



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, PRIOR TO THE CONSIDERATION OF
DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/78/L.45, ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS AND
UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 07 November 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. Our Group of Friends was established over two years ago in response to the prevailing and ever-increasing threats against the Charter of the United Nations and, thus, the urgent need to reaffirm and defend its very purposes and principles, which today remain as relevant as in 1945.
3. In this context, we reaffirm our strong condemnation at the continued, systematic, relentless, unprecedented and ever-increasing promulgation, implementation and expansion of unilateral coercive measures, which are aimed at nothing more but advancing interventionist and destabilization agendas, both of a political and economic nature, which dramatically impact the full enjoyment of the human rights of more than a third of humanity, preventing and hindering access, among others, to food, medicines and medical treatments or equipment, financial services, education, technological advances, energy sources, among other basic goods and services, while, at the same, time providing an alleged legal framework for the confiscation of sovereign resources that may be deposited within the national banking system of those nations that apply these criminal measures. Such cruel and inhumane measures are severely impacting the policies, capacities and programs of the governments of over thirty countries around the world, including with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); a reality that, in addition, mainly affects those in vulnerable situations and that is contrary to our collective promise of leaving no one and no country behind.

Mr. President,



4. Unfortunately, unilateral coercive measures, whether of a political or economic nature, are not only a reality, but seem to have also become the preferred tool of certain States to exert pressure, particularly on developing countries, and force the sovereign will of another State, in order to obtain from it advantages of any kind. Therefore, their promulgation and application clearly go against the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations, which, by the way, has entrusted the exclusive imposition of measures of this kind on the Security Council, making it the only body in the world that is legally empowered to impose sanctions.
5. Moreover, unilateral coercive measures, have a negative impact on the enjoyment and realization of all human rights, including the right to development, life and peace of our peoples. This negative and rather dramatic impact has been increased during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as recorded even by UN independent experts. As such, these illegal measures represent a massive violation on the human rights of over one third of humanity, or, said in other words, they represent a direct attack on one of the main pillars of our Organization.
6. Similarly, unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope, extraterritorial implications and systemic nature, are deliberately exacerbating the multifaceted crisis humanity is facing today and will continue not only to negatively impact global economy as a whole, but also 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.

Mr. President,

7. We cannot overemphasize how immoral and completely contradictory it is for some governments to pretend to present themselves as alleged champions and supposed guardians, defenders or promoters of human rights, when, at the same time, with their deliberate and systematic policies, particularly through the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures, they commit mass violations – and even crimes against humanity – against the human rights of billions of people around the world, on a daily basis. This is simply incompatible.
8. To conclude, the Group of Friends strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying, and to lift, any unilateral economic, financial or trade coercive measures that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly, but not exclusively, against developing countries, mindful, among others, of the negative impact they have on the full enjoyment and realization of all human rights.



I thank you, Mr. President.