In April of 2017, the Venezuelan mission before the Organization of American States (OAS) sent a letter to its Secretary General, Luis Almagro, notifying that Venezuela denounced the OAS Charter in order to leave the organization, the oldest regional body dedicated to the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights.

In the following document, Professor Carlos Ayala, recently elected Vice President of the International Commission of Jurists, explains why the denunciation of the OAS Charter by the Venezuelan government is unconstitutional and breaches binding principles of International Law, such as the progressive fulfillment and adjudication of human rights. According to Professor Ayala, who served as President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the OAS Charter is a human rights treaty; consequently, it has constitutional hierarchy, making it immune to withdrawals over conjectural political interest.

Additionally, the OAS Charter, adopted by Venezuela on April 30 of 1948 and ratified in December 21 of 1951 after a *coup d’état* and a period of political crisis, establishes that it will cease to be in force only after the denouncing State has fulfilled the obligations arising from the Charter. As Professor Ayala describes, Venezuela still has several pending international obligations, preventing the denunciation of the Charter.

In conclusion, the attempt of withdrawing from the OAS by the government of Venezuela breaches the supremacy clause of the Constitution and the international obligations of the State. It is one out of many questionable acts adopted by President Nicolas Maduro.