



HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

ISP-I-25-21

What OIG Inspected

OIG inspected the executive direction, policy and program implementation, and resource management operations of the Venezuela Affairs Unit.

What OIG Recommends

OIG made 7 recommendations: 5 to the Venezuela Affairs Unit and 2 to the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. In its comments on the draft report, the Department concurred with 6 recommendations and partially concurred with 1 recommendation. OIG considers all 7 recommendations resolved. The Department's response to each recommendation and OIG's reply can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The Department's formal response is reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B.

September 2025

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS

BUREAU OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

Inspection of the Venezuela Affairs Unit

What OIG Found

- The Chargé d'Affaires and the Deputy Chief of Mission modeled the Department of State's leadership principles in directing the Venezuela Affairs Unit (VAU) in Bogota, Colombia.
- The VAU Chargé d'Affaires also served as Chargé d'Affaires of Embassy Bogota, which diminished the amount of time he could spend overseeing the VAU.
- The Department did not undertake a cost-benefit analysis of whether to maintain and secure U.S.-owned properties in Caracas.
- The Department did not assess VAU facilities and staffing to determine the proper allocation of resources.
- The 2020 memorandum of understanding between Embassy Bogota and the VAU was outdated.
- The VAU did not update its local compensation plan in accordance with Department standards.