

# *Organization of American States Supports Venezuela's Call For Dialogue*

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Washington, June 2 (RHC)-- The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States unanimously adopted a resolution Wednesday opposing intervention and encouraging dialogue between lawmakers in Venezuela after the head of the regional bloc moved to invoke the so-called 'Democratic Charter' against the South American country.

In the declaration, OAS member states said: "We reiterate our support for the various initiatives of national dialogue that will lead, under full respect for human rights, to a timely, prompt and effective solution to the differences and consolidation of representative democracy."

Venezuela's representative to the OAS Bernardo Alvarez Herrera had submitted a proposal to suspend the meeting, on the grounds that its government had not been consulted. The Venezuela motion was supported by several OAS member countries including Bolivia and Nicaragua, which joined in calling on the body to respect Venezuela's national sovereignty.

The meeting was called after Argentina's mission to the OAS requested an extraordinary session to discuss the current issues facing the South American country -- a move Caracas had slammed as "foreign

intervention." Argentina's call came after OAS head Luis Almagro published a 132-page document intended to justify the application of the 'Democratic Charter.'

The final declaration, a merger between separate proposals submitted by Argentina and Venezuela, highlighted the need for dialogue and backed mediation by the Union of South American Nations or UNASUR, while also affirming respect for Venezuela's sovereignty.

The motion angered Venezuelan opposition, who took to social media to lash out at Argentina's backing of the declaration. "Argentina's position at the OAS session is a shame," opposition leader and National Assembly President Henry Ramos Allup tweeted. "At least Cristina was not hypocritical," referring to former Argentinean president and Venezuela ally Cristina Fernandez.

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