



**57th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela
Benelux Statement**

Delivered by H.E. Mr Marc Bichler, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg

20 September 2024

Thank you, Mr President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and my own country Luxembourg. We align ourselves with the EU statement.

We thank the Fact-Finding Mission for their excellent report.

We are deeply concerned by the state-led repression - including unprecedented forms of digital repression - Venezuelans have to face and that has only increased in the run-up and aftermath of the July 28th election,

The authorities have unleashed a campaign of brutal repression, marked by the arrest and arbitrary detention of at least 2.000 protesters - including minors - and citizen election observers. We call for their immediate and unconditional release. We reiterate calls for transparency regarding the electoral process and its outcomes and urge the authorities to respect the will of the Venezuelan people.

Venezuelan authorities must uphold the rights of all Venezuelans, particularly activists, journalists, human rights defenders and members of the opposition. We are deeply concerned about the cases of María Andreina Oropeza, Perkins Rocha, Freddy Superlano, Dignora Hernández, and Henry Alviarez and many other cases. We strongly call on the authorities to guarantee prompt access to private legal and medical assistance for those detained.

Ms. Valiñas, in the context of decreased civic space, increasing digital repression, and the refusal of the authorities to allow the Office of the High Commissioner to return to Venezuela: how can the international community best support human rights defenders on the ground?

Thank you for your attention.

(245 words)