

**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 JOINT DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS 16 AND 17,
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 10 October 2024

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. 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 the Second Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau, while looking forward to working closely throughout this 79th Session of the General Assembly. Rest assured of the constructive and active engagement of our delegations.

Mr. President,

3. The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed some of the hard-won achievements made over the past decade in the field of sustainable development, particularly in countries from the Global South. It has unleashed a multifaceted global crisis that has multiple dimensions and that continues to exacerbate the vulnerabilities and inequalities between and within States, particularly in developing countries.
4. Today, the global system is facing, among others, serious macroeconomic imbalances, volatile financial and commodity markets, the plundering of resources from our developing nations, as well as increased levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality. These realities shall now, once and for all, without further delays, demonstrate the need for establishing a new international order, in which international relations are not only democratized, but also in which the models for our economic relations are rethought, in the interest of realizing our common goal of a just, inclusive and equitable world order in which no one is left behind.



5. The global multifaceted crisis we have just briefly depicted is, at the same time, exacerbated by the illegal promulgation and implementation of unilateral coercive measures which, not only constitute a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, but also constitute a deliberate attack on the right to development of hundreds of millions of peoples around the world. Such illegal measures, needless to say, undermine national efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the enjoyment of the right to development. We seize this opportunity to renew our call for their complete, immediate and unconditional lifting, while calling on States to refrain from implementing any measure of a political or economic nature aimed at exerting pressure, in particular, but not exclusively, on developing countries, and at forcing the sovereign will of another State.
6. In this context, we stress the importance of continuing to ensure that outcome documents negotiated within the framework of the United Nations include a reference to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, as was recently the case during the Forum on Financing for Development (FfD), the Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Pact for the Future. This is an issue that has generated a systemic crisis in international relations and, therefore, cannot be neither minimized, much less ignored.
7. This Organization, in the interest of preserving its credibility, can no longer remain indifferent to the fact that a large amount of our countries' funds remain blocked in the international financial system as a result of the application of these so-called sanctions; a reality that hampers our abilities to achieve the SDGs, while also generating pain and suffering on entire populations, and, ultimately, preventing our nations, among others, from having proper access to various sources of financing for development, including at multilateral development banks. They also have, needless to say, implications on global trade, investment and development.

Mr. President,

8. We note that the current international order and the way it is designed fosters a dependency for developing countries, among others, on commodities, which results in greater vulnerabilities from price fluctuations and leads to social strains, particularly in the midst of the current global crisis. Therefore, we call not only for the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity, but also for the promotion of investments, especially in infrastructure, in the improvement of productive capacities, in financing for development and in access to technologies, confident that these would positively contribute to the recovery of the economies



of our nations, including through an increase in employment and local production, among others.

9. In light of the foregoing, the Member States of our Group of Friends consider that, in the midst of the current international juncture, we shall concentrate our joint efforts, among others, in the following five (05) areas:
 - a. First, on financing for development, particularly as we redouble our efforts and seek to find innovative ways to mobilize all available resources towards the effective implementation of our commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developments and the attainment of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, we seize this opportunity for, on one hand, calling on international financial institutions to generate conditions that would allow for greater access to financing on favorable terms and without politicization of any kind, and, on the other, calling also for the provision of greater participation of our developing countries in all relevant economic decision-making bodies and institutions. The reform of the international financial architecture, including the Bretton Woods institutions and their governance, today is needed more than ever before, without further delays. We need to move from words to concrete actions and tangible results.
 - b. Second, on trade, which we consider can greatly contribute to long-term growth, we stress the importance of achieving a fair, equitable, inclusive, independent, depoliticized, rules-based, non-discriminatory international trading system that pays special attention to the vulnerabilities of developing countries, promotes sustainable development and, above all, excludes the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. So far, we must recognize, the current system has been unable to achieve this and we have not observed any signs of any change in this regard.
 - c. Third, in the deepening and enhancement of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, which shall be guided at all times by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit, while recalling that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation. In this context, we cannot overemphasize the importance of observing the principle of “common but differentiated



responsibilities”, as reflected in key multilateral agreements, as well as that of “special and differential treatment” for developing countries, and to initiate debt relief for them, since otherwise their economic growth could be severely affected.

- d. Fourth, on Official Development Assistance (ODA), we must ensure that developed countries fulfill their **respective** commitments, bearing in mind that in certain cases ODA remains the main source of international financing for development for many countries of the Global South and which therefore turns ODA into an essential catalyst for development, while also serving as a facilitator of the achievement of national development objectives, as well as of the attainment of the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.
- e. And fifth, on debt sustainability, we are concerned that a growing number of countries are currently facing serious challenges in servicing their debt. Even more concerning is the fact that irresponsible monetary and fiscal policy moves in developed economies have resulted into a negative spillover effect, including unprecedented inflation rates and fluctuations in the exchange rates, which will ultimately further increase the debt repayment costs and weaken the debt sustainability of developing countries. In this regard, while urging the adoption of responsible monetary and fiscal policies, we call on multilateral and commercial creditors, which hold the biggest share of debt but have thus far been absent from ongoing global efforts for debt relief and debt service suspension, to take immediate action and ensure that proper assistance be provided to all developing countries in need, without exclusions of any sort.

Mr. President,

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, while reaffirming its unwavering commitment to continue promoting mechanisms aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and at reducing inequality in our countries. The international community can always count on both the active and constructive engagement, as well as on the full support of our delegations towards all actions and efforts promoted within the framework of a true and inclusive multilateralism, for the purpose of realizing the development of our



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nations and the wellbeing of our peoples, as we remain true to our pledge of leaving no one behind.

I thank you.