



Grupo de trabajo de Sociedad Civil CELAC-UE

The CELAC-EU Civil Society Working Group strongly condemns the intervention of the US government in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The CELAC-EU Civil Society Working Group (hereinafter referred to as the CELAC-EU Working Group) expresses its strongest condemnation of the events that took place on 3 January 2026 affecting the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which constitute a flagrant violation of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and unrestricted respect for the self-determination of peoples.

The US armed aggression comes after months of growing tension, which has included a significant military deployment off the coast of Venezuela and a series of lethal attacks on vessels under the unsubstantiated argument of potential links to drug trafficking. These actions contravene international law by undermining the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people, as evidenced by the almost colonial conditions imposed on them, and jeopardise the stability of Latin America and the Caribbean. They also seriously endanger the lives of millions of people, contradicting the principle of the region as a zone of peace, adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2014, as a fundamental political and ethical instrument for stability, development and regional integration, widely supported by the CELAC-EU Bioregional Alliance as stated in paragraph 10 of the Santa Marta Declaration.

In this regard, the CELAC-EU Working Group states the following:

1. It echoes the statements condemning the aggression [issued](#) during the emergency session of the Security Council on 5 January 2026, convened by the United Nations and promoted by several Latin American countries. Any action involving the use of force, external interference or the violation of the constitutional order of a State is incompatible with the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, especially Articles 1 and 2, which enshrine respect for sovereignty, the legal equality of States and the prohibition of the use of force. ***It is urgent to give effect to the commitment of the CELAC-EU bi-regional alliance, renewed in Santa Marta, to oppose the threat or use of force and any action that is not in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter, and to call for the peaceful resolution of international disputes, in line with the multilateral commitments made by the States of both the CELAC and EU regions.***
2. It expresses concern about the ambiguous and insufficient responses of many EU and CELAC governments to a clear violation of international law, which undermines the credibility of their commitment to multilateralism and democracy. The

normalisation of unilateral military actions seriously weakens the multilateral system and sets a dangerous precedent for this and other scenarios of tension. ***The commitment of the CELAC-EU bi-regional alliance to 'a more just, equitable and democratic international order' requires, as stated in paragraph 4 of the [Santa Marta Declaration](#), a clear and unwavering defence of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.***

3. It notes with particular concern that these events are unfolding in a complex bi-regional and international context, characterised by political and socio-economic tensions and marked by a global dispute over control of natural and strategic resources. International law is being violated by a logic of resource appropriation and economic control, especially over Venezuela's energy reserves, which threatens to establish forms of guardianship and plundering typical of an economic protectorate incompatible with the principles of sovereignty, social justice and sustainable development. ***It is imperative that the CELAC-EU bi-regional alliance ensure and guarantee respect for the principle of Venezuela's sovereignty over its natural resources, and that there be no appropriation, control or external guardianship over these resources that is not in line with international law.***
4. It speaks out against any attempt to impose political or governmental changes by violent or coercive means, as this clearly contravenes the principles of international law. It also rejects any practice involving the capture, detention or forcible transfer of political authorities or leaders in office outside the established legal and multilateral frameworks.
5. It expresses its solidarity with civil society and the Venezuelan people at this complex and difficult time, and calls for military aggression and its consequences not to undermine a civic space that is already under threat. The effective protection of civic space and those who uphold it must be understood as an essential condition for lasting peace, political dialogue and respect for the rule of law in the region. ***In this regard, the CELAC-EU Working Group reiterates its willingness to contribute, as part of organised civil society, to the creation of opportunities for dialogue, understanding and mutual respect, in line with the principles of effective development, social justice and lasting peace in Latin America and the Caribbean.***

The CELAC-EU Working Group expressly requests that CELAC and the European Union, in accordance with their mandates and in the spirit of the commitments made at recent summits underpinning their bi-regional alliance: **condemn the illegal military intervention undertaken by the Government of the United States of America**, which affects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and assume **with determination their role in the active defence of peace**, urging the parties involved to guarantee full respect for international law and human rights, ensuring the coverage of the humanitarian needs of the population and refraining from any action that puts at risk the life, integrity and dignity of individuals.