



## **Statement from the Interacademic Committee of the National Academies**

### **THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF VENEZUELA**

#### **IN RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY**

The National Academies of Venezuela, corporations of scientific, humanistic and cultural nature, which for more than a century have contributed to the study, preservation and development of knowledge serving the Venezuelan Republic, consider their unavoidable duty to express their position on the serious emergency caused by the earthquake that affected the country and to offer the country the technical, scientific and professional capacities of their members.

With deep sorrow we howl the irreparable human losses, the suffering of thousands of families and the extensive material damage caused by this disaster that has affected the city of Caracas and the state of La Guaira with particular intensity.

We express our solidarity with those who have lost beloved ones, with the injured, with those who have seen their homes and livelihoods destroyed, and with all the affected communities.

We also pay tribute to the admirable efforts made by the medical and nursing staff, the rescue and security forces, the volunteers and all citizens who, with exemplary dedication, participate in the rescue, humanitarian assistance and emergency response efforts.

We finally express our gratitude to the international community, multilateral organizations, and friendly countries that have expressed their solidarity, offered cooperation, and provided humanitarian assistance and rescue teams to Venezuelan people in these profoundly difficult times.

#### **I. National unity as an ethical imperative**

Great tragedies reveal both the vulnerabilities of a society and the strength of its institutions and its citizens.

The magnitude of this catastrophe demands that the nations' best interests prevail over any political, ideological, or sectoral differences. Protecting human life, assisting the victims, and rebuilding the country are common goals that must unite the will and effort of Venezuelans.

The National Academies respectfully urge public authorities, universities, civil society organizations, professional associations, productive sector, religious and community organizations, and civilians to act in a spirit of cooperation, solidarity, responsibility, and mutual trust.

Only through institutional coordination, transparency in public management, respect for scientific knowledge, and responsible participation of society will it be possible to overcome this emergency and undertake a safe, efficient, and sustainable reconstruction.

## **II. Scientific knowledge at the service of national reconstruction**

True to the mission Academies historically have performed as consultation and reflection bodies at the service of the country, the National Academies make available to the public and competent authorities and Venezuelan society, knowledge, experience and interdisciplinary capabilities that their members can offer.

The complexity of the emergency demands responses based on scientific and technical criteria, capable of integrating the different areas of knowledge in a common effort for national recovery.

In this regard, the Academies offer their collaboration to participate in multidisciplinary teams and technical working groups focused, among other aspects, on:

- the assessment of structural damage suffered by public and private buildings, hospitals, educational centers, road infrastructure, drinking water networks, electrical systems, telecommunications and other essential services;
- strengthening health response by supporting health services, preventing and controlling epidemiological risks, health surveillance, and providing psychological and social care to those affected;
- the assessment of geological, environmental and urban risks arising from the disaster and the formulation of scientific criteria for the reconstruction of cities and infrastructure in accordance with international standards of safety, resilience and sustainability;
- the analysis of the economic and financial impact of the emergency, the formulation of strategies for fiscal and budgetary recovery, the reactivation of production activities and the protection of employment and the most vulnerable sectors;
- the development of legal and institutional proposals that allow the emergency to be addressed within the framework of the Rule of Law, guaranteeing full respect for the Constitution, human rights and civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights;
- the protection, recovery and conservation of the historical, artistic, architectural, documentary and scientific heritage affected by the catastrophe.

The National Academies believe that the reconstruction of the country should be conceived as a state policy based on rigorous planning, scientific evidence, administrative transparency, institutional cooperation, and the active participation of citizens.

### **III. A permanent commitment to Venezuela**

Throughout its republican history, Venezuela has overcome moments of extraordinary difficulty thanks to the ability of its citizens to act with generosity, a sense of belonging, and a vocation for service.

The National Academies reaffirm that same commitment today. From their characteristic intellectual independence, they reiterate their ongoing willingness to collaborate with all public and private institutions in initiatives aimed at protecting human life, alleviating the suffering of victims, preserving the national heritage, and contributing to the material and institutional reconstruction of the country.

This tragedy must also become an opportunity to strengthen our institutions, consolidate a culture of prevention against natural disasters, improve territorial planning, raise construction standards, and promote public policies based on scientific knowledge.

The National Academies call upon all Venezuelans to face this difficult time with serenity, solidarity, and hope.

May our shared pain strengthen our sense of belonging to the same country; may science and knowledge guide public decisions; may solidarity inspire our actions; and may our joint efforts allow us to rebuild a safer, more resilient country, more committed to the well-being of present and future generations.

Caracas, Palace of the Academies, on the twenty-seventh day of the month of June of two thousand twenty-six.

Horacio Biord Castillo. President of the Venezuelan Academy of Language.

Inés Quintero Montiel. Director of the National Academy of History.

Felipe Martín Piñate. President of the National Academy of Medicine.

Rafael Badell Madrid. President of the Academy of Political and Social Sciences.

Alicia Ponte-Sucre. President of the Academy of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences.

Urbi Garay Lluch. President of the National Academy of Economic Sciences.

José Ochoa Iturbe. President of the National Academy of Engineering and Habitat.