

Venezuela National Day Special

Nation working toward global peace, stability, prosperity

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AMBASSADOR OF VENEZUELA



On this auspicious occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I am honored to convey our renewed commitment to the continued friend-

ship between Venezuela and Japan and to extend once again, on behalf of our government and people, our sincere congratulations to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on his accession to the throne and our best wishes of happiness, health and prosperity to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. I would like to commend Their Majesties Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko for their tireless and noble efforts during the Heisei Era, in particular toward the less fortunate. May they be blessed with continued health and happiness.

On this National Day, I would like to extend warm greetings to all the members of the Venezuelan community in Japan.

In an increasingly fragmented world and with a growing trend of unilateralism and arbitrary measures that undermine the values of the United Nations' Charter and the principles of international law, there must be a renewed sense to bolster multilateralism. Hegemonic aspirations blurred with false nationalisms are threatening the very basis of our peaceful coex-



Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza at the high-level plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly in New York in April EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA

istence and the principles and purposes of multilateralism.

One such example are the illegal unilateral coercive measures, commonly known as sanctions, which are contrary to international law and the U.N. Charter, according to resolutions from the Human Rights Council. Sanctions are imposed unilaterally by one or more states acting outside the framework of any international organization and raise issues about fundamental principles of international law, the sovereign equality of states and the peaceful coexistence of states. No country, however powerful, should impose its will on other countries.

We are grateful for the show of solidarity with Venezuela by friends and organizations in Japan, especially against the sanctions imposed on the Venezuelan people by the U.S., which have cost the lives of more than 40,000 from 2017 to 2018 and fit the concept of collective punishment, according to international conventions.

Alfred de Zayas, an expert in international law, who toured Venezuela in 2018 and produced a report for the Human Rights Council, has identified the sanctions as the main cause of the difficult economic situation in Venezuela and recommended, among other actions, that the International Criminal Court investigate these measures as possible crimes against humanity.

To counteract these illegal coercive measures, the government of Venezuela is making great efforts to forge ahead and deliver solutions to its people, with programs such as Local Supply and Production Committees (CLAP), which serve more than 24 million people. Created in 2016, CLAP are a model of direct distribution and local production of staple foods and products.

Furthermore, recently at the 41st session of the U.N. Conference on Food and Agriculture, Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza highlighted the government's commitment to the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. The "Plan de la Patria" for the period 2019 to 2025, a government program for the next six years, includes the 17 objectives of the SDGs.

With the recent visit of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, Venezuela is also strengthening its cooperative relations with the U.N.

In order to reassert the importance of multilateralism and international law, as the only guarantee for peace, stability and world prosperity, Venezuela proposed last year the adoption of resolution 73/127, supported by the nonaligned nations

movement and voted overwhelmingly in favor, to celebrate the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, which was celebrated and promoted for the first time this past April 24.

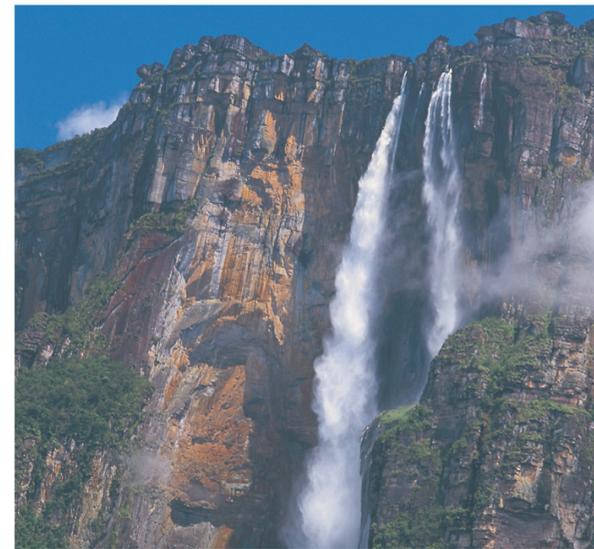
In his speech at the high-level plenary meeting of the U.N. General Assembly to celebrate this day, Arreaza said: "We call on the members of the international community to join the efforts that we have been advancing from the south to achieve the full realization of the three pillars of the movement: peace, sustainable development and human rights. Let us become

champions of inclusive and effective multilateralism, and of diplomacy for peace, to preserve future generations from the scourge of war."

As reflected in the well wishes of "beau-

tiful harmony" for the Reiwa Era, I would like to convey to the peace-loving people of Japan the unwavering desire of all Venezuelans for peaceful coexistence and harmony in the world.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Located in Venezuela, Angel Falls, or Kerepakupai Vena, is the world's highest waterfall. EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA

Congratulations

to the People of the Bolivarian

Republic of Venezuela

on the Occasion of

the 208th Anniversary

of Their Independence

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