



**EXPLANATION OF POSITION DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION
OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE
SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2015-2030)**

New York, 18 May 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. At the outset, allow us to convey our appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Indonesia to the United Nations for their leadership and efforts in facilitating an inclusive and transparent process that led to the adoption by consensus of the Political Declaration of this High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), as contained in document A/77/L.70.

Mr. President,

3. Notwithstanding this reality, and mindful of the fact that the document that was put before us for action just minutes ago constituted, indeed, the best effort to reach an outcome that would enjoy broad consensus, our Group of Friends would like to put on record its position on a few issues.
4. First, we cannot ignore that we are discussing the question of disaster risk reduction in the midst of a global multifaceted crisis that is having a devastating impact, particularly on developing countries. Hence, we cannot overemphasize the importance we attach to this subject, especially as we redouble our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attain its SDGs. We insist, in this context, on the importance for, among others, effectively addressing the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters and their devastating impacts, which have resulted in recent years in serious and negative economic, social and environmental consequences, evidenced by the death of millions of people, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, the impacts of climate change, displacement, among others.



5. Second, as responsible members of the international community we are resolved to engaging in an active and constructive manner in each and every intergovernmental process that, in good faith, seeks to bring us together for coming up with innovative solutions aimed at addressing the huge challenges and uncertainties ahead of us, many of which are common to all of us, but yet they are much more harshly felt by our nations and peoples from the developing world. In this sense, we recognize that the outcome document of this year includes elements that are of great importance for developing nations as a whole, while stressing, however, that time has come for translating words into actions; that is, for developed countries to start actually delivering on all their previous commitments.
6. And this brings us to our third and last point. The Sendai Framework, as we know, constitutes an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its implementation is therefore part of our common efforts to, among others, adopt a risk-informed approach to sustainable development. Said in other words, the Sendai Framework is part of that very same 2030 Agenda that calls upon States “to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries”.
7. Yet, how could we truly talk about full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Sendai Framework when over thirty countries worldwide, including many from our Group of Friends, are prevented from effectively advancing in the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes or from getting access to funds needed to cope with the consequences of disasters of various nature? In addition, unilateral coercive measures also pose barriers, among others, to capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and a much-needed transfer of technology. Hence, it is rather worrisome that, despite such well-known reality, this High-Level Meeting has opted to remain silent on this vital issue.

Mr. President,

8. In this context, we insist on the urgent need to have all the means and enabling conditions in place for disaster risk reduction and for implementing the Sendai Framework at the local and national levels, as well as for addressing situations of risk and vulnerability, while promoting the resilience of individuals and communities. For this purpose, it is imperative to put a complete and



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unconditional end to the application of unilateral coercive measures, which not only cause severe pain to our peoples, but also hinder the very implementation of the Sendai Framework.

9. Our Group of Friends considers that the outcome document recently adopted is incomplete and shall continue to be incomplete, until it actually reflects an issue that has a direct impact on the development of over one third of humanity. Unilateral coercive measures are an unfortunate reality, which, needless to say, are contrary to the true spirit of disaster risk reduction, and can therefore no longer be ignored, especially mindful of the worrisome and increasing trend of severity in climate catastrophes over the past years.
10. To conclude, we would respectfully request that our positions are duly reflected in both the records of today's session.

I thank you, Mr. President.