



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

# Geopolitical MAP of SANCTIONS

Global Information Platform  
on Unilateral Coercive Measures

**CIP**  
Centro Internacional  
de Inversión Productiva

OBSERVATORIO VENEZOLANO  
**ANTIBLOQUEO**

[www.observatorio.gob.ve](http://www.observatorio.gob.ve)



**“** We believe that the 21st century is our century, the century of the peoples (...) it must be the century of cooperation, solidarity, encounter and dialogue among cultures, peoples, religions and leadership”.

**Nicolás Maduro Moros**

President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.  
June, 2022.



# World Sanctioned

## A geopolitical problem

Since 2014, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been the target of 930 unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and various forms of economic aggression against the oil industry, public finances and foreign trade of the country, imposed by the United States, the European Union, other countries and the international financial system.

Nine years ago, Venezuela became part of the group of 30 nations in the world that suffer to varying degrees from the application of sanction measures that the United Nations considers to be in violation of International Law and which have seriously affected the economy, human rights and the quality of life of the Venezuelan people.

As a sovereign State and in exercise of its right to development, the country has implemented a set of public policies aimed at protecting its economy, recovering its resources and assets, and freely exercising its foreign trade, fighting to overcome sanctions that restrict Venezuela's free economic activity.

In this context, in 2020 Venezuela enacted the **Constitutional Anti-Blockade Act for National Development and the Guarantee of Human Rights**, which provided the State with a normative instrument to address unilateral coercive measures and other restrictive and punitive measures against the rights of the Venezuelan people.



Venezuela has designed mechanisms to document, monitor and measure the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the Venezuelan economy and population.

In order to study the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, Venezuela has initiated the creation of a global database to record and offer updated and consistent information on the process of applying sanctions in the world, in line with the proposals and recommendations formulated by the United Nations Human Rights Council by the special rapporteur, Dr. Alena Douhan.

The **Geopolitical Map of Sanctions** is a proposal for development an online and interactive platform, based on the recording of official, academic or independent data that enables the study and understanding of the process of imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) on a global scale.

Therefore, the Geopolitical Map of Sanctions will contribute to the exchange and dissemination of information, as well as to the enhancement of experiences and opportunities in areas such as research and scientific cooperation in the global struggle against unilateral coercive measures.

As a founding member of the **Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations**, Venezuela claims, in the field of international relations, the right to sovereign equality of States, peace, self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Venezuela firmly condemns the use of unilateral mechanisms and policies at the margin of international law and the Charter of the United Nations for the resolution of conflicts, as well as the continued attempt by some powerful states to subordinate others through sanctions, coercion and economic pressure.

The **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** promotes international and multilateral cooperation, based on mutual benefit, in favor of international legality and the progress, equality and well-being of all the peoples of the world.

**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**Executive Vice Presidency**

**International Center  
for Productive Investment**

**Venezuelan Anti-Blockade  
Observatory**





# Geopolitical Map of Sanctions

Through the Geopolitical Map of Sanctions platform, any user will be able to visualize the measures and their impacts, and access data, news, bibliography and various publications and information materials on a problem that affects 30 nations, severely impacting the economies, finances and quality of life of large parts of the world's population.

The platform was launched from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela last July, via the [www.observatorio.gob.ve](http://www.observatorio.gob.ve) website.

The Venezuelan **Anti-Blockade Observatory** is an public entity created by the **Constitutional Anti-Blockade Law**, approved in October 2020 in response to the sanctions of some States, groups of States and the international financial system against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela since 2014.

## Features of the Geopolitical Sanctions Map

- It is a free access collaborative technological tool.
- Allows the identification and recording of data and information.
- It uses official sources from sanctioning countries and agencies, sanctioned countries, multilateral agencies and independent academic sources
- It offers statistical resources for the visibility and use of data.
- It is a visual and interactive dissemination medium.

