

**STATEMENT BY THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA IN
THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON EDUCATION 2030 UNESCO, PARIS**

November 4th, 2015
SUGGESTED DRAFT SPEECH

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President of the General Conference
Chairman of the Board
Director General
Distinguished Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Receive a fraternal greeting from the homeland of Simon Bolivar and Hugo Chavez, on behalf of the Venezuelan people and its President Nicolas Maduro Moros.

During the Revolution, the commitment of our government to achieve high levels in education, has promoted massive and free education, with quality and social relevance. By the year 2014 this indicator rose to almost 6% of GDP, thanks to all revolutionary educational structure formed by Simoncitos, Bolivarian Preschools, Bolivarian Schools, the School Feeding Programme (PAE), Canaima, Bolivarian High Schools, Robinsonianas and Zamoranas Technical Schools, as well as, the Educational Missions system, currently reaching an enrollment of 1,560,585 children in 17,834 institutions, where initial education is taught nationwide.

We have achieved the eradication of illiteracy of the population, through universal primary education, which enrollment rate from 6 to 11 years old is 97%.

Venezuela has reached a primary schooling rate of 93.4%, getting the recognition by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in its

2014 report , which indicates that Venezuela increased the average schooling in 4, 2 years.

Also, the Bolivarian Government, in 15 years of revolution, has so far built 29,747 new educational institutions across the country, compared with 24,083 schools.

The School Feeding Programme (PAE) benefits a population of 4,352,972 students . Likewise, over 12 million textbooks of quality, have been freely distributed, which is an extraordinary figure. A special mention must do to the progress made on Canaima Education Project, that promotes free and inclusive access to technology knowledge, delivering nearly 4 million Canaimitas computers to basic education students nationwide.

Because of the policies to ensure inclusion and social justice for admission of the student population in higher education subsystem, with the territorial and decentralization of the sector, enrollment for 2015 is currently at 2,622,013 students, which represents 83.25% of access to the Venezuelan population aged between 17 and 22 years old.

Other great achievement to be highlighted in the gender equality matter during these 15 years of Revolution is the increase of female participation in the academic field, surpassing the strong male participation, that characterized Venezuelan society during the previous decades, and constituting active women participation as one priority lines to the strengthening of popular power.

Finally, in this context, aware of the challenges arising from he implementation of the Framework for Action Plan 2030; recognizing the significant progress made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in meeting

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and analyzing the principles outlined in the Declaration of Incheon 2015, we endorse the vision of “*transforming lives without leaving anyone behind*”, inspired by a humanistic perspective of education and development, based on human rights and dignity, social justice, inclusion, equality, protection and respect for our cultural and linguistic diversity, that reflects our deepest Bolivarian principles to forge a possible world.

This is the reason why, today more than ever, the Bolivarian Government of President Nicolas Maduro, reaffirms its strong commitment to preserve the legacy of Commander Hugo Chavez, directing our efforts to guarantee “ *an inclusive and equal education of quality, and promote opportunities for all to lifelong learning*”, on attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (ODS) and thus preserving our People's social gains around Education, Culture, Science and Technology, that thanks to the Bolivarian Revolution are irreversible.

Thank you so much.