



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JOAQUÍN PÉREZ AYESTARÁN,
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 82, ENTITLED “REPORT OF
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE
ORGANIZATION”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 19 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.
2. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the honorable Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), while taking note of the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/78/33.

Mr. President,

3. The Group of Friends considers the Charter of the United Nations to be a milestone and a true act of faith on the best of humanity. It is the code of conduct that has ruled international relations between States for the past 78 years, on the basis of timeless principles; such as, sovereign equality of States, self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and refrainment from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. These are all basic norms and principles that, apart from being the foundation for modern-day international law, today remain as relevant as back in 1945.
4. In addition, we consider that ensuring compliance with and strict adherence to both the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations is fundamental for ensuring the realization of the three pillars of our Organization, as well as for advancing towards the establishment of a more peaceful and prosperous world and of a truly just and equitable world order.
5. In this context, we renew our serious concern at the current and growing threats against the Charter of the United Nations, as well as at those of an emerging

nature, arising from the policies and practices of certain governments that seek to exert domination, including through modern neocolonial practices, particularly over independent and sovereign nations, blatantly disowning the core tenets contained in that core instrument.

6. 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 that has even the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level; and to selective approaches or accommodative interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter. These approaches and practices, we ought to say, contribute in no way to addressing, through peaceful means and cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced in this era by humanity. Instead, they contribute to an increase in uncertainty, instability and tensions around the world.

Mr. President,

7. The Group of Friends attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee, mindful of the fact that it can play an active and constructive role in enhancing the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes, including through strengthening the role of the Organization, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and developing its full potential; a process that, needless to say, must be pursued on the basis of the principles and procedures envisaged in the UN Charter itself.
8. In this regard, while reaffirming our commitment to efforts aimed at ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes, we seize this opportunity to voice our concern over the unwillingness of certain Member States to engage in a meaningful debate for considering the valuable proposals that for long have been before this Special Committee and which have been largely presented, precisely, by some of the members of our Group of Friends, as responsible members of the international community. We regret the deliberate attempts to obstructing our works and appeal to those States to give concrete demonstrations of their political will for effectively carrying out the mandate of the Special Committee.
9. In this context, and without prejudice to the importance of all the various working papers currently under consideration by the Special Committee, we make particular emphasis on the pressing need to advance on the one related to a



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subject to which we all attach special importance; namely, that referred to the proposed guidelines on ways and means to prevent, remove, minimize and redress the adverse impacts of unilateral coercive measures. Unilateral coercive measures are a reality that can no longer be ignored. These cruel, illegal and inhumane measures, which flagrantly violate the Charter of the United Nations and the most basic norms of international law, have an impact on the daily lives of over one third of humanity, and it is therefore our moral duty, absent of their complete and unconditional removal, to work together towards minimizing their negative impact.

10. To conclude, the Group of Friends vows to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate our firm and principled position of support and adherence to its very tenets, which not only are the legally binding and agreed rules by all members of the international community to govern our system of international relations, but are also indispensable for fostering international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development, social progress, and diplomatic solutions to global challenges and common threats.

I thank you, Mr. President.