Embajadores del Orinoco *October 9, 2025*
Oslo, Norway

To: Mr. Martin von Hildebrand -The Honorable Secretary General
Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

Subject: Urgent Call for Venezuela's Suspension from ACTO Due to Systematic Violations of Treaty Principles

Dear Secretary General and Representatives of ACTO Member States,

We write to you with deep concern regarding the ongoing and escalating violations of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. These violations, particularly in relation to illegal mining activities and associated human rights abuses in the Venezuelan Amazon, pose a grave threat to the integrity of the Amazon biome and the shared principles that unite ACTO member states.

Despite repeated calls from civil society and international observers, Venezuela, since the Government's unconstitutional Decree creating Arco Minero del Orinoco in 2016, continues to promote and facilitate illegal mining operations in protected areas, including Indigenous territories.

These activities, in the heart of the Venezuelan Amazon Rainforest have resulted in:

- *Irreversible environmental degradation, including deforestation, mercurycontamination, and biodiversity loss.*
- *Violations of Indigenous rights, including displacement, violence, and denial of free,prior, and informed consent.*
- *Breach of international obligations, including those under the Amazon CooperationTreaty and various human rights and indigenous rights instruments.*

We respectfully urge ACTO to initiate proceedings for the suspension of Venezuela from the organization, in accordance with the Treaty's foundational principles and the duty to protect the Amazon and its peoples.

In support of this communication, we respectfully submit a Report (attached) providing the grounds for our request and our recommendations, including the call for enhancing Transparency and Accountability within ACTO by promoting the creation of a regional monitoring and reporting framework for ACTO projects, including independent audits and civil society participation.

We trust that the information contained in our Report will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of this matter.

The Amazon is a shared heritage and responsibility.

Continued inaction risks undermining the credibility of ACTO and the future of the region itself.

We remain at your disposal for dialogue and collaboration, and we thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sonia Zapata
On behalf of Embajadores del Orinoco