

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, DURING THE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON
AGENDA ITEM 71, ENTITLED “PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE THIRD
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 17 October 2023

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. 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 consider also that their promotion and protection are both enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, while in adherence to the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation, and also taking into account the respect for the principle of sovereignty and all other obligations derived from the Charter of the United Nations, including the refraining from intervening in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, within the framework of equality and mutual respect between States.
3. The Declaration and the Universal System of Human Rights are both historical achievements of humanity that we have an ethical and political duty to preserve and strengthen. In this regard, we insist on the need for all actors implementing the mandates derived therefrom, including the treaty bodies, the holders of special procedures, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as all its related bodies, to continue to guide their responsibilities on the basis of a supreme value for the principles set forth above. It is only through constructive dialogue and sustained cooperation with States, as well as through the prevention of external actors from seeking to influence, instrumentalize or weaponize the activities of said bodies and instances for political purposes, that both the trust needed for working together towards the achievement of their noble objectives and the preservation of their credibility can be effectively ensured.



4. The growing exacerbation of trends that promote unilateralism and divisionism weakens the role of the United Nations in maintaining both balance in the international system and the hopes that said system will actually be truly democratic, fair, inclusive and equitable. In this regard, we consider that the political, economic, social and cultural diversity present in today's world constitutes a value that must be preserved and respected, on the basis of the strengthening of multilateralism and the continued promotion of an agenda in favor of the Culture of Peace, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, active non-violence and the fight against the spread of hate speech and disinformation, as indispensable tools for strengthening the implementation of the values contained in both the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. President,

5. In this context, we reiterate our categorical rejection of double standards in the field of human rights, taking into account that 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.
6. Moreover, we seize this opportunity to also condemn and reject systemic racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and any related form of intolerance, and we reaffirm that human rights are entitled to all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, as established in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration. We categorically reject the resurgence of tendencies that promote the idea of superiority among human beings, including fascism, Nazism, neo-Nazism, and any form of racial exceptionalism. We insist, in this regard, that States are increasingly called upon to give the highest priority to guarantee the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and indigenous peoples, as well as national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, populations that on many occasions are at greater risk of vulnerability.

Mr. President,



7. The Group of Friends wishes to further reaffirm its strong condemnation of the sustained and ever-increasing application of unilateral coercive measures for political purposes, which dramatically impact the full enjoyment of human rights for more than one-third of humanity, preventing and hindering access, among others, to food, medicines and medical treatment or equipment, financial services, education, technological advances, sources of energy, among other fundamental goods and services, while illegally seizing national resources in the national banking system of those applying these criminal measures, which are severely impacting social policies, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); a reality that is primarily affecting the most vulnerable populations and which can no longer be ignored.
8. In this context, allow us to be clear: not only is it contradictory but also immoral how some governments pretend to portray themselves as advocates and alleged guardians, defenders or promoters of human rights, while, at the same time, with their deliberate and systematic policies, particularly the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures, they are committing mass violations – and even crimes against humanity – to the human rights of billions of people around the world, on a daily basis. It is simply incompatible.
9. To conclude, the Member States of the Group of Friends insist that there shall be no other option but dialogue, cooperation, engagement and national ownership in each process that is truly aimed at strengthening human rights, at both the national and international levels, while reaffirming their firm 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, as well as towards the preservation, promotion and defense of the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, both in its letter and spirit.

I thank you, Mr. President.