



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

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY. H.E. MR. JOAQUIN A. PEREZ
AYESTARAN, AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE
“ONGOING PROTESTS IN IRAN”**

New York, 02 November 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.

Mr. President,

2. The Group of Friends considers the Charter of the United Nations to be a milestone and a true act of faith in the best of humanity. It is the code of conduct that has ruled international relations between States for the past 77 years, on the basis of timeless principles; such as sovereign equality of States, self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, among others. These are all basic norms and principles that, apart from being the foundation for modern-day international law, remain today as relevant as back in 1945.
3. In addition, we consider that ensuring compliance with and strict adherence to both the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations is fundamental for ensuring the realization of the three pillars of our Organization, as well as for advancing towards the establishment of a more peaceful and prosperous world and of a truly just and equitable world order.
4. In this context, we express our serious concern at the current and growing threats against the Charter of the United Nations. We refer to the implementation of practices that contribute in no way to addressing, through peaceful means and cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced these days by humanity. Instead, they contribute to an increase in uncertainty, instability and tensions around the world.

Mr. President,



5. This very informal meeting is a clear example of such practices. The purpose of today's meeting is not only to meddle in the internal affairs of a sovereign and full Member State of our Organization, as is the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, but also to weaponize whatever challenges it may be heroically enduring for the sake of advancing political agendas of a dubious nature, including through the instrumentalization of the United Nations for propaganda purposes. Today's informal meeting, we must be clear, not only undermines the efficacy of the mechanisms already in place for discussing issues related to human rights, but is also detrimental to the common objective of promoting and protecting the true spirit of human rights.
6. Having said that, we seize this opportunity to reiterate that we attach a supreme value to the promotion and protection of all human rights, both individuals and collectives, without distinction of levels or categories, and consider also that their promotion and protection are both enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, while in adherence to the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization, and non-confrontation, within the framework of equality and mutual respect between States.
7. Similarly, we reiterate our categorical rejection of double standards in the field of human rights, taking into account that such an approach prevents a harmonious environment and progress in this field. In this context, we express our serious concern at the continued and growing proliferation of mechanisms and procedures that pretend to conduct "impartial" assessments of the human rights situation in specific States and which, in most cases, not only lack the due consent and participation of the concerned State, rely on sources of a secondary, tertiary or other nature that may be either biased or lack credibility, but that are also abused by certain States for the purpose of advancing their very own political agendas of rather dubious nature. We recall, in this context, that the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the most appropriate mechanism for constructive discussions of human rights situations worldwide.

Mr. President,

8. We also seize this opportunity to reaffirm our strong condemnation of the sustained and ever-increasing application of such unilateral coercive measures for political purposes, which dramatically impact the full enjoyment of human rights, while both preventing and hindering access, among others, to food, medicines and medical treatment or equipment, financial services, education, technological advances, sources of energy, among other fundamental goods and services. Such unlawful measures, needless to say, have been systematically applied against the Islamic



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Republic of Iran, its ordinary people, including women and children, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, by one of the very organizers of today's informal meeting.

9. In this regard, we cannot overemphasize how contradictory and immoral it is for some governments to portray themselves as advocates and alleged guardians, defenders, or promoters of human rights while, on a daily basis, those very same governments commit massive violations – and even crimes against humanity – to the human rights of billions of people around the world, including over 85 million Iranians, through their deliberate and systematic policies, in the form of illegal unilateral coercive measures.

10. We conclude by insisting that there shall be no other option but dialogue, cooperation, engagement, and national ownership in each process that is truly aimed at strengthening human rights, at both the national and international levels, while reaffirming our firm determination to continue working in an active and constructive manner towards the enhancement of the efficacy and reach of the Universal System of Human Rights, as well as towards the preservation, promotion and defense of the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, both in its letter and spirit.

I thank you, Mr. President.