



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

**EXPLANATION OF POSITION DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JOAQUÍN
PÉREZ AYESTARÁN, AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2023 ECOSOC FORUM ON FINANCING
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 20 April 2023

Madam 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 convey our appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Rwanda to the United Nations for their leadership and efforts in facilitating an inclusive and transparent process that led to the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations contained in document E/FFDF/2023/L.1.
3. Similarly, we convey our appreciation to you, Madam President, especially for having engaged in further consultations, including over the past weekend, with the purpose of ensuring that we had an outcome document during this session of the FFD Forum that would respond to the extraordinary circumstances the world is currently confronted with, as stated in your letter of 18 April 2023.

Madam President,

4. Notwithstanding this reality, and mindful of the fact that the document that was put before us for action just minutes ago constituted, indeed, the best effort to reach an outcome that would enjoy broad consensus, our Group of Friends would like to put on record its position on a few issues.
5. First, we cannot ignore that we are discussing the question of financing for development in the midst of a global multifaceted crisis that is having an impact, among others, on the economic and financial sector; at a time when experts are forecasting a recession of the global economy this year. Hence, we cannot overemphasize the importance we attach to this subject, especially as we



redouble our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attain its SDGs. We insist, in this context, on the importance for, among others, addressing the persistent financing gaps and debt sustainability related issues, on the one hand, while, on the other one, finally advancing towards the long-overdue reform of the international financial architecture.

6. Second, as responsible members of the international community we are resolved to engaging in an active and constructive manner in each and every intergovernmental process that, in good faith, seeks to bring us together for coming up with innovative solutions aimed at addressing the huge challenges and uncertainties ahead of us, many of which are common to all of us, but yet they are much more harshly felt by our nations and peoples from the Global South. In this sense, we recognize that the outcome document of this year includes elements that are of great importance for developing nations as a whole, while stressing, however, that time has come for translating words into actions; that is, for developed countries to start actually delivering on all their previous commitments.
7. And this brings us to our third and last point. The purpose of this forum is, among others, to follow-up and review the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; that is, the very same agenda that calls upon States “to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries”. Yet, how could we truly talk about implementation of the 2030 Agenda when the very means of implementation, including vast amount of funds, are blocked as a result of the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures and thus prevented from being used for achieving the SDGs? It is rather worrisome that, despite the deliberate obstacles caused by such measures, our Forum has opted once again for remaining silent on this issue.

Madam President,

8. Our Group of Friends considers that the outcome document recently adopted, as well as those from previous sessions, are incomplete and shall continue to be incomplete, until they actually reflect an issue that has a direct impact on the development of over one third of humanity in more than thirty (30) countries around the world. Unilateral coercive measures are an unfortunate reality, which, needless to say, are contrary to the true spirit of financing for development, and can therefore no longer be ignored.



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9. For years, we have insisted not only on the need for reflecting this element in the outcome document, but on the need for such measures to be lifted in a complete, immediate and unconditional manner, especially mindful of the fact that we are currently seeing not only an unprecedented resort to unilateral sanctions, but also a new generation and expansion of such illegal measures, which are now crueler and much more destructive than ever before. We thus reserve our right to insist on the inclusion of this matter during the 2024 session of the FFD Forum, when we hope that this matter, in the best spirit of solidarity and cooperation, will be redressed once and for all.

10. In the meantime, we cannot but renew our determination to continue advocating for the establishment of a new international economic order that is based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations, and for which it is necessary to advance, among others, on the democratization of the international financial institutions.

Madam President,

11. To conclude, we would respectfully request that our positions are duly reflected in both the records of today's session and in the summary of the presidency to be elaborated in the coming days.

I thank you.