Provides information on sanctioned countries, distributed by continent and region:

- **Africa:** Libya, Mali, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Zimbabwe.
- **Europe:** Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia (former states of Yugoslavia), Belarus and Ukraine.
- **Americas:** Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela.
- **Asia:** Russia, China, Myanmar and North Korea.
- **Middle East:** Irak, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

The map compiles statistical data from various sources, allowing an understanding of the problem on a global scale through access to interactive fact sheet for each country.

It contains a global news section and a digital library with open-access and rights released publications.

In its phase II, the Geopolitical Map of Sanctions aims to expand the data with official sources from sanctioned countries, incorporate economic information from countries subject to UCM, and public and multilateral policies in the global fight against sanctions.

### **About sources and data**

The data contained in the Geopolitical Map of Sanctions, referring to unilateral coercive measures and/or sanctions, correspond to official data from the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and official data released by the European Union on their respective websites, along with independent reports that complement such information.

**26.162**  
**sanctions**

**to 30 countries**  
**in 4 continents**  
**and one region**  
**of the world**





# A global problem

## Data and information

Over the last twenty years, sanctions have become an increasingly used instrument to achieve foreign policy objectives. Despite their illegal character, and the fact that unilateral measures of economic coercion and punitive or restrictive actions violate the United Nations Charter, their use has spread as an instrument that is supposed to be alternative and preferable to war or direct military interventions.

Thirty nations have some kind of unilateral coercive measures, sanctions, trade or financial restrictions on their shoulders that impact to varying degrees the exercise of their economic freedom.

These thirty countries represent 28% of the world's population and cover 72% of the planet's territory. Excepting Russia and China, nations with significant levels of development, these are countries with medium or small, poor or developing economies.

Sanctions are coercive economic, political or legal measures –direct or indirect– imposed by some States and multilateral or regional organizations –and even by private international organizations– against States, entities and individuals of other countries, to bring about a “change of behavior” or to achieve more far-reaching objectives, such as “political regime change”.



**30**  
sanctioned  
countries

**28%**  
of the world's  
population

**72%**  
of the world's  
territory

Sanctioning countries often justify these measures on the basis of the protection of their national security, or in response to alleged breaches by governments of international law, or for the alleged violation of human rights or democratic principles.

As the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on this issue have shown, in practice, sanctions and the measures derived from them through so-called “sanctions overcompliance” result in severe restrictions on foreign trade, public finances and the economic life of the sanctioned countries, which affect the exercise of human rights.

In extreme cases, the sanctioning countries dictate measures of freezing of financial resources and assets of the sanctioned countries, expropriating States or entities (public and private) of their economic patrimony.

Below is some data from the Geopolitical Map of Sanctions prepared by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.



