



*Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Samuel Moncada,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations*

on behalf of the

“Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations”

*during the consideration, within the framework of the Second Committee
of the General Assembly, of draft resolution A/C.2/76/L.16, entitled*

*“Unilateral Economic Measures as a Means of Political
and Economic Coercion Against Developing Countries”*

New York, 23 November 2021

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Madam President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honored to take the floor on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Lao, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe, and its very own, all of which are members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

Madam President,

2. Our Group of Friends was established in response to the increasing threats against the Charter of the United Nations and, thus, the urgent need to reaffirm and

defend its very purposes and principles, which today remain as relevant as in 1945.

3. Unilateral coercive measures, whether of a political or economic nature, have become the preferred tool of certain States to exert pressure, particularly on developing countries, and force the sovereign will of another State, in order to obtain from it advantages of any kind. Therefore, their promulgation and application clearly go against the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations, which, by the way, has entrusted the imposition of measures of this kind on the Security Council, making it the only body in the world that is legally empowered to impose sanctions.
4. Moreover, unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope and extraterritoriality, have a negative impact on the enjoyment and realization of all human rights, including the right to development of our peoples. This negative and rather dramatic impact has been increased during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as recorded even by UN independent experts. As such, these illegal measures not only represent a direct attack on one of the main pillar of our Organization, as is sustainable development, but they also represent a deliberate obstacle to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as a means to entrench the gaps between our peoples and to foster inequality, social exclusion and systemic racism.

Madam President,

5. We seize this opportunity to reiterate our serious concern at the growing resort to unilateralism, marked, precisely, by isolationist and arbitrary actions and approaches that violate both the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and—the basic principles of the multilateral trading system, which have a detrimental impact, among others, on States' stability, freedom of trade, investment and development, and that not only undermine national and international efforts in the current fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, but that also hamper the economic and social advancement and development of all peoples, within the framework of systematic, deliberate and calculated policies aimed at exerting pressure, pain and suffering on entire populations.
6. The illegal promulgation and implementation of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries represent a direct obstacle for the effective implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, as well as other international commitments in the economic, social and environmental fields. Their very existence is contrary, among others, to the pledge of leaving no one behind and to our efforts for securing an end for poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

7. To conclude, the Group of Friends strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying and to lift, especially in the midst of the current pandemic, any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, mindful, among others, of the fact that they can impede the full achievement of economic and social development in the targeted States, as well as impair their trade relations.

I thank you, Madam President.