.

Next step, what should you even do with all of your gained information? **Prepare a policy statement and a draft resolution.** Don't know what that is? Well, a policy statement is a brief statement of a country's position and opinion on the issue at hand, as well as a short description of the policies and ideas the delegation wants to put forward. Lengthwise, this should not exceed a page of text and contain an **introduction** (What country are you representing? What topic are you addressing? In what ways is your country involved?...), **main part** (What issues and achievements are vital to your country? Why?) and a **conclusion**, which is basically a summary of the aforementioned.

Make sure to compose it as a short speech, so that in the beginning of the debate you are prepared to present in front of the committee. You should send us your statements beforehand, so we can check them. **We ask you to do this before the 3rd of June.**

Next up is the Draft Resolution. Each delegate is expected to write a DR before the conference. This resolution should be a more elaborate document than the policy statement, containing the direct demands the country wants to put forward the Security Council. It should also be written in a formal manner and fulfill certain requirements. If you do not know what we mean by that, go to www.olmun.org (great site!) and look up passed resolutions from past conferences.



As with the PS, we expect you to send us your Draft Resolutions until the 3rd of June to sc@olmun.org . We expect all of you to prepare both papers and the speech!

In general, if you are new to Model United Nations or just cannot find a good series on Netflix and have spare time at your hands, check out the Handbook and Rules of Procedure, both can be found on the official OLMUN website and ensure that you are the best-prepared delegate in the committee ;)

If that does not suffice, we are always happy to help you with your questions concerning the conference and the writing of your PS and DR.

We know, this might all seem a little overwhelming and over-the-top, but remember: **the more serious you take your preparation, the more fun the debate will be.** Nobody is interested in a session, where only 3 of the 15 delegates are actively participating and if you already made the effort to show up, what harm is there in using your time, getting up on the podium and practice your debating and English skills? Try it, we promise it will be totally worth it.

See you all in June,

Justus and David