**US and EU**  
are the most active in  
**the enforcement**  
**of unilateral sanctions**  
and punishments

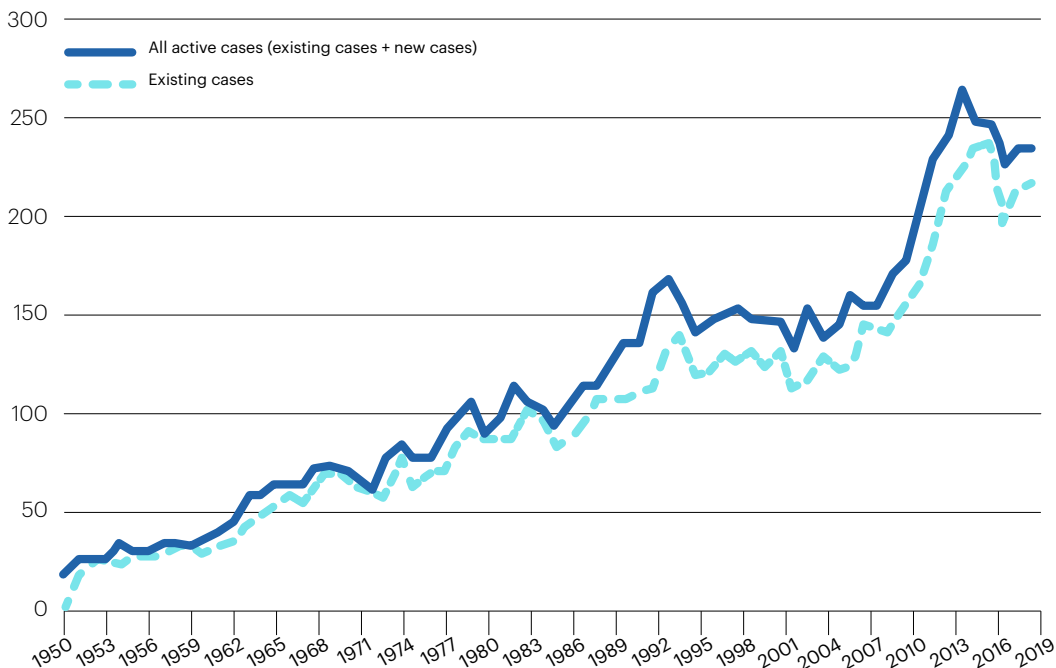


# Growing phenomenon

Worldwide, the number of sanctions has increased significantly since 1950. The global sanctions database published by **Drexel University (US)** shows that sanctions have become a frequently used tool in international relations since the end of World War II.

The United States and the European Union (grouping 27 countries) are the “most active users” of unilateral sanctions and punishments. Nations such as the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia and Switzerland have also imposed measures against other states.

## Publicly traceable, multilateral, plurilateral and unilateral sanctions from 1950 to 2019



Source: Global Sanctions Database 2021/Drexel University, US.

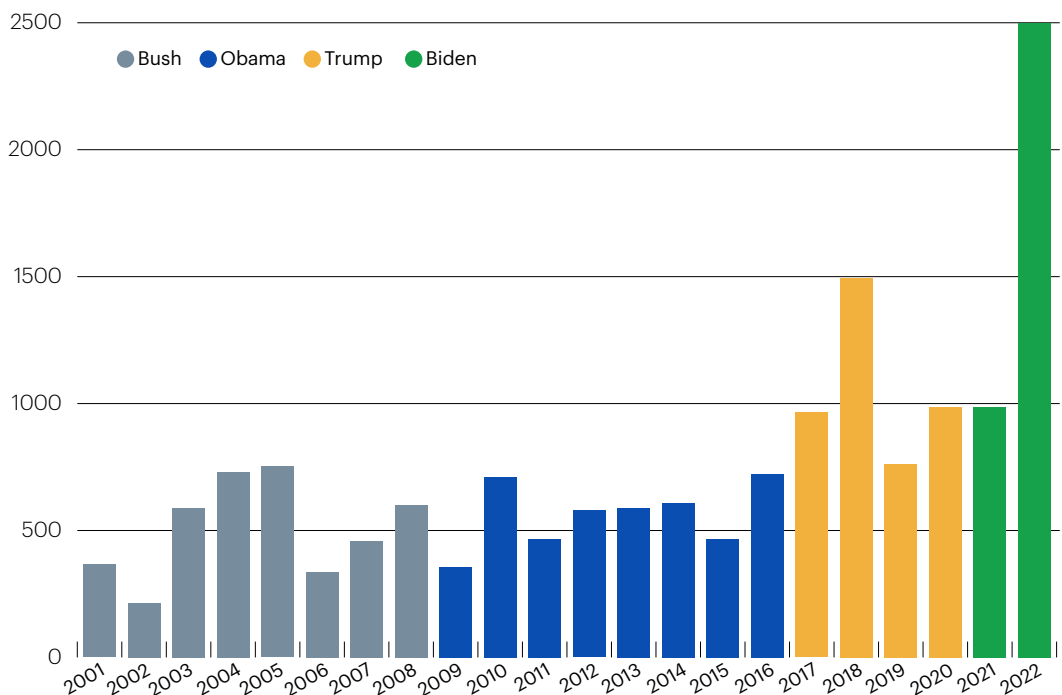
# Escalating Sanctions

Since 2000, the imposition of UCM has become an essential foreign policy tool for United States and European Union member states, which have issued more than **26,000 sanctions**.

