Caracas, Venezuela

February 19, 2021

**Voices of Civil Society on the Appointment of Electoral Authorities**

The National Assembly, elected in 2020 and whose legitimacy is questioned by the majority of the country and relevant actors of the international community, is the institution in charge of the designation of new electoral authorities. This new National Electoral Council (CNE) will govern the multiple elections to be held in the country over the next seven years. This controversial fact should not become a new obstacle to the appointment of a reliable electoral referee.

The citizens, organizations, and social movements that sign this statement are aware that only a political agreement can endow the country with an electoral power that generates confidence and restores voting's value as a sovereign instrument for the election of authorities. We are also aware that this political agreement needs to be built in broad spaces of understanding to guarantee all political and social actors' participation in the country.

The selection of a new CNE is an opportunity for society to reach an agreement that allows for an electoral arbitration that generates citizens' confidence. We consider it necessary to help build the conditions that would enable the building of such an imperative agreement. Therefore, we have decided to participate in the process by nominating Venezuelans of recognized trajectory and honor, seeking to contribute to the construction of favorable conditions for the beginning of the process of understanding each other for the sake of the country's re-institutionalization.

Our decision to participate in the selection of rectors of the CNE seeks to join the company of recent statements made by actors within various political sectors, who call for incorporating the electoral route to the instruments of struggle for democracy, recognizing the vote's core character as an expression of popular sentiment.

Through this civic action to support candidates' nomination for the positions of the Electoral Nominations Commission and the candidates to occupy the positions of rectors, the proposing organizations ratify our commitment and good will to search for consensuses that allow Venezuelans to regain our civil and political rights. With our participation, we aspire to contribute to a broad national debate on the appointment of a reliable CNE. Therefore, we have decided to responsibly intervene in the structuring stages of electoral institutions and construct spaces of understanding in which necessary consensus can be reached.

We maintain that the achievement of balanced and reliable electoral processes that allow solving the governance crisis is imperative. Its accomplishment requires the construction of the conditions that make a political agreement for the appointment of competent and fair electoral authorities possible. Our action is a form of citizen participation that seeks to achieve an adequate framework for exercising a fundamental human right, such as the election of community leaders or representatives. This is one more way to persist in our eager search for conditions and guarantees so that citizens can enjoy genuinely democratic elections that provide the nation with legitimate institutions that can provide real solutions to the serious problems that Venezuelans suffer.

We hope that our efforts will foster a process of understanding that will lead us to the full restoration of the electoral rights of political parties and citizens in general, thereby strengthening the path towards a democratic solution to the delicate national situation.

We, once again, call on the international community to support, in a coordinated and purposeful manner, the efforts made by Venezuelan society to demand that all political actors participate in the task of reaching agreements that result in benefits for the population. The realization of such agreements strengthens the dynamics that must exist between the parties now in conflict for the resolution of the political problem through fair and verifiable elections.

Finally, we want to announce the names of the 15 candidates nominated by various civil society organizations, a list that includes:

1) Luis Lander, miembro del Observatorio Electoral Venezolano, postulated by ROAE. (Red de Observación Electoral de Asamblea de Educación).

2) Francisco Martínez, ex Presidente de Fedecámaras, postulated by SINERGIA.

3) Robinson Rivas, Director de la escuela de Computación de la UCV, postulated by OEV (Observatorio Electoral Venezolano).

4) David Delgado Iturriza, Académico de la ULA, facultad de ciencias políticas. Postulated by OEV (Observatorio Electoral Venezolano).

5) Griselda Colina, miembro del Observatorio global de comunicaciones y democracia. Postulated by Asosaber (Asociación Civil Saber es Poder).

6) Roberto Picón, Ingeniero de Sistemas, Asesor electoral. Postulated by la Red Sinergia.

7) León Arismendi, abogado, profesor en la cátedra de Derecho del Trabajo de la UCV. Director del Instituto Nacional de Altos Estudios Sindicales, Inaesin. Postulated by ROAE (Red de Observación Electoral de Asamblea de Educación).

8) Bernardo Méndez, ex vicerrector administrativo, Doctor en Química. Profesor en la Facultad de Ciencias UCV. By ROAE (Red de Observación Electoral de Asamblea de Educación).

9) Céliz Mendoza, Ex consultor Jurídico del CNE. By Asosaber (Asociación Civil Saber es Poder).

10) Helen Aguiar, Presidente de la Red de Observadores Electorales de Venezuela, Postulado por OGCD (Observatorio Global de Comunicación y Democracia).

11) Noel Mavárez, Funcionario del CNE. Postulated by OGCD (Observatorio Global de Comunicación y Democracia).

12) Carmen González, Abogada jubilada del CNE y especialista en temas de género, directora de Asosaber. Postulated by OGCD (Observatorio Global de Comunicación y Democracia).

13) Tulio Ramírez, Profesor Titular de la UCV, Director del Doctorado y Postdoctorado en Educación UCAB. Postulated by CEPAZ (Centro de Justicia y Paz).

