



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

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. RUBÉN DARÍO MOLINA, VICE-MINISTER FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

New York, 20 September 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. Financing for development is one the key elements for effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for ensuring the timely attainment of all its goals and targets. With only seven (07) years to go before the deadline we have all agreed to achieve the SDGs, it is necessary to once and for all starting to translate words into actions; that is, for developed countries to start actually delivering on all their previous commitments.
3. In this context, we seize this opportunity to call, among others, for the diversification of the sources of financing, without substituting North-South cooperation; for the eradication of any conditionality on Official Development Assistance; for addressing the persistent financing gaps and debt sustainability related issues; and for advancing without further delays on the question of debt treatment and the long overdue reform of the international financial architecture, in order to ensure the availability of the resources needed for investments towards sustainable development.

Mr. President,

4. We are currently in the midst of a global multifaceted crisis. This reality shall call us to act together, in a coordinated and decisive manner, with a sense of urgency, in order to move forward in dealing with the pressing and common challenges we have ahead, but which are much more harshly felt by our nations from the Global South, in the interest of the wellbeing of our peoples and the realization of their aspirations, including of their inalienable right to development.



5. However, this will only remain a chimera unless one of the biggest obstacles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realization of the economic and social development of over one third of humanity is effectively addressed. We refer to the question of unilateral coercive measures, which, despite being a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, of the norms of international law, of the provisions of the very 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and of the true spirit of financing for development, remain an unfortunate reality for over 30 countries around the world, including many from our grouping.
6. We also note with concern that global economic fragmentation, induced as per the IMF assessments by unilateral trade restrictions, comes with a cost of reducing global economic output, disrupted supply chains and inflation, which results, among others, resulting in the exacerbation of the current cost-of-living crisis.
7. It is precisely because of these regrettable developments that developing countries and their groupings have been considering and establishing alternative payment infrastructures and instruments, while strengthening correspondent banking networks, in order to facilitate trade and investment flows in local currencies, from the standpoint that this can contribute to deepening economic integration and to reducing vulnerabilities.

Mr. President,

8. This issue, which has generated a systemic crisis in the entire system of international relations, can no longer be ignored. How could we truly talk about the implementation of the 2030 Agenda when the very means of implementation, including vast amount of funds, are blocked as a result of the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures and thus prevented from being used for achieving the SDGs?
9. We insist on the need for such measures to be lifted in a complete, immediate and unconditional manner, especially mindful of the fact that we are currently seeing not only an unprecedented resort to unilateral sanctions, but also a new generation and expansion of such illegal measures. We also hope that this critical issue will be thoroughly addressed next year, within the context of the 2024 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, and duly incorporated into its outcome document.

Mr. President,



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10. Allow me to conclude by reiterating the strong commitment of our Group of Friends with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and with financing for development, while renewing also our determination to continue advocating for the establishment of a new international economic order that is based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the North and the South, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for both present and future generations, and for which it is necessary to advance, among others, on the democratization of the international financial institutions.

I thank you.