



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE
GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 18, ENTITLED “SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SECOND
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 09 October 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. The Group of Friends considers that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established important agreements aimed at achieving more peaceful, just and inclusive societies. This common roadmap, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others, is the guarantee for fully and effectively realizing sustainable development in its three (03) dimensions: economic, social and environmental.
3. Since its adoption almost eight (08) years ago, the international community has made significant progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nevertheless, despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has been officially terminated, its consequences are still being felt today, particularly by countries of the Global South. This reality, coupled with the impact of protracted armed conflicts and injustices, as well as with the current global crisis and its multiple dimensions, has managed to reverse many of those hard-won achievements, and today we are rather far off-track for realizing on time the commitments made back in 2015 when adopting the 2030 Agenda.
4. In this context, we express our deep concern at the policies and practices carried out by former colonial powers, including through their military alliances, which continue to exacerbate current geopolitical tensions around the world, which come on top of the multiple challenges in the field of sustainable development, which are not only exacerbating already difficult socioeconomic conditions, but also fueling

greater uncertainty and largely affecting commodity markets, especially food and energy ones, often to the benefit of multinational corporations.

5. That being said, we consider that, far from discouraging us, this reality must be a wake-up call for redoubling our efforts and, as the Secretary-General has said, for turbocharging the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially within the framework of the current Decade of Action. In this regard, it is of utmost importance not only to act with a sense of urgency, but also of unity, within the framework of a reinvigorated and truly inclusive multilateralism, in order to together overcome the current and common challenges we have ahead, and advance, among others, towards the mobilization of the resources that would facilitate the financing for development, the increase of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and a substantive increase in and enhancement of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, the transfer of technology, the adoption of measures to relieve the burden of external debt, among others.
6. The Global Development Initiative (GDI), for instance, promoted by a fellow member of our Group of Friends – the People’s Republic of China –, advocates for a spirit of open and inclusive partnership and provides a platform for, precisely, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the benefit of all peoples, while facilitating also people-centered solutions to common challenges, as we jointly navigate the crossroads at which the global cause for development currently stands and continue to promote a global community of development with a shared future. This is an initiative that we support and we seize this opportunity to invite Member States to consider joining the Group of Friends of the GDI.

Mr. President,

7. The Member States of our Group of Friends advocate for the full recognition of the right to development as a universal, indivisible and inalienable human right, and remain confident that the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on this subject would ensure that it be one of the top priorities of the international community and the United Nations System as a whole. We recognize, in this context, that achieving the sustainable development of our nations also requires, on one hand, the strengthening, deepening and expansion of international cooperation and solidarity, and, on the other, the implementation of other equally important commitments that are intrinsically linked to this overarching goal, particularly with regards to Mother Nature and the need to urgently change the current system of consumption and production towards sustainable patterns.



8. The adverse impacts of climate change are threatening humanity as a whole, particularly vulnerable countries. Recent disasters around the globe prove so: floods, droughts, heatwaves, extreme storms and wildfires are becoming the new trend, while leaving catastrophic consequences behind, including human and economic losses, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, among others. We must correct the path; we must do so now. As the Secretary-General has eloquently said, we cannot have a plan B in this regard, because we have no planet B. Time has come to turn pledges into actions.
9. In this context, we call, on one hand, for urgent actions to redress this situation and ensure that we get back on track towards effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and, on the other hand, for developed countries to fulfill their commitments, on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and reflecting the principles of equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities”, as well as respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances, and for international financial institutions to facilitate the provision of the resources needed in developing countries for mitigation and adaptation efforts, in a non-politicized and non-discriminatory manner.
10. This brings us to briefly referring to the recent adoption of the Political Declaration resulting from the SDGs Summit, which, despite the fact that it remains incomplete, as it lacks an element of critical importance for the daily lives of over one third of humanity, it contains important provisions that should serve the common causes of the Global South, particularly with regards to the long-awaited and much-needed reform of the international financial architecture or the call for multilateral development banks to provide financing for the purpose of supporting developing countries in their national efforts towards the attainments of the SDGs, among others. We look forward to such provisions to once and for all materialize, so that we can move from mere declarations, words and commitments to actions with a real impact and tangible results for our peoples.

Mr. President,

11. There is yet another reality that is keeping over a third of humanity from fully realizing the sustainable development of their nations. We refer to the unilateral coercive measures that, in flagrant violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of every norm of international law, are illegally applied against the peoples of over 30 nations around the world. Such illegal measures constitute the single major impediment for the full economic and social development of those nations, while also undermining national efforts



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towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of its SDGs and targets.

12. As a matter of fact, unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope, extraterritorial implications and systemic nature, are exacerbating the multifaceted crisis humanity is facing today and will continue not only to negatively impact global economy as a whole, but also to cause and prolong human suffering around the world, unless a complete and immediate end is put to all these illegal measures, that would then allow all nations to fully pursue their productive potentials and contribute to the stabilization and overcoming of current challenges.

13. To conclude, despite all these challenges, many of which have been the result of actions beyond the control of our developing nations, the Member States of our Group of Friends vow to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, while reaffirming their unwavering commitment to continue working steadfastly towards the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as we remain true to our pledge of leaving no one behind.

I thank you, Mr. President.