

# *Venezuela Looks to Strengthen Intercontinental Cooperation*

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Caracas, January 12 (RHC-teleSUR) -- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro arrived in Qatar Sunday for part of his official tour of OPEC member nations to refine strategies to stabilize oil prices which are currently in decline.

In the nation's capital of Doha, teleSUR correspondent Rolando Seguro reported that the purpose of the visit was to "revitalize OPEC and return to reaching oil prices again from a few months ago to maintain the stability of the global economy."

Maduro travelled to Qatar after his visit from Saudi Arabi where he held meetings to seek consensus on oil prices.

Before leaving, the Venezuelan president said that his current tour "is in order to strengthen a productive economy, international alliances and for the development of Venezuela's economy."

Maduro continued, "Venezuela and Saudi Arabia reactivated the High Commission to meet quarterly and review everything regarding the oil market."

In addition, both nations promised to take joint actions to strengthen the oil market affected by the use of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking", a controversial method of oil extraction increasingly being used in the

United States.

Maduro travelled to Algeria Monday where both countries expected to meet and strengthen "the excellent relationship, friendship and cooperation between the two countries," said the Algerian government in a statement.

On Saturday, Maduro met with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani in Tehran. Both nations agreed to strengthening OPEC. Maduro said that, "OPEC will continue to play a stabilizing role. OPEC will continue to play a role in strengthening the world economy."

Rouhani also shared similar sentiments that Iran and Venezuela "can undoubtedly cooperate to thwart world powers' strategies ... and to stabilize prices at a reasonable level in 2015."

Similarly, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei expressed his support for the countries' coordinated actions to reverse the decline in global oil prices. Khamenei described the drop in prices as a "political ploy hatched by common enemies."

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