



*Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

Fact Sheet:

2024 Venezuelan Presidential Election

In accordance with Article 293 of the Venezuelan Constitution, the National Electoral Commission of Venezuela (CNE) announced on March 5th, 2024 that the 2024 Presidential Election shall take place on Sunday, July 28th.

Thirty elections have been conducted in Venezuela by the CNE in the last 25 years. The 2024 Presidential Election will become the 31st election.

The selection by the CNE of July 28th as the date of the 2024 Presidential Election responded to:

- The Dialogue Agreement and Proposal of Electoral Calendar, also known as the Caracas Agreement, presented by the Venezuelan National Assembly to the CNE on March 1st, 2024. It consisted of a series of proposals for election dates, which came out of a series of debates and discussions that took place across Venezuela that included large segments of Venezuelan organisations and generally the Venezuelan people, as well as the majority of Venezuelan political parties, 90% of them, representing 87% of the votes obtained in the last election.

- The Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All, also known as the Barbados Agreement (official link to the text – <https://twitter.com/NicolasMaduro/status/1714474981424263556/photo/1>), signed on October 17th, 2023. Numeral 1 of Section Three of the Barbados Agreement states the following: “Propose that the electoral process

takes place in the second semester of 2024...” This agreement has been possible by President Nicolas Maduro’s persistent efforts to address the issues Venezuela faces through dialogue and democracy, not confrontation.

Also, on March 5th, 2024, the CNE announced the remaining of the 2024 Presidential Election Calendar and Protocol, as follows:

- March 18th to April 16th: Special period to register new voters and for updating voters’ changes of address both nationally and internationally.
- April 16th: Preliminary updating of the voter registration.
- March 21st to March 25th: registration of presidential candidates.
- March 20th: Selection of the members of subordinate bodies.
- July 4th to July 25th: Electoral campaigning.

As of April 27th, 2024, 40% of the 2024 Presidential Election Calendar and Protocol has been accomplished.

There are ten candidates registered to run for president, with a total of 37 officially registered political parties supporting them.

Only one candidate is representing the Venezuelan Government, Nicolás Maduro Moros, who is running for re-election, while the remaining nine candidates are from the opposition.



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Further information is provided below about the registration, or lack thereof, of some candidates and people.

A total of 21,392,464 Venezuelans are registered to vote. This final figure includes the 604,964 newly registered voters which resulted from the aforementioned special period of voter registration from March 18th to April 16th, 2024.

There will be 30,000 voting desks within 15,839 polling stations, a major improvement, for in 2004 there were only 8,853 polling stations in Venezuela. This is an increase of almost 100 per cent in polling stations in 20 years. In addition, this means that in 2024 there will be around 1,300 voters per polling station.

All Venezuelan elections are fully audited. That is, election results are the true expression of people's will.

There are 16 audits over an automated and electronic voting system. 12 audits take place prior to the elections, while the other four audits are conducted after.

Of the 12 audits prior to the election, the most important ones are the audits conducted over the following: the software of the voting machine, totalizing software, voter registration and the voters' fingerprints.

The day of the election, July 28th, 2024, as in every previous election in Venezuela, at random 54% of the votes will be audited and verified manually.

In addition, all tally sheets will have a QR Code. Therefore, representatives of political parties at the polling stations can scan the QR code of the tally sheets and transmit them to

their data centres in order to double check their results with the official ones by the CNE.

All the audits are open to representatives of all participating political parties. In addition, national and international electoral experts and academics are welcome to take part in the audit process.

Electoral observers:

Numeral 4 of Section Three of the Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All, also known as the Barbados Agreement, states that as an electoral guarantee the following technical missions of electoral observation should be invited to the 2024 Venezuelan Presidential Election: The European Union, the United Nations Panel of Electoral Experts, the African Union, the Inter American Union of Electoral Bodies and the Carter Centre.

The Barbados Agreement specifies that the aforementioned institutions should abide by "the Constitution, the law and the subscribed agreements with the Electoral Power, without prejudice of the right of the political actors to invite both national and international observers, within the framework of the law."

Furthermore, the CNE has consistently invited those organisations listed in the Barbados Agreement to just about all other elections that have taken place in Venezuela in the last 25 years.

The CNE has therefore already conducted the following meetings:

- April 9th, 2024: with the electoral observation team of the European Union: they assessed the participation of an EU electoral observation mission for the upcoming



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presidential election. Nonetheless, on May 28th, 2024, the CNE published a communiqué revoking the invitation to the EU, for on May 13th, 2024, the EU ratified the coercive, unilateral and illegal sanctions against Venezuela, in violation of the Barbados Agreement. Furthermore, the following day, May 29th, 2024, the CNE issued another communiqué rejecting a communiqué by the EU where the latter interfered in Venezuelan domestic and electoral affairs.

