



*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 consideration, within the framework fo the Third Committee of the General
Assembly, of draft resolutions presented under agenda item 74 (c), entitled*

*“Human Rights Situations and Reports of
Special Rapporteurs and Representatives”*

New York, 17 November 2021

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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, Lao, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, Russia, 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.

Mr. President,

2. Seventy-six years ago, the international community rallied around a series of common purposes and principles, all contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and declared their commitment to defend life, freedom, independence,

justice and human rights, the latter being, precisely, one of the three fundamental pillars of our Organization. Hence, achieving the full enjoyment of human rights in all their dimensions represents a noble ideal and objective that is today more relevant than ever.

3. In this context, we seize this opportunity to reiterate that we attach a supreme value to the promotion and protection of all human rights, both individuals and collectives, including, *inter alia*, the right to development, without distinction of levels or categories, and considers also that their promotion and protection is enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation and within a framework of equality and mutual respect. We recall here, among other fundamental instruments of international law, the abiding principles enshrined in the landmark General Assembly resolution 2625 of 1970 on the “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation amongst States”.

Mr. President,

4. 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.
5. We consider that the presentation of country-specific resolutions no only goes against the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation, but also against the very spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, while undermining, among others, the development of friendly relations amongst nations and the achievement of international cooperation on the field of human rights.
6. Therefore, we express our firm and principled rejection to all kinds of double standards that undermine human rights and prevent a harmonious environment and progress in this field, and we reiterate our concern at the proliferation of unilateral mechanisms that purport to conduct an impartial assessment of the human rights situation in specific States, especially when they do not count with their due consent and participation. The continuation of this practice infringes upon the spirit that must guide the higher ideals in favor of the genuine promotion and protection of human rights, while representing also a clear violation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United

Nations, which has committed us to promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind.

7. To conclude, while calling for an end to the politicization of human rights, the Group of Friends considers that the best and only way to strengthen and guarantee the full and effective realization of the human rights pillar of our Organization is to strengthen multilateralism, while strictly adhering to all the principles referred to previously. We consider that the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, are platforms that provide important opportunities to advance towards that end, in a fair and constructive manner, on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, in terms of mutual respect, and in adherence to the timeless principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly those referred to the sovereign equality of States, the inalienable right to self-determination of peoples, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

I thank you, Mr. President.