



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. YVAN GIL PINTO, MINISTER
OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, DURING THE
PREPARATORY MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE
FUTURE**

New York, 21 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. Since its publication almost two years ago, and as part of our unwavering commitment to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and making its SDGs a reality for everyone across the world, we have been actively engaged in all intergovernmental processes derived from the very substantive recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report entitled "Our Common Agenda".
3. In this context, we seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for the various policy briefs he has issued on various subjects that are, indeed, of critical importance in the current era. We ought to note, however, that these documents shall in no way be considered as the basis for negotiations leading to the "Summit of the Future" and the envisioned "Pact for the Future", but only as food for thought.

Mr. President,

4. On the process, our Group of Friends would like to recall the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 76/307 and of the decision adopted on 01 September 2023 on the modalities and scope for the "Summit of the Future", respectively.
5. We look forward to engaging in an active and constructive manner during this current session of the General Assembly in an inclusive and transparent process that enable us to agree well in advance on a concise and action-oriented outcome



document that reflects the yearns of our peoples, and that must necessarily build on the directives contained in the outcome document adopted just two days ago during the SDGs Summit, especially mindful of the fact that the 2030 Agenda shall continue to be our compass in the seven years ahead of us and that the timely attainment of its goals and targets remains our top priority.

6. We also ought to stress, in this context, the importance we attach to resuming in this General Assembly the practice of striving for consensus. Consensus, nevertheless, is forged on a daily basis. It presupposes engaging in good faith, understanding and respecting different points of views. It implies a process of mutual accommodation. Thus, consensus cannot be imposed, as was attempted a couple of weeks ago with some important outcome documents. We trust such unfortunate episodes will not be repeated and that greater efforts will be made to reaching political compromises that ultimately lead us to consensus outcomes.

Mr. President,

7. On substance, our Group of Friends considers that next year's "Summit of the Future" should be an opportunity to strengthen multilateralism and to achieve the ideals that served as the basis for establishing this Organization back in 1945. It should also be an opportunity to strengthening international solidarity and cooperation for pursuing common security and common development, while providing concrete solutions to the ongoing global multifaceted crisis and the many challenges we have ahead in multiple fields, which, needless to say, affect the daily lives of our peoples, particularly in the Global South, in order to build a brighter shared future.
8. In this context, we appreciate the streamlining of the decision on the scope of the "Summit of the Future", which now allows for our discussions to truly nourish the process that is soon to start, by reflecting on the inputs we are to share today, regarding the details and the specific elements or tracks that our delegations want to see addressed under each of the five agreed chapters.
9. Some progress has, indeed, been achieved over the past months, resulting from the multiple consultations held in the run-up to this meeting. We look forward to using the understandings we may already have on an array of subjects as a basis to build on and move forward. One of the most critical areas, however, in which there is still a long road ahead and which is of vital importance to over one third of humanity, is the question of unilateral coercive measures. This is matter that can no longer be ignored and must therefore be thoroughly addressed in an eventual "Pact for the Future", if we are truly committed with ensuring the



wellbeing of both present and future generations. It is definitely not through sanctions or coercions that we will realize the promise contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

10. We trust that, at some point, the Secretariat will prepare a policy brief exclusively dedicated to addressing and raising awareness about the devastating impact of unilateral coercive measures on the daily lives of hundreds of millions around the world. This, we are confident, would not only complement the set of policy briefs that have been produced thus far, on subjects on which, needless to say, these so-called sanctions have a direct impact, but would also enrich our deliberations along the process.

Mr. President,

11. To conclude, allow us to reiterate that we remain firmly committed to sparing spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the intergovernmental nature of our Organization, while emphasizing that the UN Charter provides us with all the necessary tools for addressing, through peaceful means and cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced in this era by humanity.
12. We do need, however, greater compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in that Charter, as well as greater willingness to put aside non-existent exceptionalisms and supremacist conceptions, in the interest of allowing that, once and for all, the great power of multilateralism be unleashed, so that that the pledge of leaving no one behind can effectively become a reality for all, without distinctions or political calculations of any sort.
13. We trust all these core elements of principle and rather common sense will be part, for instance, of the chapeau of that envisioned “Pact for the Future” that is expected to be adopted by our leaders, by consensus, a year from now, and ahead of the 2025 World Social Summit.

I thank you, Mr. President.