

UN Agencies Welcome Venezuela's Human Rights Roadmap



Caracas, July 23 (teleSUR-RHC)-- United Nations organizations including the U.N. Development Programme and High Commissioner for Refugees have welcomed Venezuela's newly unveiled four year human rights plan, foreign minister Delcy Rodriguez said on Wednesday.

"We have been congratulated by these international agencies for our creation of the National Plan for Human Rights, which covers the issue of human rights in Venezuela in all its dimensions," Rodriguez said.

The foreign minister said earlier that day she held a constructive meeting with representatives from organizations including the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, UNESCO's International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.N. Population Fund, the U.N. Fund for Children and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Announced by Vice President Jorge Arreaza and Security Vice President Carmen Melendez earlier this month, the 2015-2019 National Plan for Human Rights aims to consolidate Venezuela's progress in promoting human rights. According to Arreaza, the new human rights plan will focus on promoting a “culture of human rights.”

The plan will also involve strengthening existing human rights institutions. According to a statement from the government, the new four year plan is the result of extensive consultation between state officials in Caracas and representatives of the Union of South American Nations regional bloc, who visited Caracas in 2014.

Among the key recommendations by international representatives were a series of recommendations aimed at promoting dialogue between the Venezuelan government and opposition groups.

The new human rights roadmap provides provisions for inviting all Venezuelans to join a national dialogue, according to UNDP coordinator Niky Fabiancic. The coordinator said the plan could “become an instrument of peace and reconciliation.”

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