



GROUP OF FRIENDS
IN DEFENSE OF THE
CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JOAQUIN PEREZ AYESTARAN,
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF
THE UNITED NATIONS, UNDER ARRIA FORMULA FORMAT, ON “THE
IMPACT OF UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES ON GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS”**

New York, 25 March 2024

Mr. President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. At the outset, allow us to convey our heartfelt condolences to the people and government of the Russian Federation, following the heinous and coward terrorist attack perpetrated last Friday against the Crocus City Hall, and which resulted in the killing of over 150 innocent individuals, while leaving many others injured, including in critical conditions.
3. Moreover, we would also like to express our appreciation to the Delegation of the Russian Federation – a fellow member of our grouping – for the convening of this informal meeting to address a matter to which we all attach great importance, as it is the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on global counter terrorism efforts. Similarly, our gratitude goes to the briefers for their much valuable and insightful inputs to this important discussion we are having today.

Mr. President,

4. Terrorist acts not only endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States, but also national, regional and international peace and security. Not only do they generate terror and violate human rights, but they also seek to destabilize legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, thus, affecting the stability of nations and the very basis of societies. In addition, terrorist acts create adverse consequences, among others, on the economic and social development of entire nations, while resulting in both an incommensurable human toll and important economic losses, including as a



result of the destruction of States' public and private infrastructure, including that of a critical nature.

5. We therefore express our categorical rejection to all acts of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. All acts, methods and practices of terrorism are criminal, unjustifiable and represent clear violations of both the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. Similarly, the provision of any sort of support, active or passive, to terrorist organizations or persons for the purpose of inciting, planning, financing, perpetrating or participating in the carrying out of terrorist acts, is also contrary to the values, tenets and spirit of the founding Charter of our Organization.
6. That being said, we ought to stress, on one hand, that terrorism shall in no way be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and national liberation, and, on the other one, that terrorism shall not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
7. Similarly, we reject the political manipulation of the fight against terrorism, including through the issuance of arbitrary and unilateral lists accusing States of allegedly supporting terrorism; a practice that is totally inconsistent with international law. We also stress that the promotion or facilitation of terrorism, as well as the use of digital platforms to incite and finance terrorist acts, for the purpose of advancing regime-change policies or agendas seeking neocolonial domination is inadmissible.
8. Efforts to prevent and combat international terrorism, we cannot overemphasize, shall not be used, under any circumstance, as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to resort to the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, as this clearly goes in contradiction with both the spirit and letter of the very Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

9. The fight against international terrorism must unite us and commit us all. This is a fight that admits no double standards: there cannot be good and bad terrorists. However, the common quest for the achievement of a world free of terrorism has been for long undermined as a result of the politicization of counter-terrorism fight for advancing interventionist agendas. The political manipulation of the fight against terrorism and the incitement to commit terrorist acts combined with the



application of unilateral coercive measures, as part of strategies aimed at promoting regime-changes against sovereign countries, in flagrant violation of both the letter and spirit of the most basic norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

10. Unilateral coercive measures, needless to say, are weaponized in the pursuit of geopolitical and economic goals, no matter the pain and suffering they generate on entire peoples around the world as they are systematically and relentlessly applied. Not only do they impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, but they also have a negative impact on the full enjoyment and realization of human rights. In other words, not only do they create and aggravate the conditions for poverty and inequality, but they represent also a deliberate attack against the right to development.
11. Consequently, without fear of making mistakes, we can assert that unilateral coercive measures foster those conditions that we have repeatedly urged to be addressed, including the root causes of international terrorism. Unilateral coercive measures could thus provide breeding ground, precisely, for the promotion of criminal agendas from terrorist and violent extremist groups, which is why we need to urgently and effectively redress this phenomenon. The implementation of unilateral coercive measures also undermines international cooperation, including in the field of counter-terrorism, as stated in the Concept Note for this event.
12. In this context, we seize this opportunity to caution once again about the growing resort to these so-called sanctions, of which not only are we seen a new generation, much crueler and destructive, but of which we also have to caution that they seem to have become the preferred tool of certain governments for exerting pressure on independent nations, particularly on developing countries, and for forcing the sovereign will of another State, in order to obtain from it advantages of any kind. The application of such measures must be terminated completely and unconditionally.

Mr. President,

13. Allow us now to conclude by reaffirming the resolve of the Member States of our Group of Friends to take speedy and effective measures, rooted in international legality and the tenets of the founding Charter of our Organization, to eliminate once and for all international terrorism, as well as to the complete, immediate and unconditional elimination of unilateral coercive measures. At last, we call on all responsible members of the international community to put aside differences and,



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instead, to engage with each other and work together, in a decisive, inclusive and coordinated manner, in order to achieve a world free of terrorism.

I thank you, Mr. President.