

# *Venezuela Seeks Broad Public Input into New Human Rights Plan*

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Caracas, July 15 (XINHUA-RHC) -- The Venezuelan government on Tuesday launched a national action plan for human rights and called on all sectors of society to participate in its implementation.

Venezuelan Executive Vice President Jorge Arreaza said that this issue concerns all of the society, including those organizations that do not support the government of President Nicolas Maduro. He urged all parties to set aside their differences and view this plan as "a place to discuss, consult ... and generate more contributions that will benefit the 30 million Venezuelans."

The new plan contains five main topics, ranging from efforts to be made at different levels of the Venezuelan society to interactions with international bodies.

He also called on the Venezuelan public to ignore the existent "misunderstanding" about the country's progress on the human rights front.

"We are going to keep a respectful, critical and innovative interaction with the United Nations and we will follow its recommendations that are valid for our people," he said.

Guatemalan Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu who attended the plan's launch ceremony, praised the initiative.

"Venezuela is sending a very positive message to the world with its proposed human rights plan. This shows there is a culture of respect for human rights in the country," she said.

In the coming weeks, the proposal will be placed online to gather feedback from the public before the government consults various human rights organizations in the country. Maduro will present the final plan to the international community.

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