

OAS Supports Venezuela and Approves Review of Almagro's Actions



Santo Domingo, June 16 (RHC)-- The Organization of American States, the OAS, will meet next week to continue discussing the situation in Venezuela, as member states overwhelmingly support dialogue, not intervention.

The OAS wrapped up its three-day General Assembly session on Wednesday in the Dominican Republic, focused on discussing the situation in Venezuela. The decision was made in favor of taking further action to assess whether OAS head Luis Almagro's move to invoke the Democratic Charter against the South American nation was legitimate.

The meeting in Santo Domingo came after tensions flared between the Washington-based OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro and Venezuela over a decision to invoke the mechanism that could have resulted in the country being suspended from the regional bloc over an alleged political crisis.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez requested an evaluation of Almagro's action on Wednesday, a proposal that was approved by the assembly for further discussion in an OAS Permanent Council meeting in Washington next Tuesday.

Rodriguez slammed Almagro for questioning Venezuelan democracy and accused him of being “mandated by Washington” to support a coup in the South American country, where political tensions have flared in recent weeks amid opposition calls to speed up the process toward a recall referendum against President Nicolas Maduro. She called the OAS head’s conduct “illegal and fraudulent.”

After the session, Almagro said he was not concerned by the decision to evaluate his actions. “We have full peace of mind and certainty about the path chosen,” he said in a press conference.

Last month, Almagro, a former Uruguayan foreign minister, stepped out of diplomatic protocol and penned a hostile letter to Maduro accusing him of sliding toward being a “petty dictator” after the Venezuelan president made heated statements accusing Almagro of becoming a traitor giving a helping hand to the CIA and U.S. interests.

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