

Support the VERDAD Act of 2024

Support the Venezuelan Electorate's Rejection of Dictatorship and Aspiration for Democracy (VERDAD) Act of 2024

Title I – Support for Democratic Institutions in Venezuela

Section 101. Support and Recognition for Venezuela's Democratically Elected 2024 Presidential Election Winner. Updates Sections 111 and 112 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to condemn efforts by the Maduro regime to undermine Venezuela's 2024 electoral process and to recognize opposition leader Edmundo González Urrutia's electoral victory. Expresses support for international efforts to allow independent verification of the 2024 electoral results, facilitate a Venezuelan-led peaceful and democratic transition of power, and call for guarantees for the safety and security of 2024 presidential election winner Edmundo González Urrutia and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado.

Section 102. Advancing a Peaceful and Democratic Transition to Resolve Venezuela's Crisis. Updates Section 113 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to reaffirm U.S. policy in support of a negotiated solution to Venezuela's crisis led by 2024 presidential election winner Edmundo González Urrutia and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado.

Title II – Humanitarian Relief for Venezuela

Section 201. Strengthening U.S. Humanitarian Assistance to the People of Venezuela. Requires the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator to provide an updated strategy for strengthening humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans.

Section 202. Additional Support for Multilateral Efforts to Address the Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela. Updates Section 122 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to require the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations to increase support from UN agencies and UN member states to address Venezuela's humanitarian crisis. Requires the Secretary of State to convene, in coordination with partner countries, annual international donor conferences to secure funding for the UN Humanitarian Response Plan and the UN Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan. Authorizes \$500 million for FY 2025 for U.S. contributions to such Plans.

Section 203. Support for Displaced Venezuelans and their Host Communities. Supports development assistance to countries hosting large numbers of Venezuelan refugees and migrants for education, health, and critical public services purposes.

Section 204. Report on Venezuelan Refugee Applications Across the Western Hemisphere. Requires a report on the number of Venezuelan refugees from the Western Hemisphere referred for resettlement.

Section 205. Waiver of Sanctions for Humanitarian Assistance. Codifies an exemption in U.S. sanctions for humanitarian aid, food, and medicines.

Title III – Advancing a Peaceful and Democratic Transition to Resolve Venezuela's Crisis

Section 301. Updates to Restrictions on Visas and Visa Restriction Waiver. Updates section 132 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to require targeted sanctions on individuals who have undermined the 2024 Venezuelan electoral process, including commitments made under the Barbados Accord and efforts to independently verify the results of such elections. Establishes a sanctions waiver mechanism to authorize the removal of visa restrictions on individuals who take concrete steps to support a peaceful, democratic transition of power to 2024 presidential election winner Edmundo González Urrutia and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, and who refrain from taking further steps to commit human rights abuses against the Venezuelan people.

Section 302. Waiver for Sanctioned Officials that Contributed Meaningfully to a Peaceful and Democratic Transition to Resolve the Venezuelan Crisis. Updates Section 133 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to authorize the removal of sanctions on individuals who take concrete actions to support a peaceful, democratic transition of power to 2024 presidential election winner Edmundo González Urrutia and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, and who refrain from taking further steps to commit human rights abuses against the Venezuelan people.

Title IV – Restoring Democracy and Addressing the Political Crisis in Venezuela

Section. 401. Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity. Updates Section 142 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to require expanded reporting on Maduro regime human rights abuses and a determination by the Department of State as to whether such abuses constitute crimes against humanity.

Section 402. Support for Future International Election Observation and Democratic Civil Society. Updates Section 143 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to expand support for democratic civil society and international observation of future elections. Authorizes \$50 million for these purposes.

Section 403. Democratic Transition Framework for Venezuela. Requires the Secretary of State to publish an update to the Democratic Transition Framework for Venezuela that was published on March 31, 2020. The update is to be undertaken in coordination with democratic partner governments and shall incorporate the inputs and suggestions of Venezuelan democratic opposition leaders. The update is required to identify a concrete framework for a transition of power consistent with the democratic will of the Venezuelan people as expressed in the July 2024 elections, a pathway for the potential lifting of sanctions and other guarantees, red lines for additional sanctions, and proposals for short, medium, and long-term reforms necessary to restore democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela.

Section 404. Report on Political Persecution, Torture, and Violence in Venezuela. Requires a report detailing the methods and means by which the Maduro regime subjects political opponents and the Venezuelan people to politically-motivated persecution, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings.

Section 405. Countering Malign Information Operations in the Americas. Requires the development and implementation of a U.S. strategy to counter malign information operations

occurring in or targeting the Western Hemisphere, including by the Maduro regime. Directs the Secretary of State to convene a multi-stakeholder conference in the Western Hemisphere to address such efforts, and directs the Global Engagement Center or a successor entity to host a Tech Challenge in the region.

Title V – Supporting the Reconstruction of Venezuela

Section 501. Venezuela Forfeiture and Humanitarian Response Fund. Establishes the Venezuela Forfeiture and Humanitarian Response Fund at the Department of Treasury to hold forfeited assets from legal cases related to Venezuela. Authorizes funds in the Venezuelan Forfeiture and Humanitarian Response Fund to be utilized for humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and for other purposes.

Section 502. Engaging International Financial Institutions to Advance the Reconstruction of Economy and Energy Infrastructure of Venezuela. Requires the President to work with IMF and Multilateral Development Banks to advance planning for the economic reconstruction of Venezuela, contingent on the restoration of democracy.

