



BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JORGE VALERO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**“57 SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)”**

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

**67° SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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NEW YORK, MARCH 11TH, 2013

Madam President,

On March 05th, 2013, the peoples of the world received with great pain the sad news of the death of the leader of the Bolivarian Revolution, President Hugo Chávez Frías. World leader in the fight for justice, champion in the defense of human rights, soldier for the vindication of the suffered and oppressed of the earth, and passionate fighter for the liberation of the peoples of the world.

President Hugo Chávez, feminist by conviction, accompanied the women of Venezuela and the world in their just aspirations. He confessed: "I am feminist and fight for the Bolivarian woman to take the place it deserves in the construction of the socialist homeland". "There cannot be Revolution without women's participation".

Madam President,

The Venezuelan socialist leader was decisive in our country for reaching indisputable achievements for the full enjoyment of human rights and the dignity of woman. He inspired radical changes. In the Bolivarian Constitution, adopted by popular referendum for the first time in the history of our country, a non-sexist language was incorporated and guarantees and rights for women were established, including the recognition of domestic labour as generator of added value, creator of wealth and social welfare.

The Socialism of the XXI Century, which is the north of the Bolivarian Revolution, led by President Hugo Chávez, has a feminist scope. It recognizes women as a social and historical subject within the Venezuelan legal framework. The leader of the Bolivarian Revolution was convinced that gender equality is an essential part of democratic transformations, leading to the establishment of truly just and humane society.

Hugo Chávez Frías was a champion of the fight against poverty and devoted all his passion to the establishment of the needed conditions to eradicate all forms of violence against women, through the formulation of public policies, plans and programmes with a gender approach of cross-implementation in national bodies.

Thanks to his moral and political legacy, our people today has a legal and institutional framework which is sturdily feminist and unprecedented in the history of Venezuela.

During his term in office the following Acts were adopted: the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence; the Law of Equal Opportunities; the Law on Responsible Parenthood; the Law on the Promotion and Protection of Breastfeeding; Organic Law of Labour for the Workers; and the Organic Law of Communal Councils, which allows the establishments of family and gender equality committees.

Today, in Venezuela, we have institutions aimed at empowering women politically, economically and socially: the Ministry of the People's Power for Women, the National Women's Institute, the Bank of Development for Women, and the Mission *Madres del Barrio*.

Likewise, the National Ombudsman for the Rights of Women has been established, which ensures the compliance and follow-up to the actions that must be undertaken by the different public bodies to eradicate violence against them.

The National Observatory for Gender Equality, meanwhile, tracks and monitors gender indexes. Specialized Courts in the Protection of Women have also been established, in order to prosecute perpetrators of crimes against them.

Nationwide, Offices and Lines of Assistance to the Victim have been established, as well as forty six (46) Public Prosecutor Offices with expertise in Violence against Women.

Thanks to the Bolivarian Revolution, led by Hugo Chávez Frías, the participation of women in national life was enhanced. That is why 50% of public offices are held by women. Out of the five branches that make up the National Power, three are headed by women: the Electoral Branch, The Moral Branch, and the Judicial Branch. The participation of women in Community Councils, which are the foundation of the People's Power, is over 60%.

Madam President,

On March 08th, 2012, within the Framework of the International Women's Day, President Hugo Chávez lovingly said: "Women, Women, Women! Oh Women of My Life, Women of My Homeland! I Infinitely Love You and All of Me Belongs to You! We will Live and Overcome!"

We would like to sincerely thank the expressions of condolences from the peoples and governments of the world for the irreparable loss of our second Liberator.

The legacy of Hugo Chávez Frías will be perpetuated in the heart of those who fight for social justice, peace and equality to reign in the world. His eternal soul will be immortalized in history, inspiring new epics in order to build the great, free and sovereign Our American nation that we dream.

I thank you, Madam President.