

# Executive Committee Statement on the situation in Venezuela

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 200<sup>th</sup> session  
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

The IPU endorses the concerns of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on the cases before it of current and former parliamentarians from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The IPU expresses grave concern at the deteriorating political, economic and social situation in Venezuela. It expresses solidarity with the people of Venezuela and reiterates its commitment to defend parliamentary institutions wherever and whenever they come under assault. It calls on the executive, judicial and legislative authorities to remain within the limits of their respective purviews and thus respect the fundamental principle of the separation of powers. Any effort to usurp or replace the powers of one branch of the State from another undermines this well-established principle.

The IPU urges all sides to the crisis in Venezuela to give pride of place to dialogue as the sole means of resolving the current crisis and to ensure a speedy return to normalcy in the interest of the Venezuelan people. The IPU reiterates its offer to use its good offices to promote dialogue between the two sides and mediate the crisis in Venezuela.

The IPU calls for renewed efforts to ensure the establishment of strong and independent democratic institutions of State, which are at the heart of any vibrant and well-functioning democracy. It is appealing to all sides to put the interests of the country and the Venezuelan people before partisan interests.