

Reference: C.N.298.2026.TREATIES-XVIII.10 (Depositary Notification)

ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
ROME, 17 JULY 1998

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF): WITHDRAWAL¹

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 24 July 2026, with:

(Translation) (Original: Spanish)

... Venezuela has always been committed to combating impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. As a result, it was among the first countries on the continent to ratify the Rome Statute and has participated actively and constructively in all the efforts that led to the establishment and development of the International Criminal Court system.

This firm stance is grounded in the 1999 Bolivarian Constitution, which enshrined the obligation to investigate and punish serious human rights violations, as well as the non-applicability of any statute of limitations to actions aimed at punishing crimes against humanity and war crimes.

However, in the time since the Rome Statute entered into force, Venezuela has been both a witness to and a victim of the selectivity, politicization and weaponization of the International Criminal Court.

In the first two decades since the establishment of the International Criminal Court, Venezuela has witnessed the marked bias demonstrated by the Court, which has shown itself to be relentless in cases involving developing countries, primarily those on the African continent.

In February 2018, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court initiated a preliminary examination of the situation in Venezuela, reflecting clear subjectivity and political manipulation, indicating a double standard.

It is regrettable that, as part of a strategy of “lawfare”, the mechanisms of the International Criminal Court are being exploited for political purposes in order to continue to persecute the Venezuelan people.

Given these facts, we are convinced that the International Criminal Court has strayed from the noble objectives that led to its establishment and has become yet another instrument that serves interests unrelated to those of countries, their peoples and justice, and disregards the principles of the right to self-determination and sovereignty, particularly in relation to the Global South. This has been proven.

¹ Refer to depositary notification C.N.361.2000.TREATIES-11 of 7 June 2000 (Ratification: Venezuela).

For this reason, effective as of the time of writing, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hereby withdraws from the Rome Statute and initiates its permanent withdrawal from the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the provisions of article 127 of the Rome Statute...

The action shall take effect for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 24 July 2027 in accordance with article 127 (1) which reads as follows:

“A State Party may, by written notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, withdraw from this Statute. The withdrawal shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification, unless the notification specifies a later date.”

6 August 2026

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of stylized letters that appear to be 'DN' with a horizontal line underneath.