- April 11th, 2024: with the Council of Latin American Electoral Experts (CEELA): they signed an agreement on electoral observation for the upcoming presidential election.
- April 16th, 2024: with the Carter Centre: an exploratory commission from the Carter Centre met with the CNE and signed a memorandum of understanding on electoral observation for the upcoming presidential election to guarantee the impartiality and objectivity of its election observation mission.
- April 22nd, 2024: with the UN technical electoral team. They signed a memorandum of understanding on electoral observation for the upcoming presidential election to guarantee the impartiality and objectivity of its election observation mission.
- Last but not least, in the aforementioned CNE communiqué of May 28th, 2024, the CNE stated that over 200 personalities from around the world, among them human right defenders and professors, have also been invited as electoral observers.
- In addition, the said CNE communiqué made a new invitation to the following organizations to observe the Venezuelan Presidential Election: CARICOM, CELAC,

Inter American Union of Electoral Organisms (UNIORE), African Union (AU) and Strategic Thinking Observatory for Regional Integration (OPEIR), among others.

It is not a coincidence that in 2012 former US President Jimmy Carter said: “As a matter of fact, of the 92 elections that we've monitored, I would say the election process in Venezuela is the best in the world.”

Given the extent of external observation of these elections, it will be important for all parties to recognise the results once they are officially announced by the CNE. President Maduro has already made a commitment to do so on behalf of the PSUV.

The critical factor here is whether the right-wing opposition loses and objects to the results, as has happened previously, thereby helping to legitimate any intensification of sanctions by the US. The US has already reapplied sanctions falsely alleging infringements on the Barbados Agreement.

Disqualification of María Corina Machado:

The US mainly argues that Venezuela breached the Barbados Agreement because María Corina Machado was not allowed to register as a candidate for the 2024 presidential election.

However, according to Numeral 11 of Article Three of the Barbados Agreement, “the authorization of all presidential candidates and political parties shall be promoted, as long as they comply with the requirements established for the participation in the presidential election, consistent with the established procedures in the Venezuelan law; equally, in accordance with the principles of promptness, efficiency



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and efficacy, as established in the Constitution.”

María Corina Machado has been disqualified from public office election in Venezuela for seriously breaking the law.

Based on Articles 128 and 132 of the Venezuelan Penal Code, which specify the penalties for those people who align with foreign countries or foreign enemies to conspire against Venezuela’s integrity and its institutions, the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic issued Resolution 01-00-0000285, dated on September 16th, 2021, banning María Corina Machado from running for public office for 15 years (in accordance with Article 105 of the Organic Law of the General Comptroller’s Office of the Republic and the National System of Tax Audit, as well as Numeral 2 of Article 44 of the Anti-Corruption Act).

Specifically, Resolution 01-00-0000285 stresses that María Corina Machado has been disqualified to run for public office based on her participation in the corruption scheme orchestrated by Juan Guaidó, who promoted:

- The blockade against Venezuela.
- The freezing of 4 Billion US Dollars in the international banking system.
- The plundering of Venezuelan enterprises and wealth abroad, which includes the following:
 - CITGO in the US, which was valued at 34 Billion US Dollars, but it was given to the Canadian company Crystallex for 1.5 Billion US Dollars, which represents a loss for the nation of 32.5 Billion US Dollars.

- Monómeros in Colombia, which was brought to bankruptcy.

- The seizing of 31 tons of Venezuelan gold by the Bank of England, worth roughly 2 Billion US Dollars.

Moreover, Resolution 01-00-0000285 states that María Corina Machado is banned from running for public office due to the following:

- She has continuously requested the application of sanctions and economic blockade against Venezuela.
- She breached Article 191 of the Venezuelan Constitution.

Article 191 of the Venezuelan Constitution states that “Deputies of the National Assembly shall not be permitted to accept or hold public employment positions without giving up their investiture, except in teaching, academic, temporary and care-giving positions, and provided the employment is not intended to be full-time.”

Nonetheless, Machado requested and accepted to be accredited as deputy representative of the delegation of the Republic of Panama to the Organization of American States starting on March 20th, 2014, even though she was a legislator in the Venezuelan National Assembly for the period 2010 - 2015. Thus, she gave up her investiture as law-maker of the National Assembly, according to the aforementioned article of the Constitution.

In essence, this is the content of Resolution 01-00-0000285, dated on September 16th, 2021, by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic banning María Corina Machado from running for public office. However, on a legal request for protective measures by María



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Corina Machado's attorneys on January 26th, 2024, the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice issued a ruling, number 00005, which ratified the aforementioned Comptroller General's decision.

