



*Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Samuel Moncada,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations*

on behalf of the

“Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations”

during the High-Level Forum of the General Assembly on the

“Culture of Peace”

New York, 06 September 2022

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Mr. President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honored to take the floor on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe, and its very own, all of which are members 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 you for the convening of this High-Level Forum, which every year allows us not only to renew our commitments with the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, but also to reflect and raise awareness about the importance of taking the appropriate steps for constructing, preserving and strengthening peace at the local, national, regional and international levels on a daily basis.

Mr. President,

3. Our Group of Friends was established in response to the increasing threats against the Charter of the United Nations and, thus, the urgent need to reaffirm and defend its very purposes and principles, which today remain as relevant as in 1945, and which have served as a guide for our endeavors towards realizing our longings of peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights for our peoples.
4. We refer, among others, to the growing resort to unilateralism; to the attacks against multilateralism; to the claiming of non-existent exceptionalisms; to the attempts to ignore and even substitute the purposes and principles contained in the UN Charter with a new set of so-called “rules” that have never been discussed in an inclusive or transparent manner; and to selective approaches or accommodative interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter.
5. We consider that such practices are in contradiction with international law and in no way contribute to addressing, through a reinvigorated and inclusive multilateralism, and guided by both the principle of good faith and values such as solidarity and international cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced in these days by humanity. Instead, they contribute to an increase in uncertainty, distrust, instability and tensions around the world, ultimately having a direct impact on our overall objective of establishing a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Mr. President,

6. Our Group of Friends seizes this opportunity to reaffirm its full conviction that real and lasting peace will only be possible as long as the spirit of inclusion, respect for national sovereignty, for the sovereign equality of States, for the peaceful settlement of disputes, for social progress and for the promotion of a reinvigorated multilateralism are preserved, in line with the provisions of the UN Charter. This is a firm commitment that we will firmly uphold, despite efforts of those who seek to weaken our Organization and all that it represents, including through the imposition of divergent agendas and visions or the fostering of permanent confrontation.
7. This is why we believe that the promotion of a Culture of Peace must be a priority in our common agenda. Its meaning and intrinsic values compel us, both States

and other global actors, to actively promote and encourage the creation of spaces of political trust and the consolidation of a truly inclusive economic development, as well as to actively promote dialogue, based on mutual respect; tolerance and peaceful coexistence; active non-violence; intercultural and interreligious dialogue; to implement policies that foster more egalitarian and equitable societies, in which policies of inclusion in favor of those potentially most vulnerable populations are put in place; to ensure broader and greater access to health and education, which shall always be conceived as a human right and not as a commodity; to ensuring a world without hunger and to achieving a truly just and equitable New International Order, without racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia or any other form of intolerance, in which people lives in permanent harmony with nature, and where cultural diversity is granted the status of historical value, as it enriches and strengthens our societies.

8. Therefore, Culture of Peace means believing that social justice, development, self-determination of peoples and peace are universal, inalienable and indivisible human rights, all of which forces us to work tirelessly in order to achieve these noble and imperative objectives.

Mr. President,

9. The abrupt disruption resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has been the most dramatic call of Mother Nature and of history for humanity as a whole, and also for public policy makers, to understand that it is only through international solidarity and cooperation that we will be able to address and overcome the great global challenges that are currently facing and which are becoming much more complex by the day.
10. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the fight against climate change and the diversification of energy sources, emerging pandemics, armed conflicts, including those of protracted nature, the instability of international trade, migration, transnational organized crime, including terrorism, to name only a few of the most pressing challenges of the present, cannot even be coherently understood while divisive agendas and economic and geopolitical interests are attempted to be imposed, within the framework of a Cold War-era mentality. Hence, we stress that it is only through unity, based on a daily construction of trust and on permanent dialogue, even in the midst of our differences, that we can retain the hope that a better world for future generations, in which no one is left behind, is indeed possible.

11. In this context, and in the interest of advancing towards the consolidation of a Culture of Peace at the global level, we highlight the importance not only of lifting all measures of a unilateral and coercive nature, but also of actively counteracting the scourges of disinformation, counter-information and hate speech, which in recent times, even more so with the rise of information and communication technologies and social media, have been misused by unscrupulous groups to incite discord, social conflict and permanent anxiety by spreading false news, by exacerbating ideological or religious differences, and by attacking potentially vulnerable groups and sectors, thereby generating a breeding ground for violent extremism conducive to terrorism and for the promotion of expressions of fascism, Nazism, neo-Nazism and white-supremacism, as well as discrimination against Africans and Asians, including people of African and Asian descent, respectively, among other extremist ideologies that humanity as a whole had thought to be already overcome. It is therefore urgent to renew the call to generate effective and innovative formulas for combating and eradicating these manifestations of intolerance that threaten the establishment of peaceful societies, as well as the values of constructive dialogue and non-violence.

12. To conclude, we reaffirm our strong support and firm moral and political commitment to continue working for the promotion of the values and effective implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as well as to continue supporting the efforts of the United Nations, regional organizations and the international community as a whole in this regard, while stressing our position of zero tolerance for any form of hatred. In the midst of the current international juncture, we emphasize the need to prioritize political dialogue and diplomacy for peace, for which it is essential to continue advancing in the preservation, promotion and defense of the validity and prevalence of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.