

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1262

Date: 25 November 2024

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Agency

1. On 22 November 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale, together with an attachment, from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Embajada en Austria
Misión Permanente ante la ONU, Viena

Nº  AT-N264-24

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Vienna, presents its compliment to the Honorable International Atomic Energy Agency; and has the honor to send attached the statement of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela delivered on agenda item 8: "Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA", during the November's Board of Governors, 2024; with the request to be published as an INF/CIRC and being circulated among Members States.

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Vienna, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Honorable International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, November 22th, 2024

**To the Honorable
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna.-**

Statement of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**Board of Governors****November 20–22, 2024****Item 8: “Restoration of the Sovereign Equality of Member States in the IAEA.”**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

My delegation appreciates the efforts of all the countries that have led the topic of restoring the sovereign equality among Member States of the IAEA for over 25 years, striving to find a permanent solution to the current participation system in the IAEA, which remains unbalanced, unjust, and contrary to the purposes and principles of equality established in the UN Charter.

Currently, we are facing proposals for transitional solutions that fail to address the core issue and, furthermore, could set a serious procedural precedent for the rules of procedure.

Likewise, our delegation considers it necessary that all procedural information related to the core issue, including the application, acceptance, and/or rejection of requests for participation in regional groups, be transparent.

Mr. Chair,

While we understand and support the arguments of the countries fighting for their legitimate right to participate on a basis of sovereign equality—and we are willing to continue working with them—it is deeply contradictory to the principles of the United Nations, and most unfortunate for their cause, that within this group of so-called “no region” countries, the participation of one member who has demonstrated total disrespect for international norms is being promoted in IAEA activities.

What interest could the Board of Governors have in welcoming a member who has shredded a copy of the UN Charter in the General Assembly, whose main representative (currently wanted by international justice) declared Secretary-General Guterres persona non grata, who has killed a significant number of UN peacekeepers, and who has publicly and repeatedly defied and attacked the entire United Nations system, its principles, and its values?

Why should the IAEA be a welcoming space for such a country? For what purpose?

While other countries face strict restrictions and monitoring, this country continues without adhering to safeguards and in blatant violation of international law.

That member, being a nuclear power, is not a party to the NPT. It represents a real nuclear threat to the region and the world, being the only country not subject to the IAEA's safeguards compliance system: an unsupervised nuclear power actively carrying out a genocidal extermination plan against the State of Palestine.

On the matter at hand, Venezuela is concerned that this indulgence—both in form and substance—toward this member, in the context of its alleged intention to participate in the Board of Governors of the IAEA, could misalign this Organization from the global UN system to which we belong.

Therefore, Venezuela requests that a specific legal assessment of this particular case and its participation in the IAEA be undertaken by the Director General, in coordination with the Legal Office of the UN Secretary-General in New York.

Mr. Chair,

Venezuela urges Member States to make decisions that respect the regulations of the IAEA and the UN Charter, without double standards.

My delegation considers it important that this matter continues to be reviewed and debated within the framework of the group of friends created for this purpose, with objectivity and respect for the various opinions that may arise, in order to seek definitive, not transitional, solutions that are always aligned with international law.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.