



Opposition Leaders Have Opposing Views on the Dec. 6 elections

By Holland & Knight

President Nicolás Maduro announced that the legislative elections will be held on Dec. 6, 2020, as ordered by the Constitution. The elections have led to a public conflict between the different opposition parties, with some opposition leaders, including Henrique Capriles, indicating that it is necessary to carry on with the elections so that citizens are encouraged to vote against the Maduro regime. This side of the opposition argues that boycotts and protests in the past have not served to overthrow the president. On the other hand, Juan Guaidó, recognized as interim president by the United States, insists on the need to protest against the elections by not participating in them, a proposal that is largely supported by 27 opposition parties. This rupture clearly represents a crisis within the Venezuelan opposition, as two of its leaders have opposite views on the elections.

Venezuela also is currently going through an increasing controversy regarding the functions and powers of the National Constituent Assembly, established since 2017. The opposition parties ardently believe that the drafting of a new constitution is being sought in order to legitimize Maduro's government, perpetuate the ruling socialist party's regime over time and allow it to gain control over the National Assembly. The government parties state, however, that they are seeking the unification of Venezuela and the pacification of the entire territory.

In view of the constant objections by the opposition and the accusations of fraud in the upcoming elections, the president of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, ruled out the possibility that a new constitutional text would be issued in the next few months. However, he affirmed that inside the National Assembly a legal framework has been issued that will serve as a basis for the "revival of the Venezuelan State."

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