Between 2016 and 2019, under the Donald Trump administration, the United States sanctioned more than 1,000 entities and individuals per year. Starting in 2022, with the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Biden administration and the European Union have exponentially raised unilateral coercive measures and sanctions against the Russian economy.

## Sanctions are the central axis of the U.S. foreign policy

Sanctions imposed per year (2000-2022)



Source: Adam M. Smith, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, data compiled by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Chart: Venezuelan Antiblockade Observatory.

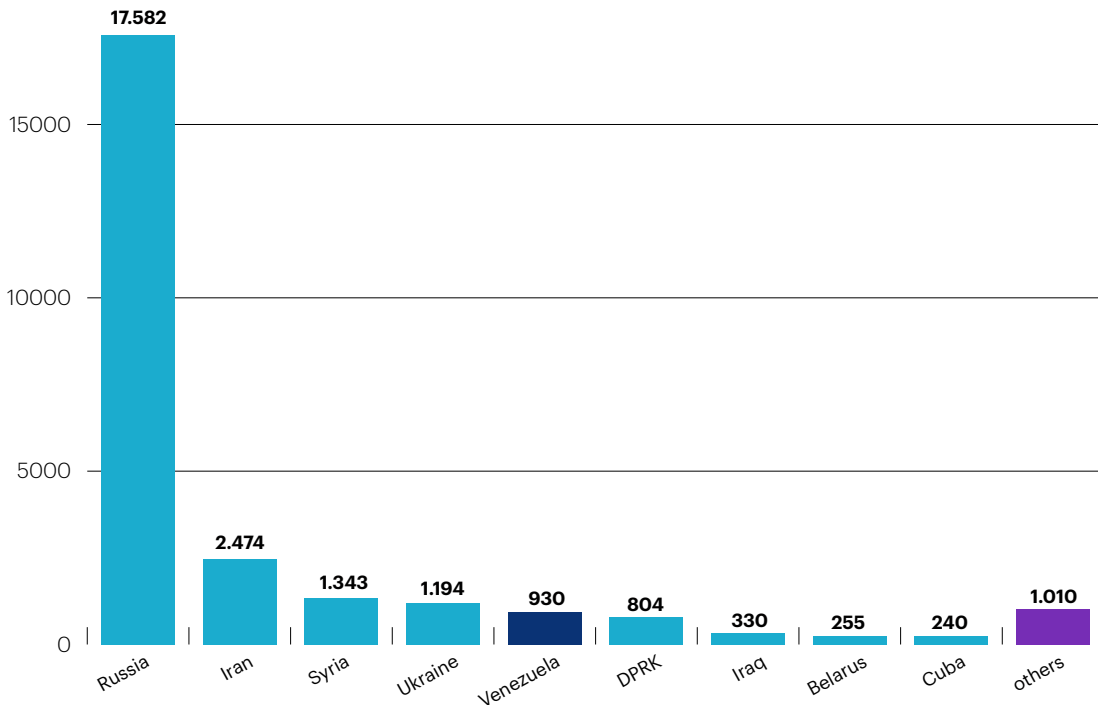


# Sanctioned countries

As of August 2023, a total of 26,162 unilateral coercive measures have been imposed on 30 countries by the United States, European Union and other states. 96% percent of these measures (25,152) are concentrated in nine countries and the remaining 4% -1,010 measures- are distributed among 21 countries.

Russia tops the list as the most sanctioned country, with 67% of the total sanctions. It is followed by Iran with 9% and Syria with 5%. Venezuela is the fifth country with the most sanctions and other restrictive and punitive measures (930) imposed in just eight years.

