

GUYANA-VENEZUELA CONFLICT

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In my presentation I talk about the stance of the Organization of American States on Venezuela Guyana Conflict, and Brazil's perception.

In general, the conflict is something that affect us all in South America, especially Brazil, because our terrestrial border. This is a real preoccupation for our government and diplomacy. In the last 24 hours, after the referendum, the government sent military reinforcing for the border with Venezuela, as it was expected to begin some kind of conflict.

One of the main points in terms of what has been developing in terms of the conflict in the last months, is specially the position of the Brazilian governments and the position of the organization of the American states. At one side, what we are seeing is the position of the the OAS very worried with the escalation of the confrontations from Venezuela. Since the last years there have been a lot of statements; a lot of press releases talking about their positions as provocative, for example, when the Venezuelan government intercepted prospective ships in Guyana's waters and asked them to leave. Other similar situations have occurred over the last few years, leading the OAS to request that Venezuela maintained a less confrontational stance with Guyana. As so, the Organization has always been making statements condemning this kind of attitude in the last months. To be more precisely, in September they issued a statement saying that this posture was not possible for the stability of the region. With this, they were trying to establish an environment with peace; an environment where exist some kind of talking, because the main objective of the OAS in this moment, is to make the two countries have conversations in a passive way. This is their main preoccupation. So, since September there has been a lot of discussions inside the General Assembly, in this topic.

Also, regarding the position of Brazil, it reflects the position of the OAS. What is being expected by the international community is some kind of involvement from Brazil not in terms of military actions, but specially on the mediation of the conflict. In the last days, a special envoy from Brazil has been in Venezuela to try to talk with the government there, but it did not advanced. From a defense point of view, the Brazilian Armed Forces started sending some military contingent for the border. In the next days the Brazilian diplomacy is going to try some other movements in this sense, for a peaceful solution for the conflict. Brazil is acting not only in the diplomatic level, but also in the Executive, with the president holding meetings with both leaders and making public declarations.

The OAS have made some statements condemning the conflict and asking for dialogue. Initially, they asked them to stop with the referendum, then asking to cease hostilities and criticizing the Venezuelan behavior, as provocative and hostile against Guyana.

The relationship between the two countries has some turning points, some moments with a closer cooperation and understanding, above all, during the Chavez administration, and now with de economic crisis and political interests of Venezuela, what we see is a more unfriendly environment.

In short, in this presentation I shared insights into the regional perspective and some concerns about the conflict's impact on Brazil. I discussed the Organization of American States' (OAS) efforts for peace and Brazil's potential role in mediating the dispute. Also, I noted the alignment between non-democratic countries, including China, and suggested a geopolitical block forming with countries like Venezuela. Finally, I highlighted political interests alongside economic ones in this alignment.