Section 503. Authorization of Funding for Inter-American Development Bank Reconstruction Efforts for Venezuela. Authorizes \$100 million for the establishment of a financing facility at the Inter-American Development Bank to support Venezuelan reconstruction efforts, contingent on the restoration of democracy. U.S. contributions must be matched by \$50 million in contributions from other IDB member states.

Section 504. Settlement of International Claims against Venezuela. Establishes a Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for Venezuela to address claims of U.S. nationals against the Maduro regime, including claims related to expropriated property.

Title VI – Restoring the Rule of Law in Venezuela

Section 601. Coordinating Sanctions with Partners in the Western Hemisphere and the European Union to Advance a Peaceful Democratic Transition to Resolve Venezuela’s Crisis. If a peaceful, democratic transition of power is not agreed to between the Maduro regime and the democratic opposition within six months of the enactment of this Act, requires the President to designate for targeted sanctions all individuals who are currently sanctioned by Canada, the European Union, and the United Kingdom, but not by the United States. Such agreement must, at a minimum, recognize the electoral victory of González Urrutia, result in Maduro’s agreement to relinquish power, include the release of political prisoners, and establish a framework for the broader restoration of democracy and rule of law in the country.

Section 602. INTERPOL Red Notices for Indicted Regime Officials. If a peaceful, democratic transition of power as outlined in Section 601 is not achieved within six months of enactment of this Act, requires the Secretary of State and Attorney General to submit the names of Nicolás Maduro and the 14 individuals whose indictments were announced on March 26, 2020 to INTERPOL for Red Notices.

Section 603. Imposition of Sanctions with Respect to Persons Responsible for Public Corruption and Undermining Democratic Governance. Updates the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 to codify targeted sanctions established under Executive Order 13692 on individuals involved in significant corruption and undermining democratic institutions. Requires targeted sanctions for individuals responsible for directing significant acts of violence or other serious human rights abuses associated with the post-July 2024 election protests.

Section 604. Information about Sanctioned Officials. Requires the Treasury Department to provide relevant Congressional committees with information about the value of assets blocked under United States sanctions.

Section 605. Financial Sanctions on Maduro Regime Debt. Authorizes Executive Order 13808

Section 606. Additional Sanctions on Maduro Regime Debt. Authorizes Executive Order 13835

Section 607. Expanding Sanctions with Respect to Narcotics Trafficking and Money Laundering. Requires increased application of Kingpin sanctions designations on Venezuelan persons involved in narcotics trafficking.

Section 608. Countering Malign Foreign Influence in Venezuela. Updates Section 165 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to require a renewed threat assessment of security cooperation between the Maduro regime and the Russian, Chinese, Cuban, and Iranian governments. Expands visa restrictions to foreign persons acting on behalf of the Russian, Chinese, Cuban, or Iranian governments in direct support of the security forces of the Maduro regime.

Section 609. Restriction on Export of Covered Articles and Services to Certain Security Forces of Venezuela. Updates Section 166 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 to extend duration of export controls on arms sales to Venezuela.

Title VII – Illicit Mining of Gold and Other Valuable Minerals

Section 701. Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Illicit Mining and Trafficking of Gold and Other Valuable Minerals. Directs the President to establish an inter-agency task force to counter the illicit mining of gold and other valuable minerals globally and requires reporting on efforts undertaken by the task force.

Section 702. Global Public Awareness Campaign on Illicit Mining and Trafficking of Gold and Other Valuable Minerals. Provides grants for a private entity to promote public awareness of the effects of illicit mining of minerals and encourage other states to undertake efforts to mitigate those effects.

Section 703. Combating Trade-Based Money Laundering. Requires the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to combat trade-based money laundering, including through activities involving illicitly mined gold and other valuable minerals.

Section 704. Support for Illicit Mining-Related Trafficking in Persons Programs and for Communities Affected by the Illicit Mining of Gold and Other Valuable Minerals. Authorizes assistance to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to detect, combat, and strengthen awareness of mining-related trafficking and working conditions.

Section 705. Rewards for Providing Information on Illicit Mining or Trafficking of Precious Metals. Amends Section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 USC 2708) to authorize the Secretary of State to provide rewards for information related to the illicit mining or trafficking of precious metals.

Section 706. Authorization of Sanctions with Respect to Trade in Gold by Maduro Regime. Authorizes provisions of Executive Order 13850 as it relates to illicit gold trafficking.

Section 707. Deterring the Trade of Illegal Gold into the United States. Amends the statutory definition of monetary instrument under 31 U.S.C. 5312(a)(3) to include gold bullion for purposes of the reporting requirement in 31 U.S.C. 5316.

Title VIII – Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 801. Prohibition on Dealings with Venezuela’s Cryptocurrency and the Provision of Related Technologies. Codifies Executive Order 13827.

Section 802. Increased Consular Services for U.S. Nationals in Venezuela. Directs the Secretary of State to take steps to provide increased consular services to U.S. nationals in Venezuela, including wrongfully detained American citizens, should there be a peaceful, democratic transition of power as outlined in Section 601.

Section 803. Prohibition on Construction as an Authorization for the use of Military Force. Establishes that no aspect of this act shall be construed as an authorization for the use of military force in Venezuela.

Section 804. Extension and Termination of Sanctions Against Venezuela. Extends the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, the Verdad Act of 2019, the Venezuelan Arms Restriction Act, and the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act until 2030.