B Lab Statement on Jorge Alvarado & Asociados's B Corp Certification
B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for companies providing tax advisory services:

"Companies in the tax advisory industry are eligible for B Corp Certification if they are able to confirm that their tax philosophy, used to provide services and recommendations to clients, aligns with the company specific principles listed in B Lab's framework, specifically, 1) the tax advice provided appropriately reflects the actual amount of income generated by the client over time; and, 2) the tax advice provided to a client for a jurisdiction appropriately reflects the actual operations of the client in that jurisdiction."

Jorge Alvarado & Asociados is required to disclose a summary of how it complies with the above requirements as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's position statement on Companies that Provide Tax Advisory Services and B Corp Certification here.

Summary of Company
Based in Venezuela, Jorge Alvarado & Asociados provides tax compliance and advisory services focused primarily on outsourcing the fulfillment of periodic tax obligations rather than offering tax planning or tax optimization products. The firm's tax advisory services are closely linked to business process outsourcing (BPO) activities related to regulatory compliance. These services include the preparation and filing of VAT returns, income tax (ISLR) filings, VAT and other withholding tax forms, and tax determinations related to ISLR, VAT, and IGTF. In addition, the firm supports clients in administrative tax defense proceedings, conducts compliance audits (including Commercial Commissioner audits), and provides advisory services on the interpretation and application of tax regulations. The firm does not engage in tax planning services. The firm's approach to tax compliance is intrinsically linked to its 'Con B de Bienestar' philosophy, viewing fiscal responsibility not merely as a legal obligation but as a fundamental pillar of systemic corporate wellbeing and social contribution.

Overall, the firm serves mid-market and large-cap entities, as well as multinational subsidiaries, primarily medium-sized and large national companies, subsidiaries of multinational enterprises, and non-profit organizations, all of which are operating within Venezuela. In terms of tax advisory services under Venezuelan financial reporting standards (VEN NIF), all clients are categorized as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Tax compliance and advisory services represent 60% to 70% of total revenue in the most recent fiscal year.

The firm determines its fees using two primary pricing models. For recurring services or clearly defined projects, fees are charged on a fixed-fee basis. For other engagements, fees are calculated using hourly billing rates that vary according to the professional seniority of the staff involved, including partners, managers, and senior professionals. The firm does not apply contingency or success-based fees linked to tax savings, as it considers such arrangements to pose ethical conflicts of interest and may encourage aggressive tax practices.

Jorge Alvarado & Asociados's Policies and Practices

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that provide tax advisory services, Jorge Alvarado & Asociados has a philosophy statement for the tax advice that they provide to their clients and their own engagement with governments and tax regulators, which has been shared with all their employees. The philosophy statement reads as follows:

"Jorge Alvarado & Asociados is proud of our status as a Certified B Corp. As part of that commitment and in recognition of the role that taxes play in contributing to a healthy society, we use our professional judgment to provide advice regarding tax positions with multiple potential interpretations that accurately reflects the income and operations of the client in each jurisdiction for which the client seeks our advice based on the details of the client's income and operations provided to us, and do not advise clients to take a position unless we believe it has at least a reasonable basis for being sustained by applicable tax authorities. If a client takes a tax position despite our advice to the contrary, we reserve the right to stop work for and terminate such client. In accordance with this tax philosophy, we engage with government and tax authorities on a collaborative basis and limit our advocacy activities with such authorities to work for specific clients in need of regulatory compliance assistance. We maintain compliance with this policy through regular training of our employees and partners, internal policies on conduct, engagement documentation with our clients, and client retention reviews."

Company policies and practices for risk mitigation

The firm's Tax Integrity and Transparency Policy, articulates the company's commitment to responsible tax advisory practices grounded in legality, transparency, and professional ethics. This policy outlines the firm's guiding principles and serves as a formal statement of its tax philosophy, emphasizing international tax neutrality, compliance with applicable laws, and the avoidance of aggressive tax planning structures.

