



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

## ***Fact Sheet***

### **LATINOBAROMETRO 2008 REPORT**

On November 14, 2008 the Latinobarometro 2008 report was published. Latinobarometro, a Chilean polling firm, conducts an annual region-wide survey on issues of democracy, economy, standards of living and political opinion. The survey, which encompasses 18 countries in Latin America, serves as a reliable indicator of public opinion in the region. Below are a number of important results related to Venezuela:

#### **ECONOMY**

- When asked how they predicted the economy would do over the next 12 months, 49% of Venezuelans claimed it would do “much better” or “a bit better;” replying with much more optimism than the regional average of 38%.
- When asked how they predicted their family’s economic situation would do over the next 12 months, 57% of Venezuelans claimed it would do “much better” or “a bit better.” The regional average was 46%.
- When asked about the level of confidence in the banking system 59% of Venezuelans reported confidence, well above the regional average of 44%. Venezuela ranked second only to the Dominican Republic which registered 60% confidence in banks.
- When asked about confidence in private businesses, 56% of Venezuelans expressed “much confidence” or “some confidence;” well above the regional average of 44%.

#### **DEMOCRACY**

- When asked about the most effective way to bring about change Venezuelans overwhelmingly replied through elections. 80% of Venezuelan expressed a faith in elections while only 9% of those polled believed that participating in protests was more effective.
- Venezuelans continued to be among the most satisfied with the democratic system in their country, second only to Uruguay. This years level of satisfaction is 14% higher than the number reported in 1998.
- When asked whether democracy guarantees freedom of expression to all in all occasions 60% of Venezuelans replied affirmatively.
- When asked about social inequalities in a democracy, Venezuelans ranked the highest in the region with 36% believing that social inequality had diminished and the lowest in the region (37%) believing that inequality remained the same. On average only 21% of the region believes that social inequalities are being addressed by democracy.
- Venezuelans reported the highest levels of support for democracy with 85% in support. The next highest level of support for democracy was found in Uruguay with 79%; Venezuela was well above the regional average of 57%.
- 85% of Venezuelans agreed that democracy is necessary for development.



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

- When asked whether they had equal access to justice, 36% of Venezuelans said they did; the third highest number in the region. The regional average was 30%.
- 37% of Venezuelans considered themselves to be “centrist” in their political tendencies; 26% on the “left” and 26% on the “right.”

### **DISCRIMINATION**

- Venezuela ranked among the lowest levels of discrimination in the region. Discrimination against indigenous peoples averaged 11% in the region, whereas Venezuelans reported only 6%.
- Only 2% of Venezuelans replied that afro-Venezuelans were most discriminated against, and no Venezuelans reported discrimination against foreigners.
- Venezuelans reported lower-than-average discrimination in the workplace based on sex (15%), race (9%) and nationality (28%).

The survey was conducted from September 1, 2008 to October 11, 2008, encompassing more than 20,000 face-to-face interviews in 18 countries in the region. 1,200 Venezuelans were interviewed from across the country, and the margin of error of the survey is +/- 2.8%. The full survey and its results can be found at <http://www.latinobarometro.org/>.

.

November 20, 2008.