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