## Sanctions on a global scale by country



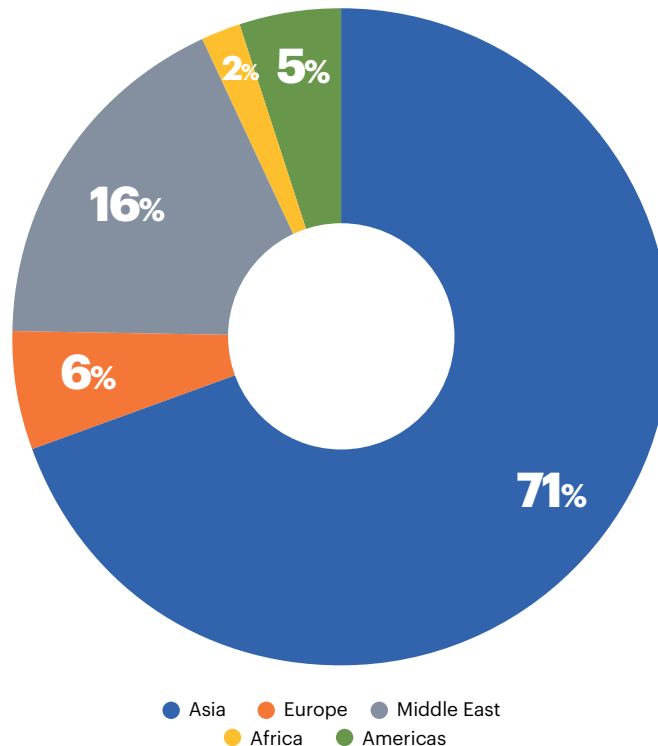
Source: U.S.-OFAC/sanctionsmap.eu/castellum.ai

## Aggression against the small ones

The number of sanctions by continent and region reflects a strong concentration in Asia and the Middle East. Asia is the continent most targeted by the imposition of UCM, with 18,624, representing 71% of the total number of measures, followed by the Middle East region with a total of 4,186 measures, corresponding to 16% of the total. The remaining 13% is divided between Africa, the Americas and Europe.

With the exception of Russia and China, economic restriction measures are applied against small economies that can be subdued through an economic and financial siege. In Europe, the measures are maintained against former rivals of the United States, even though most of them are now US allies.

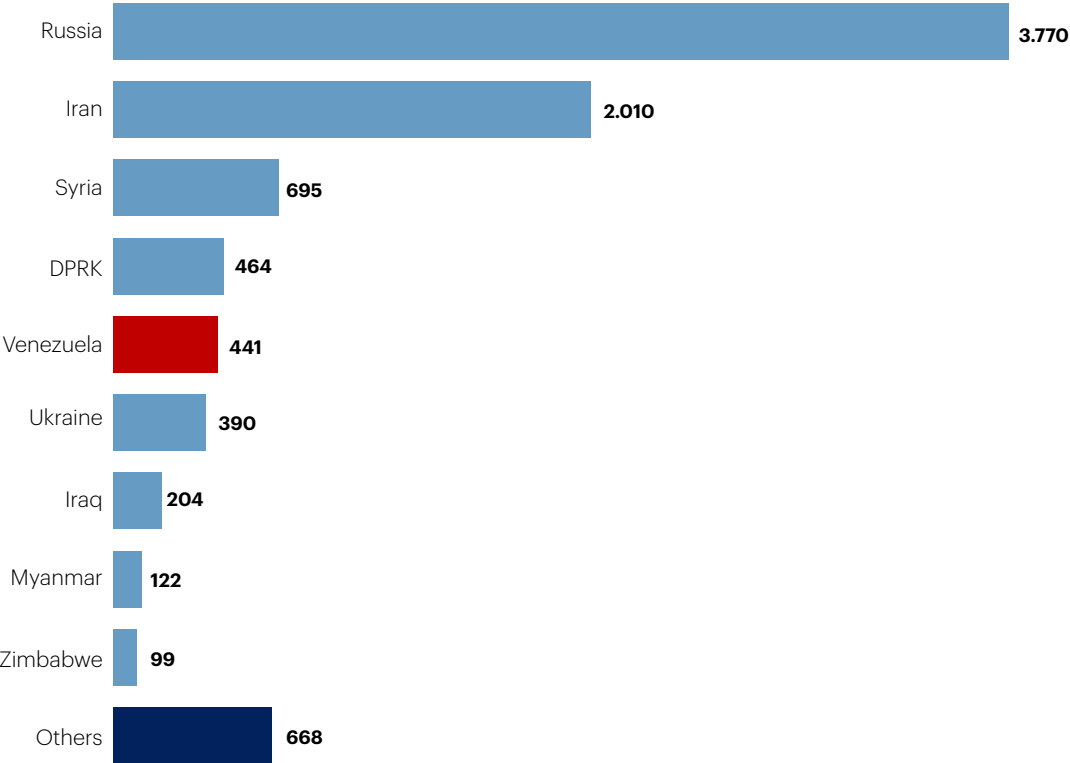
### Global sanctions by continent and region



