



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the U.S.

FACT SHEET: THIRTEEN YEARS, THIRTEEN ADVANCES

The Most Important Advances Under Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution



DEMOCRACY IS UP Since 1998, there have been 16 elections in Venezuela, including a vote on a new constitution in 1999 and a recall referendum in 2004.¹ More people are voting, too;

the last presidential election had 75 percent turnout. Over 18 million Venezuelans - about two-thirds of the population - have already registered to vote ahead of the next presidential election on October 7, 2012.²

REGIONAL COOPERATION IS UP

Venezuela recently hosted the founding summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). This historic regional group, comprised of 33 countries, is dedicated to forging unity and peace.³

SOCIAL SPENDING IS UP

Government investment in social programs since 1999 has reached \$468 billion, an amount several times greater than the investment made in the decade prior. In 2011, social investment accounted for 60 percent of government spending.⁴

LITERACY IS UP After 1.5 million Venezuelans were taught to read, in 2005, UNESCO declared the country free of illiteracy. Venezuela was the second country in the region after Cuba to have reached this milestone.⁵

HEALTH SERVICES ARE UP Mission Barrio Adentro ("Inside the Neighborhood") has brought medical clinics to communities that never had them before. From 2003 to 2010, the clinics were visited 432 million times and over 300,000 lives were saved.⁶

GENDER EQUITY IS UP Under the administration of President Chávez, women have led three out of the five branches of government. Women currently hold about 30 percent of cabinet positions and 16 percent of seats in the National Assembly.⁷

TECHNOLOGY IS UP Venezuela received an award from UNESCO in 2011 in recognition of its work to provide free internet access to citizens through Fundación Infocentros. Its national technological literacy program has trained over a million people.⁸



POVERTY IS DOWN Venezuela has the third lowest poverty rate in the region, according to the UN Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Between

2002 and 2010, poverty fell by 20.8 percentage points (from 48.6 percent to 27.8 percent), and extreme poverty fell by 11.5 percentage points (from 22.2 percent to 10.7 percent).⁹ New social missions have been created to target extreme poverty, such as "Sons of Venezuela," a program providing teenage mothers with economic benefits and education.

INEQUALITY IS DOWN Venezuela stands out among countries in the region for progress on reducing inequality; its gini index (which measures inequality) fell by 2 to 3 percent annually since 2002, largely due to rising per capita incomes.¹⁰

MALNUTRITION IS DOWN The level of malnutrition in Venezuela has been reduced by more than half, from 7.7 percent in the 1990s to 3.7 percent in 2010. 14 million citizens now have access to high-quality foods at subsidized prices, and a new Fair Prices Law in 2011 is ensuring the continued availability of affordable food for everyone.¹¹

UNEMPLOYMENT IS DOWN At the close of 2011, Venezuela's unemployment rate was 6.5 percent, down from 13.7 percent - more than twice that amount - in early 2001.¹²

DISCRIMINATION IS DOWN The 1999 constitution gave formal recognition to indigenous languages and reserved three seats in the National Assembly for indigenous representatives. Venezuela has also embraced its Afro-descendant population. In May 2011 - the Month of the Afro-Descendent - lawmakers approved the Organic Law Against Racial Discrimination to eradicate and punish racism.¹³

MEDIA CONCENTRATION IS DOWN Venezuela has seen a surge in community-based media outlets as the media landscape has been democratized. There are now at least 244 community radio stations and 37 community television stations. While private outlets continue to have an overwhelming influence in the Venezuelan media market, other players are getting a boost from the National Commission of Telecommunications (CONATEL), which allocated funds to 31 community and alternative media outlets in 2012.¹⁴

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