

On the occasion of the celebration of Democracy Day

It is imperative to continue promoting the construction of authentic elections in Venezuela

A little more than a year before the regional and municipal elections of November 2021, and in the context of the evocation of January 23rd as an emblematic date for the construction of democracy in Venezuela, we wish to reaffirm our firm commitment to the reconstruction of the electoral route as an unavoidable path for the peaceful transformation of the serious conflict that affects all Venezuelans today.

The renewal of the electoral authorities in May 2021, which included the incorporation of two non-official rectors within the National Electoral Council (CNE), implied a decisive step in the process of re-institutionalization of the electoral mediator. This process, which involved coordination between political and civil society actors, marked an important advance in the recovery of electoral guarantees and conditions. These guarantees included the return of international electoral observation missions, the performance of a comprehensive audit of the automated voting system and the return of the main political opposition parties to the electoral arena.

With the 2024 - 2025 biennium approaching, in which presidential, parliamentary, regional and municipal elections will take place, it is urgent to continue working for the establishment of guarantees and conditions for the realization of free elections in Venezuela. The report of the European Union Election Observation Mission set out clear, specific and possible recommendations. The United Nations Mission of Experts, on the other hand, opened a door for electoral technical assistance, an instance of critical importance to continue advancing on the steep slope that will lead to the restitution of the right to elect and be elected.

In this context, it is imperative to start working on the elaboration of feasible proposals regarding registration, updating and auditing of the Electoral Registry inside and outside the country; the respect of the principle of political participation; the full access of political actors to the national media spaces and the implementation of measures to improve the performance of the electoral body as an autonomous institutional body, assuming along the way the implementation of the regulatory reforms necessary for the realization of these challenges.

The citizens committed to the peaceful, electoral and constitutional solution of the Venezuelan conflict are determined to continue promoting this path. It is necessary to understand that differences will continue to exist. The present moment demands, however, to identify the democratic principles and values that unite us. The 2024 - 2025 biennium is of utmost importance for the recovery of democratic institutions in Venezuela. In this sense, the events set forth in the electoral calendar for this period constitute a unique opportunity for Venezuelans.

On the occasion of this emblematic day for democracy in Venezuela, we urge political and institutional actors to maintain and deepen the incipient electoral institutionality that, in the November 21st elections, managed to defeat abstention.

In view of these approaches, the undersigned civil organizations and actors urge Venezuelans with a democratic vocation to ratify their commitment to the process of democratic re-institutionalization, and to demand the following actions:

- 1) Respect for democratic institutionalism and the electoral power appointed in May 2021 in compliance with the provisions of the National Constitution;
- 2) Facilitation of the conditions for the update and registration of Venezuelan citizens in the Electoral Registry, inside and outside the country;
- 3) Respect for the right to elect and be elected as a fundamental element in the process of solving the crisis in Venezuela.

This initiative is promoted by:

Civil Society Organizations:

A.C. MEDICOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA

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Laboratorio de Paz

Observatorio Electoral Venezolano (OEV)

Observatorio Global de Comunicación y Democracia

Observatorio Venezolano DDHMuJeres

Observatorio Venezolano de Conflictividad Social (OVCS)

Odevida, Capítulo Venezuela

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SINERGIA

Una Ventana a la Libertad

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