



*Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Samuel Moncada,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations*

on behalf of the

“Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations”

*during the consideration, within the framework of the Third Committee
of the General Assembly, of draft resolution A/C.3/76/L.38, entitled*

“Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures”

New York, 09 November 2021

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Mr. President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honored to take the floor on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Lao, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe, and its very own, all of which are members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

2. Our Group of Friends was established in response to the 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. Unilateral coercive measures, whether of a political or economic nature, have 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 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.
4. Moreover, unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope and extraterritoriality, have a negative impact on the enjoyment and realization of all human rights, including the right to development 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.

Mr. President,

5. We seize this opportunity to reiterate our serious concern at the growing resort to unilateralism, marked, precisely, by isolationist and arbitrary actions and approaches that violate both the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, which have a detrimental impact, among others, on States' stability, freedom of trade, investment and development, and that not only undermine national and international efforts in the current fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, but that also hamper the economic and social advancement and development of all peoples, as well as the full realization of their human rights.
6. Hence, while renewing our firm commitment with a reinvigorated and true multilateralism that shall have the United Nations at its centre, we convey our support to nations and peoples subjected to unilateral and arbitrary approaches that violate both the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms of international law, and renew our call for the full respect to the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, as well as the territorial integrity and political independence of all nations.
7. We further reaffirm the supreme value we attach to the promotion and protection of all human rights, both individuals and collectives, including the right to

development, without distinction of levels or categories, and we consider also that their promotion and protection is enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation, and within a framework of equality and mutual respect between States.

8. To conclude, the Group of Friends strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying and to lift, especially in the midst of the current pandemic, any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, mindful, among others, of the negative impact they have on the full enjoyment and realization of human rights.

I thank you, Mr. President.