

US Threatens Venezuela at UNSC as IMF Freezes Funds

Diplomatic battles rage on at international bodies such as the UNSC, the OAS and the IMF.

By [Ricardo Vaz](#)

Global Research, April 15, 2019

Venezuelanalysis.com 11 April 2019

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean, USA](#)

Theme: [Global Economy, United Nations](#)

The United States pressured the United Nations to recognize self-proclaimed “Interim President” Juan Guaido during a Security Council (UNSC) meeting on Wednesday.

US **Vice President Mike Pence** told the UNSC that “the time has come” for the UN to recognize Guaido as Venezuela’s “legitimate president” and accept the latter’s representative to the world body. He added that the US would circulate a resolution to this effect, but offered no details on its timetable. A previous US [resolution](#) at the UNSC was vetoed by Russia and China on February 28.

Pence went on to reiterate the warning that “all options are on the table” to oust the Maduro government. “This is our neighborhood,” he told reporters afterward, calling on [Russia](#) to cease its support to the Maduro government.

Venezuela’s UN representative, Samuel Moncada, slammed what he called a “clear move to undermine” Venezuela’s rights, adding that his legitimacy depended on UN recognition and not on the declarations of the US vice president.

Russian ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused the US of causing Venezuela “billions of dollars in losses” as a result of sanctions.

“[The US] deliberately provokes a crisis in Venezuela in order to change a legitimately elected leader for a US protegee,” Nebenzia said in his speech.

Chinese representative **Liu Jieyi** likewise affirmed that Venezuelan affairs should be handled internally and criticized the imposition of sanctions, while his South African counterpart, **Jerry Matjila**, called for the UNSC to take a “constructive approach.”

Wednesday’s UNSC meeting came on the heels of a session at the Organization of American States (OAS) which approved Guaido’s appointment, **Gustavo Tarre**, as a representative to the body “until new elections are held.” The proposal had 18 votes in favor, 9 against, six abstentions and one absence.

Venezuelan authorities [denounced](#) the move as a violation of international law and of the OAS charter. The Foreign Ministry reiterated that Venezuela is due to [leave](#) the OAS on April 27, having started the process two years ago. Caracas denounced meddling in its internal

affairs after the OAS had repeatedly tried to apply its [democratic charter](#). However, it never managed to secure the necessary 24 votes.

Diplomatic battles surrounding Guaidó's recognition have extended to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to [Bloomberg](#), the IMF cut off Caracas' access to almost US \$400 million in special drawing rights (SDR). While the IMF has shown no signs of recognizing Guaidó, and lists **Finance Minister Simon Zerpá** as Venezuela's representative, sources told Bloomberg that a government must be recognized by a majority of the Fund's members to access its SDR reserves.

Venezuela remains mired in a deep economic crisis that has seen its international reserves shrink to around \$9 billion. The cash crunch has been further compounded by US and allies freezing Venezuelan assets held abroad. In one such case, the Bank of England has refused to [repatriate](#) an estimated \$1.2 billion worth of Venezuelan gold held in its vaults.

International tensions have also flared around the issue of humanitarian aid, with US and Venezuelan opposition ultimately [failing](#) to force an estimated \$20 million worth of aid across the Venezuela-Colombia border on [February 23](#). The operation faced strident criticism from international agencies such as the United Nations and the Red Cross, who refused to take part in the "politicization" of aid.

During Tuesday's UNSC meeting, UN aid chief **Mark Lowcock** stated that Venezuela is facing a "very real humanitarian problem" and talked about the need to step up UN efforts in the Caribbean country. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres later [tweeted](#) that the UN estimates there are 7 million people in need of aid in Venezuela, and that the UN is working to increase its assistance "in line with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence."

UN agencies have increased their work in Venezuela in recent months, most recently via an [agreement](#) between Caracas and the UN's Central Emergency Resource Fund for US \$9.2 million to address the health and nutritional impacts of the country's severe economic crisis. President Maduro has also appealed for UN [assistance](#) in countering US sanctions to bring medicines and medical equipment to Venezuela.

Likewise, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) recently announced a [scaling up](#) of its activities in Venezuela, doubling its annual country budget to \$60 million as part of an agreement with the Venezuelan government.

Maduro met a Red Cross commission headed by **IFRC President Peter Maurer** on Tuesday to coordinate the agency's work in Venezuela. Maurer had previously met Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza to "strengthen cooperation agreements."

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Featured image is from EFE

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Ricardo Vaz](#)**

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca