



Munich, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

**Statement by the IDU Chairman Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
on the Presidential Election in Venezuela**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Venezuela held a presidential election which has been internationally condemned as fraudulent. The main opposition coalition, whose leadership has been imprisoned, forced into exile, or barred from political office, boycotted the contest.

IDU Chairman Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper stated: “Yesterday’s election in Venezuela was neither free nor democratic. It was a farce. Not surprisingly, Mr. Maduro was declared the victor in a contest that was heavily rigged in his favour.

The IDU calls upon its members to denounce the legitimacy of the 20<sup>th</sup> May elections and to issue direct sanctions against the Maduro dictatorship.

With a participation far below 50%, the Venezuelan people have delivered a silent but powerful message by abstaining from Sunday’s vote.

There is an urgent need to restore the democratic order in Venezuela, release political prisoners, and respect the National Assembly and political opposition.

All IDU members should step up their efforts to create international awareness of the humanitarian and economic catastrophe created by the Maduro regime, to show solidarity with democratic forces at all levels, and to restore a free and prosperous life for the Venezuelan people.”

*The International Democrat Union IDU is the world’s leading association of conservative, Christian-democratic, and centre-right political parties. With more than 80 member parties around the world, the IDU connects conservatives globally in support of freedom and democracy. [www.idu.org](http://www.idu.org)*