In delivering its tax advisory services, the firm adheres to recognized technical and ethical standards, including VEN-NIIF accounting standards. Beyond statutory compliance under VEN-NIF, the firm adopts a proactive stance on tax transparency, utilizing the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as a reference framework to ensure that tax contributions are treated as a transparent value-creation metric for society. These standards inform both the technical quality of advice and the ethical boundaries within which services are provided.

Professional conduct is governed by the Venezuelan Professional Code of Ethics for Public Accountants and the Code of Ethics for Lawyers, which apply to the firm's multidisciplinary practice. Compliance with these codes is overseen by the respective professional associations as well as by the firm's Managing Partner, creating both external and internal layers of accountability.

To further limit the risk of involvement in aggressive or abusive tax arrangements, the firm relies on defined contractual safeguards, including its Terms and Conditions, Proposal Caveats, and Client Acceptance/Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures. These documents establish that the firm's role is limited to providing legal interpretation and professional judgment based on information supplied by clients, while explicitly placing responsibility for data accuracy, business decisions, and compliance outcomes on client management. The caveats clarify that advisory services should not be interpreted as encouragement or endorsement of legal violations and that the firm may terminate engagements if professional or ethical responsibilities are compromised. These measures function to protect the firm from participation in fraudulent or abusive schemes and to reinforce client accountability.

In matters surrounding development, marketing, or implementation of tax avoidance schemes, the firm's policies explicitly prohibit engagement in activities that lack economic substance, rely on artificial structures, or are designed solely to achieve tax minimization. This is operationalized through its client acceptance and evasion risk assessment procedures, which evaluate factors such as requests for complex structures without commercial purpose, operations in tax havens without substance, reluctance to provide information, and potential links to sanctioned individuals or entities. Engagements identified as high risk may be rejected or subjected to enhanced scrutiny. While the firm strictly prohibits engagement in artificial tax schemes, it provides expert guidance on 'economía de opción' (the legitimate right to choose the most efficient legal alternative), strictly adhering to the legislator's intent while maintaining client economic sustainability.

Regarding low-tax jurisdictions, the firm does not maintain policies that promote their use. The company has not provided any tax advisory services that includes work related to low-tax jurisdictions.

To address potential conflicts of interest, the firm has implemented a comprehensive Independence and Conflict of Interest Policy, which aligns with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and the IFAC Code of Ethics. This policy establishes strict rules governing financial interests, family relationships, and professional roles that could compromise objectivity. It also enforces a segregation of duties principle, particularly when the firm provides both audit and consulting services, requiring separate teams and leadership to mitigate self-review risks. All partners and professional staff are required to submit annual declarations confirming independence and confidentiality, and any potential conflicts must be reported immediately to the Managing Partner for resolution or the application of safeguards.

In addition, the firm's contractual terms explicitly address conflicts arising from engagements with multiple clients, setting boundaries to ensure confidentiality and prevent the misuse of privileged information. The firm may decline or terminate engagements if ethical independence or professional responsibility is at risk, reinforcing its commitment to integrity and impartiality.

Government affairs and lobbying

The regulatory environment for tax advisory services in Venezuela is characterized as highly stringent and enforcement-driven. The country operates under a strict legal framework, primarily governed by the Organic Tax Code, which provides for severe administrative and criminal penalties, including fines, business closures, and potential criminal liability for tax-related offenses. The national tax authority, SENIAT, is described as maintaining an aggressive audit posture, with intensive scrutiny of taxpayer compliance and professional advisory practices. Within this context, tax advisory firms operate under significant regulatory pressure, with limited tolerance for interpretative risk and heightened exposure to enforcement actions.

With regard to lobbying and public policy engagement, the company maintains a non-lobbying stance. The company does not engage in paid lobbying activities, nor does it seek to influence tax legislation for commercial advantage. Instead, the firm participates in public consultations only through recognized professional associations, including national associations of public accountants and lawyers, when formally invited by government bodies. This participation is strictly technical and academic in nature, focusing on the practical implications, clarity, and consistency of proposed tax regulations rather than advocacy for specific commercial or political outcomes.

B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through B Lab's Public Complaint Process. Grounds for complaint include:

1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the certification process, or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our Declaration of Interdependence within the B Corp Community.