14) Williams Fernández, Ingeniero Civil / Abogado Profesor de Derecho UCV especialización en materia electoral, Registro Civil y Electoral. Jubilado del CNE. Postulated by Cepaz (Centro de Justicia y Paz).

15) Eugenio Martínez, periodista especializado en temas políticos y electorales, postulated by Asosaber (Asociación Civil Saber es Poder).

Signed by,

Organizations:

Aconvida
A.C. Radar de los Barrios
Amigos Trasplantados de Venezuela
Aqui Cabemos Todos
Asociación Civil Oportunidad Acciones Ciudadanas
Asociación Civil Saber es Poder-AsoSaber
AVRAC - Asoc. Venezolana para la Resolución Alternativa de Conflictos
Baruta En Movimiento
Caleidoscopio Humano
Caracas Ciudad Plural
Cátedra de DDHH de la Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado
Central de Trabajadores ASI Venezuela
Centro de Acción y Defensa por los Derechos Humanos (CADEF)
Centro de Estudios Sociales y Culturales CENSO-C
Centro de Justicia y Paz - CEPAZ
Civilis DDHH
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Federación de Abogados de Venezuela Capitulo Bolívar
Comisión de derechos humanos de la federación de abogados de Venezuela Capítulo Guárico
Comisión Nacional de DDHH de la Federación de Colegios de Abogados de Venezuela CápituloTáchira
Comisión para los Derechos Humanos del Estado Zulia (Codhez)
Comunidad en Movimiento AC
Crea País
Declaración Tarigua
Defensa en Acción
Equilibrio Hatillano
Excubitus Derehos Humanos en Educación
Foro Ciudadano
Foro Hatillano
Foro San Antonio
Funcolven
Fundacion Cuatropes
Fundacion de lucha contra el cáncer de mama, Funcamama
Fundación HUMANA
Fundación Pro-Defensa del Derecho a la Educación y la Niñez (FUNDA-PDEN )
Gobiérnatec
Instituto Venezolano de Estudios Sociales y Políticos-Invesp
Labo Ciudadano
Laboratorio de Paz
Mavid Carabobo
Monitor Social A.C.
Movimiento Ciudadano Dale Letra
MoviVargas
Observatorio Electoral Venezolano
Observatorio Global de Comunicación y Democracia
PROMEDEHUM
Proyecto 860
Red de Observación Electoral de Asamblea de Educación
Semillas de paz
Sinergia, Red Venezolana de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil
Sociedad Hominis Iura (SOHI)
StopVIH
Una Ventana a la Libertad
Unión de Iglesias Cristianas de Venezuela ( UNICRISTIANA)
Unión Vecinal para la Participación Ciudadana
Universidad de Los Andes
Venezuela Diversa A.C
Voto Joven
Zona de Descarga

Individuals:

Alba Purroy
Alberto L Dillon
Alberto Lovera
Ángel Zambrano Cobo
Apóstol Elías Rincón Aguirre
Camilo Parra
Carlos Angustia
Carlos Daniel Moreno
Carlos Vielma
Carole Leal Curiel
Carolina Acosta-Alzuru
Carolina Punceles
Celiz Ramón Mendoza
Claudia Nikken
Colette Capriles
Cristóbal Picón
Deborah Van Berkel
Diana Carolina Cuevas Ordoñez
Dickson Segovia
Edgardo Mondolfi Gudat
Elizabeth Ball de Picón
Feliciano Reyna Ganteaume
Flavia Pesci Feltri
Francelia Ruiz
Francisco González Cruz
Francisco Martinez G.- Ex Presidente de fedecámaras
Gladys Mogollón
Gipsy Gómez
Gracia Salazar

Griselda Colina
Héctor Manrique
Helena Ayala
Heli Saul Lizardo
Inés Quintero
Isabel Acosta
Isabella Picón
Jesús Castellanos Vásquez
Jesús Chúo Torrealba
Jorge Botti
Jorge Cruz
José Requena
José Soto
Juan Alonso Molina
Juan Berríos Ortigoza
Juan Luis Sosa
Keta Stephany
Liliana Espitia
Luis Guinand
Luisa Rodríguez Táriba
Luis Francisco Cabezas
Maggie Henriquez
Manfredo González
Manuel Rigueira García
Margarita López Maya
Maria Antonieta Angarita
María Dagnino
María Elena Arcia
Maria E Rivero
María Hoffmann
Maria Teresa Alzuru
Maria Teresa Picon
Mariela Ramírez
Maryhen Jiménez
Mario D’Andrea
Marlene Rodriguez
Mercedes Malavé González
Mibelis Acevedo Donís
Michael Penfold
Nancy Hernández de Martín
Nelson Freitez
Ortencia Rodríguez
Oscar J. Pinto Arnó
Oswaldo Guzmán
Pedro Ochoa Méndez
Reymar Villamizar
Ricardo Picón
Rigoberto Lobo
Roberto Enrique Picón Ball
Ronald Almeida Landaez
Seymar Liscano
Simón García
William Requejo Orobio
Willmary Comus
Yurizahima Quintana
Zuleima Blanco