

# *UN secretary-general recognizes Nicolas Maduro as Venezuelan president*

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United Nations, February 1 (RHC)-- The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recognized the representation of the Venezuelan Government -- led by its Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza -- while rejecting the interests of deputy of the National Assembly (AN), Juan Guaido, who unconstitutionally proclaimed himself "president in charge" on January 23rd.

Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general, confirmed that Guterres responded to a letter, which was sent by Juan Guaido asking the agency to send humanitarian aid to Venezuela.

Guterres reiterated his concern about the impact of the current Venezuelan crisis on the people.

However, regarding Guaido's request, the secretary-general referred the petition to the Government of Venezuela, which is headed by President Nicolas Maduro.

"Antonio Guterres responds to Guaido's letter. The UN is ready to increase its humanitarian and development activities in Venezuela."

"The United Nations is ready to increase its activities in Venezuela in the areas of humanitarian assistance and development. However, for this, the United Nations needs the consent and the

cooperation of the Government," Dujarric said and added that the Guterres "underscores that recognizing governments is not a function for the Secretary but for Member states."

In addition, Antonio Guterres also favors "lowering tensions" in Venezuela and called for all relevant parties to commit to an inclusive and credible political dialogue.

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