



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOAQUÍN PÉREZ
AYESTARÁN, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE JOINT GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 16,
ENTITLED “MACROECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES”, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, 06 October 2022

Madam President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honor 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, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe, and its very own, Venezuela, all of which are members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. This being the first time we take the floor at this current session, allow us at the very outset to convey our best wishes to you, as you assume the Chairmanship of the Second Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau, while looking forward to working closely throughout this 77th Session of the General Assembly. Rest assured of the constructive and active engagement of our delegations.

Madam President,

3. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a crisis not only on national health systems, but also in the social and economic fields, both at the national and international levels, which, as we are all aware, has had devastating consequences for humanity as a whole, while also reversing some of the hard-won achievements made in the past decade in the field of sustainable development, particularly in countries from the Global South. It has resulted in what we call today a multifaceted global crisis that has multiple dimensions and that continues to exacerbate the vulnerabilities and inequalities between States, particularly in developing countries, while highlighting the interconnectedness of our current world.



4. Today, the global system is facing, among others, serious macroeconomic imbalances, volatile financial and commodity markets, the plundering of resources from our developing nations, as well as increased levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality. These realities shall now, once and for all, without further delays, demonstrate the need for establishing a new international order, in which international relations are not only democratized, but also in which the models for our economic relations are rethought, in the interest of realizing our common goal of a just, inclusive and equitable world order in which no one is left behind.
5. The global multifaceted crisis we have just briefly depicted is, at the same time, exacerbated by the illegal promulgation and implementation of unilateral coercive measures which, not only constitute a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, but also constitute a deliberate attack on the right to development of millions of peoples around the world. Such illegal measures, needless to say, undermine national efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We seize this opportunity to renew our call for their complete, immediate and unconditional lifting, while calling on States to refrain from implementing any measure of a political or economic nature aimed at exerting pressure, in particular, but not exclusively, on developing countries, and at forcing the sovereign will of another State.

Madam President,

6. We note that the current international order and the way it is designed fosters a dependency for developing countries, among others, on commodities, which results in greater vulnerabilities from price fluctuations and leads to social strains, as we are seeing today in multiple countries, under the current global crisis. Therefore, we call not only for the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity, but also for the promotion of investments, especially in infrastructure, in the improvement of productive capacities, in financing for development and in access to technologies, confident that these would positively contribute to the recovery of the economies of our nations, particularly in the post-pandemic era, including through an increase in employment and local production, among others.
7. In light of the foregoing, the Member States of our Group of Friends consider that, in the midst of the current international juncture, we shall concentrate our joint efforts, among others, in the following five (05) areas:





- a. First, on financing for development, particularly as we redouble our efforts and seek to find innovative ways to mobilize all available resources towards the effective implementation of our agreements and commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developments and the attainment of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, we seize this opportunity for, on one hand, calling on international financial institutions to generate conditions that would allow for greater access to financing on favorable terms and without politicization of any kind, and, on the other, calling also for the provision of greater participation of our developing countries in all relevant economic decision-making bodies and institutions.
- b. Second, on trade, which we consider can greatly contribute to long-term growth, we stress the importance of achieving a fair, equitable, inclusive, independent, depoliticized, rules-based, non-discriminatory international trading system that pays special attention to the vulnerabilities of developing countries, promotes sustainable development and, above all, excludes the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. So far, we must recognize, the current system has been unable to achieve this.
- c. Third, on Official Development Assistance (ODA), we must ensure that developed countries fulfill their commitments, bearing in mind that in certain cases ODA remains the main source of international financing for development for many countries of the Global South and which therefore turns ODA into an essential catalyst for development, while also serving as a facilitator of the achievement of national development objectives, as well as of the attainment of the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.
- d. Fourth, in the deepening and enhancement of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, which shall be guided at all times by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit, while recalling that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation. In this context, we cannot overemphasize the importance of observing the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, as reflected in key multilateral agreements, as well as that of “special and differential treatment” for developing countries and to initiate debt relief for them, since otherwise their economic growth could be severely affected.



