



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. CHEN XU, AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, DURING THE
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH-COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

Geneva, 20 June 2023

Mr. President,

1. China has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. The Member States of our Group of Friends attach the utmost importance to the promotion and protection of all human rights, without distinction of levels or categories, in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation, and taking into account the respect for the principle of sovereignty and for all other obligations derived from the Charter of the United Nations, including the obligation to refrain from intervening in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State.
3. In this regard, we reiterate our categorical rejection to double standards concerning human rights, bearing in mind that such an approach prevents a harmonious environment and progress in this area.

Mr. President,

4. The Member States of the Group of Friends reiterate their conviction that there is no other option than dialogue, cooperation, engagement and national ownership in every process that has as its real objective the strengthening of human rights, both at the national and international levels, while reaffirming their firm determination to continue working in an active and constructive manner to improve the effectiveness and scope of the Universal System of Human Rights, including the institutional strengthening of the Human Rights Council, in order to preserve, promote and defend the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.