



*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 Open Debate of the Security Council on*

*“Peace and Security through Preventive Diplomacy:  
A Common Objective to All UN Organs”*

*New York, 16 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.
2. We thank the Delegation of Mexico for convening this Open Debate and for its efforts in preparing the Concept Note contained in document S/2021/888 for guiding our discussions today. Similarly, we convey our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the Secretary-General for their much valuable presentations.

**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 76 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 express our serious concern at the current and growing threats against the Charter of the United Nations, which is the motivation and reason for the very existence of our grouping. 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 to selective approaches or accommodative interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter.
6. These practices contribute in no way to addressing, through peaceful means and cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced in these days by humanity. Instead, they contribute to an increase in uncertainty, distrust, instability and tensions around the world.

**Mr. President,**

7. The Group of Friends agrees that prevention is at the heart of the United Nations, as reflected in our pledge to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and, to that end, both the Security Council and the United

Nations as a whole have a responsibility, as envisaged in Article 1.1. of the Charter, which foresees the adoption of “effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace”.

8. The pursuit of peace is, indeed, a common aspiration of humankind and a noble ideal that must be a priority for the entire United Nations System and for the international community as a whole. We therefore support efforts in this regard. Nevertheless, we caution against the invocation of the ideals of prevention for interfering in the internal affairs of States or for undermining their sovereignty, their political independence or the right to self-determination of their peoples, including through resorting to the use or threat of use of force against their territorial integrity. Such adventurist approaches not only go against the very letter and spirit of the Charter, but have also the potential to undermine the credibility of the United Nations. In this context, we also underline the primary responsibility of States for preventing conflicts and ensuring the wellbeing and protection of their peoples.
9. It is important to emphasize that prevention must be based on the tools provided by the UN Charter, particularly those referred to in Chapter VI on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes. In this regard, we must also understand that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to each and every situation, and that, if we agree on the premise that there is no peace without development and no development without peace, then the root causes and structural drivers of crisis or conflicts must be comprehensively and effectively addressed, in the interest of world peace and stability.
10. Unilateral coercive measures of an economic, financial or trade nature, not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, and have a negative impact on the full enjoyment and realization of human rights. Such arbitrary actions and unilateral approaches, in other words, not only foster the conditions for poverty and inequality, but represent also a deliberate attack against the right to development. Interference in the internal and sovereign affairs of States, coupled with the imposition of so-called sanctions, apart from representing a massive violation of human rights and producing great suffering and pain on entire populations, foster the deliberate exacerbation of conflicts and crises. Hence, all organs of the United Nations, the UN System at large and the

international community as a whole must always reject the promulgation and application, under all circumstances and in the interest of prevention, particularly in conflict situations, of these illegal measures and call for their complete and immediate termination, mindful of the fact that they have become structural factors and fundamental drivers of contemporary crises.

11. 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 and social progress. We must not lose sight of this, as we mobilize to redouble our collective efforts for advancing our common agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind, while delivering on the promise of the Charter with “We the Peoples of the United Nations”.

I thank you, Mr. President.