# OFAC control model

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), under the US Treasury Department, has become the world's leading sanctioning agency, having applied 8,863 unilateral coercive measures (34%) against thirty countries. Russia is OFAC's main target with 42.5% of the sanctions, followed by Iran with 22.7%, while 28 countries account for 34.8% of the total number of measures.

## UCM applied by the US (OFAC) distributed by country



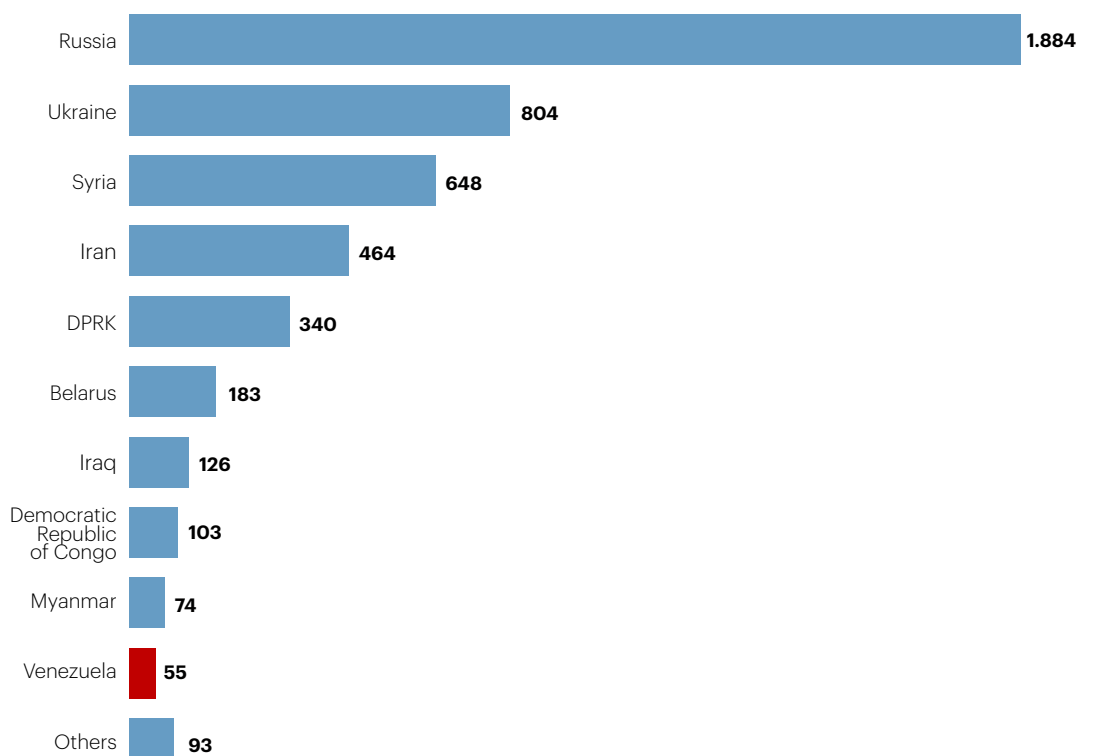
Source: USA - OFAC

# European sanctions

European Union has imposed 18% of the total number of sanctions in the world, reaching 4,774 measures against different countries. Of this total, Russia accounts for 39.5%, equivalent to 1,884 measures.

