



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOAQUÍN PÉREZ  
AYESTARÁN, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
DURING THE JOINT GENERAL DEBATE ON DECOLONIZATION  
ITEMS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*New York, 10 October 2022*

**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. This being the first time we take the floor at this current session, allow us at the very outset to convey our best wishes to you, as you assume the Chairmanship of the Fourth Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau, while looking forward to working closely throughout this 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly. Rest assured of the constructive and active engagement of our delegations.

**Mr. President,**

3. Decolonization is one of those files in which the United Nations has indeed made great progress. There are multiple success stories, as demonstrated by the expansion of the membership of our Organization. Today we are a total of 193 Member States, in comparison to 51, when the United Nations was established back in 1945. Nevertheless, the task remains uncompleted: 17 non-self-governing territories, plus Palestine, still await on us for ensuring that their inalienable right to self-determination is fully realized. Over sixty (60) years have passed since the adoption of landmark General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Nevertheless, much still remains to be done, in order to truly and effectively achieve the eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.
4. In this context, we seize this opportunity, from the very outset, to reiterate our historic and principled positions on decolonization items, to express our firm adherence to the provisions of the “Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”, and, most importantly, to reaffirm our unwavering moral and political commitment with the full realization of the inalienable rights of each and every Non-Self-Governing Territory, whose situation



has been seriously impacted by the current global crisis, including that resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, while calling on the Occupying and Administering Powers to actively engage in a dialogue that would allow us to finally reach a fair and comprehensive solution to each of these pending questions.

5. The Member States of our Group of Friends are conscious, though, that the only way to move forward in this important field is if all concerned parties, both Administering Powers and Non-Self-Governing Territories, renew their commitment and political will towards that end. And, while nowadays focus is being put on other pressing challenges, the international community must not lose sight of the questions referred to decolonization, as the yearns for freedom and justice of millions of people have already been protracted for way too long, while negatively impacting both the rule of law at the international level and the very purposes of the Charter of the United Nations; namely, the principle of “equal rights and self-determination of peoples”, as stipulated in Article 1 (2).
6. Similarly, we also seize this opportunity to renew our call to the Administering Powers to respect the inalienable right of all Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, as well as their right to establish and maintain control over their current and future exploitation. Likewise, we urge the Administering Powers to avoid the pursuance of economic or other activities, including of a military nature, that have the potential to negatively affect the interests and well-being of the peoples of said territories.

**Mr. President,**

7. More than twenty (20) years have passed since the last Non-Self-Governing Territory changed its status and became not only a sovereign and independent State, but also a full member of our Organization. Today, when we find ourselves immersed in the Fourth International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism, we ask ourselves: how much more time has to pass before the yearns and legitimate aspirations for peace, justice and freedom of the peoples of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories that remain in our agenda can be carried out? How many more decades do we have to declare before we, once and for all, eliminate colonialism in all its forms and manifestations?
8. The current International Decade is scheduled to end in the year 2030, when the international community should have achieved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At that time, we will have to account, among others, on the progress made towards, as stated in General Assembly resolution 70/1, the removal of “the





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obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or foreign occupation". Bearing in mind that the promise is, and continues to be, to leave no one behind, and that colonialism adversely affects the economic and social development of peoples, as well as the full enjoyment of their human rights, we hope that this synchrony can be seized for effectively advancing in the decolonization agenda during the eight (08) years ahead of us.

9. To conclude, the Group of Friends vows to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. Hence, we reiterate our full support and solidarity with the peoples of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories in their struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as well as our firm determination to continue participating in an active and constructive manner in all efforts aimed at advancing towards the achievement of a world free of colonialism, with a view to settling once and for all our pending debt with humanity regarding the definitive conclusion of the decolonization process around the world.

I thank you, Madam President.

