

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. SAMUEL MONCADA,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE 49th PLENARY MEETING OF THE 10th EMERGENCY
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 10 May 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. Despite the longstanding international consensus enshrined in countless General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the Question of Palestine, the grave developments we are witnessing in the tragic and protracted occupation of Palestine, as shown by actions on the ground, demonstrate that the independence and rights of a Palestinian State have actually been obstructed, rather than promoted and realized; thwarted by nearly 57 years of occupation, colonization and annexation by Israel, as even acknowledged by high-level officials from the Occupying Power; a reality that is coupled with the oppression of the Palestinian people and the continued and systematic violation of their inalienable right to self-determination.
3. Nevertheless, today, we all have an opportunity not only to honor our promise, as responsible members of the international community, but, most importantly, to once and for all begin to redress that historic injustice, with concrete, practical and positive steps.

Mr. President,

4. For over 76 years, Israel has refused to recognize the very existence of the Palestinian people, much less their inalienable rights, particularly to self-determination. For over 76 years, the Occupying Power has done it all – from apartheid and occupation policies to illegal settlements; from sieges and blockades to home demolitions; from military brutality and terror to war crimes and crimes against humanity – all with the clear objective of obstructing the



realization of Palestinian rights, and undermining both the viability of the two-State solution and the ultimate independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem/Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, on the pre-1967 borders, the cornerstone of a just and lasting solution.

5. These criminal policies and practices, endured by the Palestinian people with great resilience and dignity throughout all these years, are a demonstration of Israel's conviction that it is above the law and that it can violate it without accountability. This dangerous perception is the result of years of impunity, which have only emboldened the Occupying Power to continue with its colonial plans of expansion and annihilation over the Palestinian people and its land, through violence and terror, in clear contempt for the tenets enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the most basic norms of international law, including international humanitarian law, and the relevant resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Security Council concerning the Question of Palestine, which are legally binding and must be fully respected and immediately implemented by Israel.
6. The disdain of the Occupying Power for international law is nothing more than the result of the framework of impunity that has historically been facilitated to it by one of the permanent members of the Security Council, the United States of America, which just recently blocked the admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member State of the United Nations, in spite of the support of the resounding majority in that body. It is, precisely, this veto that Israel has *de facto*, exercised through one of its closest allies within the body, mandated by the Charter of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, that has allowed Israel to believe that it should have a say on the question of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine and its admission to the United Nations as a full Member State; to believe that it can, not only thwart the realization of this right, but also obstruct it indefinitely.

Mr. President,

7. A few have recently claimed that it is "premature" to take action on the question of the admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member State of the United Nations. To those countries, which today are the main obstacle for peace and stability both in Palestine and the Middle East as a whole, we ask:
 - a. How could a decision on this matter be premature, when it has already been prolonged for over 12 years since the State of Palestine submitted its application for admission to membership?



GROUP OF FRIENDS
IN DEFENSE OF THE
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- b. How could it be premature when Palestine, a peace-loving State within the meaning of Article 4 of the Charter, that is able and willing to carry out the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations, has spent the past 50 years in waiting as an observer in this Organization?
- c. How could it be premature to advance towards the realization of the legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people, when these have been also delayed for over 75 years?

Mr. President,

- 8. We cannot continue to perpetuate *ad infinitum* this matter and, thus, demand that, if indeed there is a political will – as claimed –, words and deeds must be translated into concrete actions and decisions that will once and for all put us on a forward-looking path, to bring an end to one of the most painful conflicts of our times. Returning to the previous *status quo* is not an option.
- 9. As we are all well aware, the situation on the ground is beyond dire and dramatic, particularly during the past seven months, in which we have all witnessed and continue to witness a horrifying carnage against the Palestinian people in Gaza, which has claimed the lives of nearly 35,000 civilians, particularly women and children. It is therefore necessary not only to urgently reach a ceasefire that would, among others, allow for full, unhindered and safe humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip, but also to preserve a political horizon that would enable the establishment of a political platform for the liberation of the Palestinian people from Israel's colonial oppression; which is, precisely, the admission of the State of Palestine – today recognized by 144 nations – as a full Member State of the United Nations.
- 10. Therefore, we conclude, on the one hand, by reiterating our firm commitment to the just cause of Palestine, as well as our full solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people in their struggle, while, on the other one, and most importantly, by urging that the question of the admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member State of the United Nations be urgently redressed, insofar as an act of justice and decolonization that will pave the way for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to freedom, self-determination and independence, while allowing the State of Palestine to take its rightful place among the community of nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.