



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA DURING THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR), WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, 13 October 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.
2. At the outset, allow us to thank Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant-Secretary-General for Human Rights for her presentation and updates provided regarding the latest developments, progresses and challenges in the field of human rights; a matter to which we attach great importance.
3. Moreover, we seize this opportunity to extend our best wishes to Mr. Volker Türk, who is soon to take office as High Commissioner for Human Rights. We express our readiness to cooperate in an active and constructive manner with his Office.

Mr. President,

4. The Member States of our Group of Friends attach a supreme value to the promotion and protection of all human rights, both individuals and collectives, without distinction of levels or categories, and considers 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.
5. In this context, we note that the mandate of the OHCHR contains one of the highest responsibilities within the UN System for the realization of one of the three main pillars of our Organization, which is why it is of utmost importance that its endeavors are carried out not only in a responsible manner, but in one that does not attempt against the core values and principles previously referred to, in order to avoid that it be instrumentalized for attempting against the sovereignty of States

or for interfering in the internal affairs of States, while ensuring that its credibility is in no way put at stake.

Mr. President,

6. We reiterate our categorical rejection of double standards in the field of human rights, as such an approach prevents a harmonious environment and progress in this field. Similarly, we also 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, 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, and respond to political agendas of dubious nature. In this context, it shall be noted that, in certain instances, some assessments of the OHCHR have even gone far beyond its mandate.
7. In addition, we stress the importance of, on one hand, ensuring due respect and tolerance for the political, economic, social and cultural diversity that comprise our world, while, on other one, refraining from focusing on differences with the sole intent of creating divisions, exacerbating the growing trends towards unilateral approaches and, ultimately, weakening the United Nations and all it represents. And, in this connection, we would appreciate to hear from Ms. Kehris on her office’s assessment on the negative impact of such unilateral approaches, including those resulting from the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures, particularly on the human rights of those sectors most vulnerable from our societies.
8. To conclude, the Member States of our Group of Friends insist that there shall be no other option but dialogue, cooperation, engagement and national ownership in each and every process that is truly aimed at strengthening human rights at both the national and international levels, while reaffirming our 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.

I thank you, Mr. President.