The first five countries (Russia, Ukraine, Syria, Iran and the DPRK) account for 87% percent of the unilateral coercive measures imposed by European Union, equivalent to 4,140 sanctions measures.

## UCM applied by the European Union, distributed by country

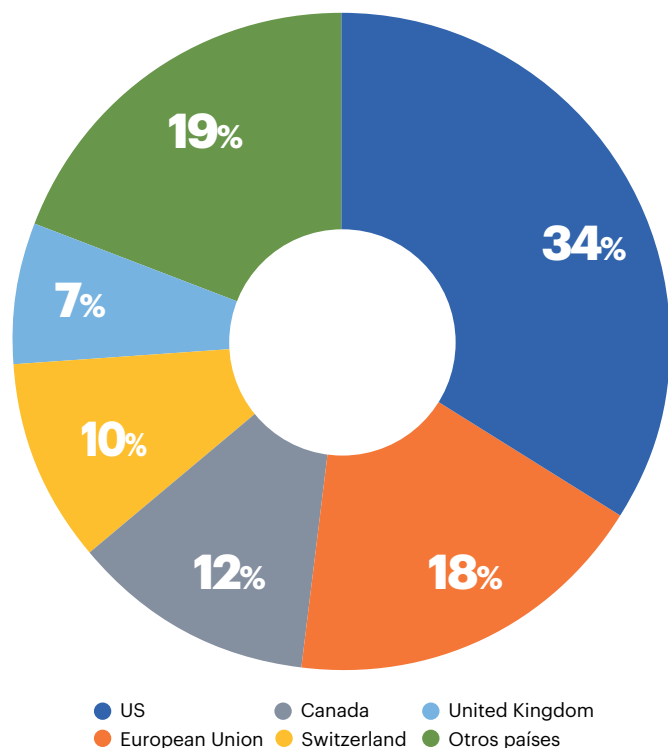


Source: [sanctionsmap.eu/](https://sanctionsmap.eu/) [castellum.ai](https://castellum.ai)

# The United States, the largest sanctioner

The United States tops the list as the most sanctioning country, with 34%. This indicator reflects the influence and scope of this country as a predominant player in the imposition of coercive measures on a global scale, followed by the European Union with 18%. Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom account for 29%.

## UCM distribution by country or sanctioning entity in %



Source: U.S.-OFAC/ Gov.Canada/ Switzerland-SECO/ Min. of Economy and Finance of Panama/ United Kingdom-OFSI/ sanctionsmap.eu/castellum.ai

