

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE “NINTH SESSION OF THE EXPERT
MECHANISM ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT”**

New York, 01 May 2024

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 express our gratitude to the Independent Experts on the Right to Development, including you, Madam President, for your continued dedication and perseverance in researching, disseminating thematic studies and raising awareness on the Human Right to Development, pursuant to the mandate entrusted on you by the Human Rights Council.
3. We also wish you great success during the deliberations of this session in which very critical issues will be discussed; such as, the scope of the right to development in international development cooperation and the individual and collective dimensions of the right to development. We are confident that the discussions on those topics will undoubtedly contribute to this rich and complex global debate, while ultimately bringing us closer to the full realization of this universal and inalienable human right.

Madam President,

4. Having said that, we would like to start our remarks by reaffirming the unwavering solidarity of our grouping with the Palestinian People, as well as our unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing carnage in Gaza and all other crimes that are being committed over more than 70 years, with total impunity, and in clear disregard for the UN Charter and the norms of international law. We, therefore, cannot overemphasize the importance of achieving a lasting, sustainable, permanent and fully respected ceasefire. The Right to Development of the Palestinian people will not be possible until the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Madam President,

5. Our Group of Friends commends all global efforts aimed at raising awareness around the right to development. We consider that the right to development constitutes a task of the first order that must be framed both in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, at present time, in the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future, to be held in September. Nothing is as relevant to the future of humanity, including both present and future generations, as guaranteeing the full realization of the right to development.
6. In this context, we stress that the “Declaration on the Right to Development” is the cornerstone of the commitment of States and all political and social actors to achieve its effective realization and broad international recognition. The recent advances in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly regarding the need to move forward, without further delay, on a legally binding international instrument on the Right to Development, are clear proof that this is the political will of the vast majority, over and above those who seek to undermine this conversation or deny the existence of this universal and inalienable human right altogether.

Madam President,

7. The right to development represents one of the peoples’ rights whose realization and enjoyment is most urgent, especially as the sustained and historical economic and social inequalities between the countries of the Global South and the North continue to expand and deepen. Such inequalities require reaffirming more than ever the transcendence of the right to development, which is enshrined in the very spirit of the UN Charter, as an inalienable human right that must be both guaranteed by all States and recognized as such by the International Human Rights System.
8. At present, however, the inalienable Right to Development is not only seriously threatened and continuously attacked, but its realization is systematically and deliberately curtailed by the illegal, indiscriminate and growing application of unilateral coercive measures against entire nations, with the clear purpose of seeking to advance political and economic agendas, even at the expense of individual and collective human rights, and ultimately affecting more than a third of humanity. Unilateral coercive measures, we ought to stress, are an important obstacle for international cooperation and undermine the activities of the UN System, in detriment of multilateralism. It is time for all United Nations bodies to unite around the global denunciation of the so-called “sanctions” and, thus, we



seize this opportunity to inquire about the position of all the experts from this mechanism about this crucial and important issue that affect, among others, various members of our grouping.

9. The dilemma surrounding the conception of development and its scope is rooted in a fallacious exceptionalist conception on the part of the elites of the wealthy countries, who seek to maintain economic and political hegemony at all costs, even if, for doing so, they have to infringe upon the sovereignty of independent nations. This vision, based on a model of accumulation and monopolization of capital and its income, depredation of the environment and monopoly of the financial and commercial systems, is the main cause of the fact that, at present time, more than 80% of the global population lives in poverty and inequality is, thus, perpetuated.

Madam President,

10. The right to development is universal, indivisible and inalienable, and has expressions based on individual and collective visions, and therefore it is the responsibility of the United Nations to promote it in a cross-cutting manner. We hope that all the progress achieved in theory will soon be translated into the initiation, hopefully this very same year, of an intergovernmental process of negotiations for a Convention on the Right to Development. It is high time to initiate a process that has been delayed for decades, due to political reasons, but whose strength and urgency emerges today with more force than those who resist and obstruct it.
11. To conclude, we express our firm support and encouragement for all United Nations mechanisms and international efforts aimed at achieving the universalization and effective realization of the right to development, including within the context of the Group of Experts, the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur, while reaffirming our full determination to continue advancing this important cause in all relevant fora, mindful of the fact that it is closely linked, among others, to the principles and purposes enshrined in the founding Charter of the United Nations, as well as on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Madam President.