



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 GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 82, ENTITLED
“CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE
PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES”, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, 18 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. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the honorable Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), while taking note of the Secretary-General's report, contained in document A/77/208, and presented pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/139, on the basis of the information and comments received from Member States.

Mr. President,

3. Diplomacy is built on the basis of respect for each other's positions, views and concerns, as well as on the need to engage, in good faith, in constant political dialogue and constructive negotiations, in order to accommodate the interests of all concerned parties with regards to a given subject. Diplomacy, together with multilateralism and other tools provided by relevant legal frameworks, is key for reinforcing, among others, the advancement of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights around the world, as recognized by General Assembly resolution 73/127.
4. Nowadays, when we face common challenges in various fields, collective solutions are needed the most. Diplomacy is needed the most. In this context, we seize this opportunity to underline the importance of fully implementing the international and legally binding norms adopted by the international community to facilitate the work of diplomatic and consular agents, while also ensuring their safety, as well as the security, sanctity and inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions, including in

cases in which diplomatic relations may have been broken, in strict line with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Mr. President,

5. The ability of effectively carrying out the work of diplomatic and consular missions is strictly linked to the environment and the conditions under which diplomatic and consular agents may be working, particularly those related to safety and security. In this regard, we express our deep concern at the concerning rise in the number and range of acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives, as well as against diplomatic and consular missions. We express, in this regard, our unwavering condemnation of such acts and our full solidarity with the victims, while urging host countries to carry out the corresponding investigations, in order to ensure that instigators, organizers and perpetrators are held accountable and that measures, including of a preventive nature, be taken urgently for redressing such situations.
6. The Group of Friends reiterates, in light of the above, the duty of host countries to take all appropriate measures, as required by international law, to prevent harmful acts against diplomatic and consular missions, as well as against diplomatic and consular agents. Both the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations are crystal clear in this regard. Similarly, the General Assembly has adopted several resolutions on the subject in question, which reiterate the obligations of States with regard to the security and protection of diplomatic and consular missions and agents.
7. In this context, we also underline the importance of ensuring adequate conditions for Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations, its Offices and other International Organizations, in order to ensure that they can fully and effectively discharge their responsibilities and thus fulfil their respective purposes, in accordance with the corresponding legally binding obligations of Host Countries under the relevant Headquarters Agreements and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Mr. President,

8. One last point we would like to touch upon is the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the ability of diplomatic and consular missions and agents to exercise their duties and responsibilities. Contrary to the provisions of Article 25 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the application of such illegal



measures have a direct impact on the proper functioning of Diplomatic Missions in some countries, taking into account, among others, the fact that banking services are not provided, pursuant to the implementation of these unilateral and coercive sanctions, which, in some instances, even prevent States from honoring their financial commitments with international organizations to which they are Members.

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. We reiterate our firm and principled position of support and adherence to its very tenets, which not only are the legally binding and agreed rules by all members of the international community to govern our system of international relations but are also indispensable for fostering international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development, social progress, and diplomatic solutions to global challenges and common threats.

I thank you, Mr. President.