Is Venezuela the only country that disqualifies those people who have committed serious offenses or treason? Not at all, practically all countries have similar legislations. For example, Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution states that no-one can hold an elected office if he or she has "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same [the US], or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

Regarding treason, 18 U.S. Code 2381 states that "Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than five years and fined under this title but not less than \$10,000; and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States."

María Corina Machado's disingenuous scheme to run for office nonetheless

In spite of her full knowledge about her disqualification to register her name as a candidate in any Venezuelan election, María Corina Machado organised, in a very irresponsible manner, an unsupervised and unaudited primary election in October 2023 to supposedly determine the opposition candidate to run in the 2024 Presidential Election. María Corina Machado claimed to have won this opposition primary election, practically and purposely uncontested.

However, realising that the time was up for registration of candidates to run in the 2024 Presidential Election (the closing date was on Monday, March 25th, 2024), María Corina Machado handpicked an unknown woman in Venezuelan politics by the name of Corina Yoris to run on her behalf in the 2024 Presidential Election. María Corina Machado did so on Friday, March 22nd, 2024.

Nonetheless, the registration of Corina Yoris as a candidate for the 2024 Presidential Election was not feasible and did not go through. Why?

According to Article 47 of the Organic Law of the Electoral Processes, only the following are entitled to register candidates to run in any electoral process:

- Political organisations
- Electoral groups
- People's own initiative
- Indigenous communities or organisations.

María Corina Machado's political party, Vente Venezuela, is not a recognized political organisation or group because Vente Venezuela has not participated in any Venezuelan election. Hence, according to Literal C of Article 27 of the Organic Law of Political Parties, Public Gatherings and Manifestations, "the registration of a political party will cease when the said political party fails to participate during two consecutive constitutional terms."

Therefore, María Corina Machado had two choices to rightfully register Corina Yoris as her candidate:



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1. To register Corina Yoris under the third option of Article 47 of the Organic Law of the Electoral Processes: “people’s own initiative.” However, to do so, according to Article 53 of the said legislation, she would have to gather voters’ signatures equivalent to 5 per cent of the Electoral Registry. Nonetheless, Corina Yoris did not do so.

2. The other option for María Corina Machado was to negotiate with like-minded political parties, properly and legally registered in the CNE, so they would be allowed to register Corina Yoris as their candidate. There were basically three like-minded political parties willing to negotiate with María Corina Machado. They were “Fuerza Vecinal”, “MUD” and “Un Nuevo Tiempo.” However, none of them were convinced by María Corina Machado to allow Corina Yoris to run under their political organisation. Indeed, “Un Nuevo Tiempo” and “Fuerza Vecinal” decided to support the candidacy of the current Governor of the State of Zulia, Manuel Rosales, a legendary right-wing politician, who even ran against, and lost to, the late Commander Hugo Chavez in 2006.

As can be seen, the failure of María Corina Machado to register her handpicked candidate Corina Yoris was not a political decision by the Venezuelan Government. Instead, it was the result of both the failure to comply with Venezuelan electoral laws and the bickering and divisions within the Venezuelan opposition.

Next, on April 19th, 2024, Manuel Rosales resigned to his candidacy, while informing on social media that he would immediately support Edmundo González, who had successfully registered as a candidate by the MUD political party.

Edmundo González, an unknown political figure in Venezuela, with background in diplomacy, has become the leading opposition candidate. However, he has done minimal engagement with voters, people or the media. Instead, María Corina Machado herself has been doing the campaign for him, even showing posters with the image of Edmundo González at political rallies, in the conspicuous and ludicrous absence of the latter.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, June 5th,
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APPENDIX A:

Art 128 of the Venezuelan Penal Code:

“Anyone who, in agreement with a foreign country or Republic, foreign enemies, terrorist, paramilitary, insurgent or subversive groups or associations, conspires against the integrity of the territory of the homeland or against its republican institutions, or harasses them by any means for any of these purposes, shall be punished with a prison sentence of twenty to thirty years.

Sole Paragraph: Those who are implicated in any of the aforementioned assumptions shall not be entitled to enjoy the procedural benefits of the law or to the application of alternative measures to the serving of the sentence.”

APPENDIX B

Art. 132 of the Venezuelan Penal Code:

“Anyone who, inside or outside the national territory, conspires to destroy the republican political form that the nation has given itself shall be punished with imprisonment of eight to 16 years.

The same penalty shall be incurred by any Venezuelan who requests foreign intervention in the internal political affairs of Venezuela, or asks for their assistance to transform the peace of the Republic or who, before its officials, or through publications in the foreign press, incites to civil war in the Republic or defames its President or offends the diplomatic representative or consular officials of Venezuela, by reason of their functions, in the country where the act is committed.”

APPENDIX C

18 U.S. Code 2381 – Treason:

“Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than five years and fined under this title but not less than \$10,000; and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.”

APPENDIX D

Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution:

“No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.”