



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS BEFORE
ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION A/79/L.5, CONTAINING THE
POLITICAL DECLARATION RESULTING FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL
MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)**

New York, 07 October 2024

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. Just as happened last year during the adoption of the Political Declarations resulting from the three High-Level Meetings of this General Assembly on Health-related matters – namely; prevention, preparedness, and response to pandemics; universal health coverage; and the fight against tuberculosis –, the crucial issue of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on health has been once again excluded from the final declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance. This omission ignores the repeated proposals from various actors, including those presented by our Group of Friends and the Group of the 77 and China, supported by over 130 countries. This only adds another affront to the history of accommodative standards that some Member States apply to issues that are critical for humanity as a whole, and not only to a few of them.
3. The issue of unilateral coercive measures can no longer be ignored or swept under the carpet, especially in the current context, where we face a growing trend toward their continued, systematic, relentless, and even expanded use, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. These so-called sanctions are having an impact not only on the nations and peoples subjected to them, but also on the global economy, supply chains, food security, energy security, and other areas. Unilateral coercive measures are deliberately exacerbating the multifaceted global crisis that humanity faces today.
4. It is alarming that the document we are about to adopt this morning omits such a critical issue as the one referred to unilateral coercive measures, which, as the



facts and UN independent experts themselves have demonstrated, continue to have negative repercussions on the right to health. This includes their impact on the fight against antimicrobial resistance, which is so crucial in combatting diseases and improving life expectancy. It seems developed countries have learned nothing from the tragedy we experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, when countries affected by these illegal, cruel, and inhumane measures were unable to access vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and medical supplies in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

5. From the very beginning of this negotiation process, we decided, as has always been the case, to participate actively and constructively, determined to reach compromises that would ultimately allow us to achieve a consensual outcome. We engaged in good faith at all times and, as usual, demonstrated a high degree of flexibility.
6. Our delegations emphasized, both individually and collectively, the critical importance of including the issue of unilateral coercive measures in the Political Declaration. This issue was even present in earlier versions of the document, which only adds to the confusion surrounding its exclusion and underscores the need for transparency in the negotiation process. In a further demonstration of the willingness and flexibility of our countries, the languages presented were even taken from consensus documents.
7. The United Nations must go beyond imposed and false consensuses and put forward truly inclusive formulas that lead to genuine agreements. This means addressing the priorities and concerns of **all** Member States in a comprehensive way. Documents of such significance must be genuinely agreed upon **before** they are presented to Heads of State and/or Government or Ministers. This would prevent that a deceiving consensus be imposed on Member States, which is exactly what has happened in recent years.
8. We firmly insist that this is **not** the way to conduct intergovernmental negotiations within the United Nations. It undermines the credibility, transparency, and strength of the outcomes of our meetings, especially on matters of such great importance for both present and future generations.

Mr. President,



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CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

9. To conclude, the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations wishes to reiterate its unwavering support and firm solidarity with the nations and peoples subjected to unilateral coercive measures, while renewing our strong call for their total, immediate, and unconditional lifting.

10. In strict adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the Rules of Procedure of this body, we reserve the right to take whatever actions we deem necessary to prevent this situation from happening again in this General Assembly. We also request that our position be duly reflected in the official records of this plenary meeting.

I thank you, Mr. President.