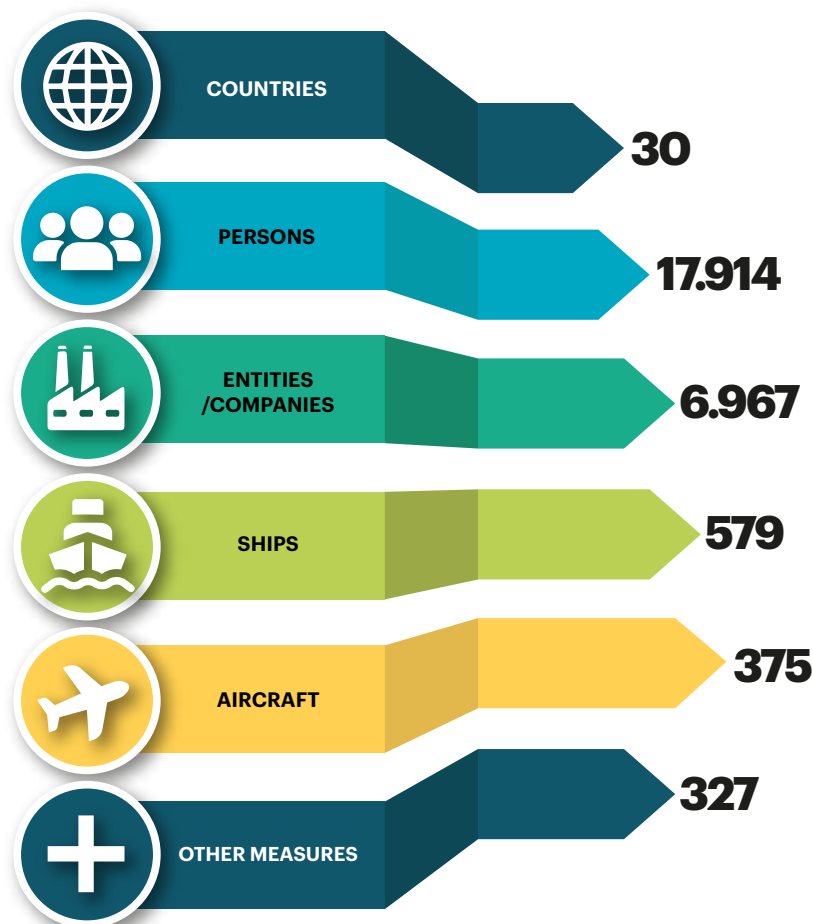


# The Punished world

## The target is resources

Of the 195 countries recognized by the UN, 30 are subject to unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States, the European Union and other States. These measures are distributed as follows: 17,914 individuals; 6,967 entities or companies; 579 ships; 375 aircraft; and 327 restrictive or punitive measures.

The objective of sanction measures is always to affect the activities, assets or resources to hinder or sabotage the economic life of the sanctioned nations.



# VOICES AGAINST THE BLOCKADE

“ U.S. sanctions deliberately aim to destroy the Venezuelan economy and thus lead to regime change. It is a fruitless, ruthless, illegal and failed policy that causes serious harm to the Venezuelan people”.

**Jeffrey Sachs**

US Economist

“ Because of their impacts on the population and human rights, the sanctions against Venezuela should be considered crimes against humanity.”

**Alfred de Zayas**

Former UN Rapporteur  
/ International Scholar

“ Unilateral Coercive Measures are extortive measures, because not only are they not authorized by law, but they cannot be subrogated to the attributes of coerciveness proper to legal norms (...) they are antijudicial in essence”.

**Carmelo Borrego**

Lawyer/ International  
Academic



## UN Rapporteur's report on the case of Venezuela



*Unilateral sanctions against the oil, gold, mining and other economic sectors, constitute a violation of international law (...) The announced purpose of the “maximum pressure” campaign, violates the principle of sovereign equality of states and constitutes an intervention in the internal affairs of Venezuela that also affects its regional relations”.*



### **Alena Douhan**

UN Special Rapporteur on UCM.  
February, 2022.

# **Geopolitical Map of Sanctions**

Platform for international  
cooperation in the struggle  
against unilateral  
coercive measures



**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

Executive Vice Presidency of the Republic  
International Center for Productive Investment  
Venezuelan Anti-Blockade Observatory

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“ *The new stage of world geopolitics requires all the unity, solidarity, respect and solid alliances among the peoples that allow the boost and development of nations. In our region we are determined to forge a victorious destiny (...) The ideas of union for liberation and respect for the self-determination of the peoples were the geopolitical flag of Commander Chávez. Today his sons and daughters carry it at the top. A new world is possible, and on that path we advance with determination*”.

**Nicolás Maduro Moros**

President of the Bolivarian  
Republic of Venezuela  
March, 2023.



“ Fortunately, the world  
of the 21st century will not  
be unipolar or bipolar,  
it will be multipolar”.

**Hugo Chávez**

February, 1999.