

Human Rights Council – 44th session

Interactive Dialogue: High Commissioner's report on Venezuela

15 July 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner and welcomes her report, which we will study in detail following its late publication.

Venezuela's political, economic and humanitarian crisis continues unchecked. Victims of human rights violations continue to face serious obstacles in accessing justice.

We are concerned by the continued high levels of arbitrary detention, deaths in custody and violations of freedom of expression.

We are deeply concerned that illegal mining in and around the Arco Minero is driving extreme human rights abuses. We urge countries against involvement in the illegal mining of gold and other minerals from Venezuela.

We are greatly concerned by the lack of independence in the judicial system and the recent steps by the Venezuelan authorities to further undermine democracy. The recent unconstitutional appointment of National Electoral Council members, delivered through the Supreme Court, subverts the electoral process and discourages opposition.

Australia asks the High Commissioner for her views on how the international community can support the Venezuelan people to exercise their democratic right to inclusive, transparent and peaceful elections, overseen by independent institutions and an impartial judiciary.

Words: 176