China Offers Help to Venezuela to Restore Power

REBING - China offered on Wednesday to help a growing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela following a power blackout that left millions without food, power or transportation. "China hopes that the Venezuelan side can decide as soon as possible and resume normal power supply and social order," China's ambassador in Caracas said.

"China is deeply concerned about this," Liu Xiaoming said. "It's a long-term crisis in the Venezuelan government's ability to maintain social stability. It causes widespread suffering to the Venezuelan people. China and other international friends have been trying to solve this for years."

In the Venezuelan capital of Caracas and in the countryside, there is a great lack of basic necessities, including food, medicine, and fuel. People are forced to work overtime to keep the power and water going. The country's president, Nicolas Maduro, has blamed the blackout on the United States. "We are not going to allow the US to impose sanctions on the people of Venezuela," he said. "We are going to continue to fight for our independence and freedom."

The Chinese government has repeatedly called on the United States to respect Venezuela's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "We are opposed to any form of interference in Venezuela's internal affairs," Liu said.

In his Wednesday meeting with Maduro, Liu also discussed the two countries' cooperation in the area of oil and gas. Last year, Venezuela signed a deal with China National Petroleum Corporation to develop the country's oil reserves.

"Venezuela and China have a long history of cooperation," Liu said. "We are committed to expanding our trade and investment in the energy sector."

The Chinese government has also expressed its support for Venezuela's constitutional government, headed by President Maduro. "We support the Venezuelan government's efforts to stabilize the situation and restore social order," Liu said. "We are ready to provide any kind of assistance that Venezuela may need."