



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. HÉCTOR CONSTANT ROSALES, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT OF THE ECOSOC**

*Geneva, 21 June 2023*

**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.

**Mr. President,**

2. Our Group of Friends attaches particular importance to the mandate of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in view of the fact that the political, economic, social and environmental dynamics of recent decades, at the global level, have triggered major emergencies.
3. Our Group of Friends takes note with concern of the Report of the Secretary General on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations dated 12 April 2023, that informs the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection rose from 274 million to 348.7 million throughout 2022 owing to the compounding drivers of conflict, climate change, disasters, the continuing effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and a global economic slowdown and contains an outline of measures taken to strengthen humanitarian coordination and response, information on humanitarian trends, challenges and recommendations, including in response to escalating humanitarian suffering.
4. Moreover, we consider that the best guarantee for ensuring sustained progress towards a more peaceful and secure world, in which development and human rights are a reality, is the full adherence to the spirit under which the United Nations was established, as clearly enshrined in the principles and purposes of its founding Charter, including the promotion of friendly relations among nations, on the basis of respect for the principle of equal rights, self-determination and the settlement of disputes through dialogue and cooperation. These political foundations are increasingly under threat by the advent of unilateral tendencies that in a

progressive manner are attempting to undermine the validity of multilateralism as the formula *par excellence* for addressing the great global challenges and threats of today's world, which, in many cases, are common to all of us equally.

**Mr. President,**

5. The discussing of strengthening humanitarian assistance at a time of unprecedented global humanitarian needs, brings the attention of the international community to respond on questions such as food insecurity, protection risk, needs and challenges in humanitarian emergencies and humanitarian assistance in the face of climate change, in the midst of a global multifaceted crisis that is having an impact, particularly on developing countries, among others, on the economic and financial sector, at a time when experts are forecasting a recession of the global economy this year. Hence, we cannot overemphasize the importance we attach to this subject, especially as we redouble our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attain its SDGs. We insist, in this context, on the importance for, among others, addressing the persistent financing gaps and debt sustainability related issues, on the one hand, while, on the other one, finally advancing towards the long-overdue reform of the international financial architecture.
6. Furthermore, we reaffirm the importance on effectively addressing the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters and their devastating impacts, which have resulted in recent years in serious and negative economic, social and environmental consequences, evidenced by the death of millions of people, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, the impacts of climate change, displacement, among others.
7. In the same vein, we seize this opportunity to insist that the political, economic and social impact of the systematic campaign of application of unilateral coercive measures against entire peoples, in contravention of all norms of international law, represents the most sophisticated cause of global emergencies of human displacement, by depriving more than one-third of the humanity from the full enjoyment and realization of their human rights, including to food, health, vaccines and medical treatment, financial services, education, while also infringing upon the economy of the countries subjected to such criminal measures that even undermine the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
8. Allow us, in this context, to recall that the World Health Organization (WHO) has acknowledged that the application of unilateral coercive measures put at risk global



food security. Similarly, in a joint statement issued back in July 2022 by the Heads of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) affirmed that these kinds of restrictive measures only contribute to the rise of food prices; in other words, their elimination would only contribute towards ongoing international efforts to address the current food security crisis.

9. We also seize this opportunity to make an appeal to urgently assess and address in its future briefs the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on the current global crisis, including on its food, energy and finance dimensions, as well as on national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and effectively advance towards the eradication of poverty and hunger.
10. Addressing protection risks, needs and challenges in humanitarian emergencies, particularly the disproportionate impact on women and children, we seize this opportunity to also condemn and reject systemic racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and any related form of intolerance, and we reaffirm that human rights are entitled to all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, as established in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We categorically reject the resurgence of tendencies that promote the idea of superiority among human beings, including fascism, Nazism, neo-Nazism, and any form of racial exceptionalism. We insist, in this context, that States are increasingly called upon to give the highest priority to guarantee the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and indigenous peoples, as well as national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, populations that on many occasions are at greater risk of vulnerability.
11. Moreover, human action, based on a model of unequal economic accumulation and the exploitation of resources, has exacerbated the current climate catastrophe, threatening the fragile balance of coexistence between humans and nature, which has generated natural phenomena of atypical proportions, such as floods, heat or cold waves, hurricanes, and unprecedented disasters. Unfortunately, these circumstances also result in mobility crises that must be addressed through solidarity and cooperation, on the basis of a global, coherent and concerted response, within the framework of an effective and inclusive multilateralism, a commitment to which we ratify our full support and in which the United Nations is called upon to play a leading role.

**Mr. President,**



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12. While welcoming and encouraging the work of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian assistance, the Group of Friends insists that the best guarantee for the success of its mandate is ensuring full adherence to the core principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence, in accordance with the guiding principles established in General Assembly resolution 46/182, mindful of the fact that it is only through full coordination and national ownership, in a context of maximum transparency, that their activities will count on the legitimacy needed for avoiding any risk of being politically exploited by external actors, which would ultimately undermine trust and call into question the credibility of the Specialized Agencies, Programmes and Funds of the United Nations System.
13. In this regard, we emphasize that the assistance work of the United Nations, in the context of humanitarian emergencies, constitutes one of the most critical tasks of the Organization, both because of the high demand for financial resources, and also because of the technical expertise and high-risk operational capacity that it requires on the ground, generally as an emergency, which also makes it particularly sensitive in the political and social spheres. Therefore, we urge all parties involved in such operations to adhere their functions and operate in strict compliance with national and international legislation on this subject and to prevent their work from being misused for obtaining economic or commercial advantages by some sectors interested not only in profiting from human tragedies, but also in prolonging them indefinitely; an immoral practice that we strongly condemn.
14. To conclude, the Group of Friends appreciates the work of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and reaffirms its willingness to collaborate at the national, regional and international levels, while reaffirming the importance of addressing the issues inherent to its mandate from a perspective of human rights, dialogue and cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. President.