



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JOAQUÍN PÉREZ AYESTARÁN,
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE 35th MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS TREATY BODIES**

New York, 01 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.
2. At the outset, allow us to express our appreciation to the Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies present at this meeting, including yourself, Mr. President, as well as to other representatives of the human rights treaty bodies, for their efforts to effectively implement and realize the provisions and goals of each of such important treaties.

Mr. President,

3. The Group of Friends attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all, without distinction. In this context, we firmly believe in the need to continue upholding both the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations, whose principles and purposes constitute the cornerstone of the international balance in today's world, which includes the human rights dimension among its fundamental ideals.
4. Together with the Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights Council and the special procedures, the treaty bodies are called upon to generate, strengthen and preserve respectful institutional dialogue and to engage in a constructive exchange with States, on the basis of their national laws, priorities and capacities, and in strict adherence to the mandate of the respective treaties for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation. There is need for the Human Rights Treaty Bodies to contribute to the broadest possible political and operational consensus on human rights issues, in order to enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and partnership among all States.



5. Consequently, and mindful of the constant search for efficiency, coherence and optimal use of resources, General Assembly resolution 68/268 provides a reasonable framework for increasing the harmonization of working methods and guaranteeing greater and more effective participation of States in the respective processes established in each treaty.

Mr. President,

6. The Group of Friends attaches utmost importance to the strict adherence by all State Parties of the treaty bodies to the prerogatives and mandates granted by each instrument, as part of the mandatory impartiality and independence, preventing external actors from instrumentalizing or weaponizing their essential work for political or economic purposes. This condition constitutes a *sine qua non* commitment to preserving the credibility of each body and its relationship with States and the System as a whole. The UN human rights bodies and mechanisms need to be safeguarded from fake news, disinformation and misinformation, and should also undertake their work based on credible information after taking into account the official responses that may be provided by concerned States. For this reason, we call on each of the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies, and all their members, to scrupulously ensure compliance with these principles, in favor of an effective and lasting promotion of human rights, without double standards or politicization. There should be no space for these negative practices within human rights treaty bodies, as they threaten their very credibility.
7. The more human rights are used as a basis for unmitigated criticism, vilification and naming and shaming, the more they are likely to be discredited. Our Group of Friends believes that Human Rights Treaty Bodies were established by Member States to guide them on adherence and compliance with human rights issues, rather than to isolate or target them for alleged breaches. All States are willing and ready for constructive dialogue with Human Rights Treaty Bodies, as provided under the Universal Periodic Review, in the Human Rights Council. It is essential, nonetheless, to strengthen this consultative framework, in order to obviate some of the challenges being faced at present time.
8. We also consider it of great importance that the membership of the respective expert committees established pursuant to treaty bodies should be based on equitable geographical distribution and take into account the diversity of civilization and legal systems, as this would ultimately contribute to the enrichment, appreciation and action of each body, as well as to a truly democratic and equitable international system.



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9. To conclude, the Group of Friends reaffirms its unwavering commitment to compliance with the provisions of the human rights treaties to which its Member States are party, and, most importantly, to engaging in a constructive manner to enhance mutual respect and full dialogue with the treaty bodies, fully cognizant that States as the ultimate guarantors of all human rights for their peoples, including the right to development.

I thank you, Mr. President.