

Maduro 'brings the truth' about Venezuela to UN Assembly; says he is ready to meet US President Trump

The people of Venezuela are being harassed and attacked in the economic, political, diplomatic spheres, and facing "permanent aggression by the media" at the hands of the United States, President Nicolás Maduro told the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday.

"The oligarchies of the continent – and those who rule them from Washington – want political control of Venezuela," he said to world leaders gathered for the Assembly's annual general debate, where he pledged to "bring the truth" that "Venezuela is on its feet."

Indeed, he said that the reportedly large numbers of Venezuelans fleeing the country, were "a media creation".

At the same time, he said he was willing to talk with US President Donald Trump, with an "open agenda" on all issues that the US Government wanted to discuss.

President Maduro promised to do "with humility; frankly; with sincerity in spite of the immense historical, ideological and social differences "that separate both countries, since Venezuela" hoists the flag of the dialogue of civilizations".

He the aggression against his county had been driven by the fact that Venezuela "has raised an autonomous project of democratic revolution, of social claim and of building a new model of society based on the historical roots of the nation." The country was also under threat for geopolitical reasons, since it has the "largest oil reserves in the world", as well as natural gas reserves and gold.

He denounced that, during the last two years, Venezuela had been subjected to unilateral illegal measures of economic blockade such as preventing it from using the dollar "by the authorities of the US treasury secretariat."