



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JASSER JIMENEZ,  
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE  
2023 SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION  
(C-24), UNDER AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED “DISSEMINATION OF  
INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION”**

*New York, 12 June 2023*

**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. This being the first time we take the floor at this current session, allow us at the very outset to convey our best wishes to you, as you assume the Chairmanship of this Special Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau, while expressing also our appreciation to the representatives from DPPA and DGC for their much valuable presentations.

**Madam President,**

3. Decolonization is one of those files in which the United Nations has indeed made great progress. There are multiple success stories, as demonstrated by the expansion of the membership of our Organization. Today we are a total of 193 Member States, in comparison to 51, when the United Nations was established back in 1945. Nevertheless, the task remains uncompleted: 17 non-self-governing territories, plus Palestine and Puerto Rico, still look up to us for ensuring that their inalienable right to self-determination is fully realized. Despite the fact that over sixty (60) years have passed since the adoption of landmark General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), much still remains to be done, in order to truly and effectively achieve the total eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.
4. We therefore seize this opportunity to reiterate our historic and principled positions on items under the purview of this Special Committee; to express our firm adherence to the provisions of the “Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”; and, most importantly, to reaffirm our unwavering political commitment to put an end to colonialism and ensure the full realization of the inalienable rights of each and every Non-Self-Governing



Territory, while calling on the Occupying and Administering Powers to constructively engage in a dialogue that would allow us to finally reach a fair and comprehensive solution to each and every one of these pending questions.

5. In this context, while recognizing ongoing efforts of the UN Secretariat on the dissemination of information on decolonization, we call on all relevant departments, particularly DGC and DPPA, to continue and further expand its activities on this important field, including in the field of remembering colonialism, its root causes and consequences, bearing in mind that such efforts are critical, not only for drawing attention to the complex realities and challenges faced on a daily basis by the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, but, also, for raising awareness of these important causes, with a view to rallying the international community around them. We stress, in this connection, the importance of using all possible means for the dissemination of information on decolonization, both traditional and alternative outlets, in all six official UN languages, as well as of including, in relevant publications, information on all options available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories for the realization of their inalienable rights, including to sovereignly and freely decide their own destiny.

**Madam President,**

6. The Member States of our Group of Friends are conscious, though, that the only way to move forward in this important field is if all concerned parties, both Occupying and Administering Powers, on the one hand, and Non-Self-Governing Territories, on the other hand, renew their commitment and political will towards that end. While, nowadays, focus is being put on other pressing challenges, the international community must not lose sight of the questions regarding decolonization, as the yearning for freedom and justice, of millions of people have already been protracted for way too long, while negatively impacting both the rule of law at the international level and the very purposes of the Charter of the United Nations; namely, the principle of “equal rights and self-determination of peoples”, as foreseen in Article 1 (2).
7. We, equally, also seize this opportunity to renew our call to the Occupying and Administering Powers to respect the inalienable right of all Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, as well as their right to establish and maintain control over their current and future exploitation. Likewise, we urge the Occupying and Administering Powers to desist from the pursuance of economic or other activities, including of a military nature, that have the potential to negatively affect the interests and well-being of the peoples of the said territories. In this context,

for instance, the positive contributions that the good offices of the Secretary-General, as appropriate, may have, cannot be overemphasized.

**Madam President,**

8. More than twenty (20) years have passed since the last Non-Self-Governing Territory changed its status and became not only a sovereign and independent State, but also a full member of our Organization. Today, when we find ourselves immersed in the Fourth International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism, we shall ask ourselves: how much more time has to pass before the just and legitimate aspirations for peace, justice and freedom of the peoples of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories that remain in our agenda, plus Palestine, the Occupied Syrian Golan and Puerto Rico, can be carried out? How many more decades do we have to declare before we, once and for all, eliminate colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including neocolonial practices?
9. In this context, we strongly condemn the blatant and detrimental use of modern neocolonial practices that include, among others, economic exploitation, artificial restriction of opportunities for the independent and sovereign development of Member States, limitation of access to new technologies, attempts to substitute norms of international law based on the UN Charter with non-consensual so-called rules, policies and programs, continued and growing resort to unilateral coercive measures, which run contrary to the provisions of the UN Charter, interference into the internal affairs of States, as well as attempts to impose specific social, economic and political patterns on their development.
10. Therefore, we cannot but stress that the continued existence of colonialism and its modern forms and manifestations deliberately prevent the development of international economic cooperation, while impeding the social, cultural and economic development of nations and militating against the ideals of universal peace and coexistence, as foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations.
11. The current International Decade is scheduled to end in the year 2030, when the international community should have achieved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At that time, we will have to account, among others, on the progress made towards, as stated in General Assembly resolution 70/1, the removal of “the obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or foreign occupation”. Bearing in mind that the promise is, and continues to be, to leave no one behind, and that colonialism adversely affects the economic and social development of peoples, as well as the full enjoyment of *all*



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their human rights, we hope that this synchrony can be seized for effectively advancing in the decolonization agenda during the limited time ahead of us.

12. To conclude, the Group of Friends commits to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, we reiterate our full support and solidarity with the peoples of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, plus Palestine, the Occupied Syrian Golan and Puerto Rico, in their struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as well as our firm determination to continue participating in an active and constructive manner in all efforts aimed at advancing towards the achievement of a world free of colonialism, with a view to settling, once and for all, our pending debt with humanity regarding the definitive conclusion of the decolonization processes around the world.

I thank you, Madam President.