



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

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA DURING THE DEBATE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 76/262, FOLLOWING THE
VETOS CASTED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON A DRAFT
RESOLUTION RELATED TO “THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION” (S/2024/239)**

New York, 08 April 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.

Mr. President,

2. We are participating today in this debate as a result of the activation of the mechanism established in General Assembly resolution 76/262, following the negative vote casted by two permanent members of the Security Council in connection with draft resolution S/2024/239, submitted to that body by the United States of America on 22 March 2024.
3. In that regard, we ought to welcome, first and foremost, the transparency with which the Delegations of the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation have explained both at the Security Council and earlier today at this General Assembly the motivations and rationale behind their decisions not to support the draft resolution.
4. Contrary to what mass media and its promoters attempted to portray, the draft resolution contained in document S/2024/239 was unbalanced and rather biased. It would not have contributed to achieving a desperately needed and long-awaited ceasefire in Gaza but, instead, it would have *de facto* given *carte blanche* to the Occupying Power for continuing with its military operations in the Gaza Strip and the carnage against the Palestinian people, potentially setting a dangerous precedent for the future.

Mr. President,



5. In spite of the episode registered on 22 March 2024, in connection with the so-called ceasefire draft resolution, we applaud the decision of the Security Council of the United Nations to shoulder at least some of its responsibilities, as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations, and to finally adopt, on 25 March 2024, a resolution expressly demanding “an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan respected by all parties”.
6. In this regard, we call for full respect and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 2728 (2024), with a view to achieving a lasting, sustainable and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, that extends beyond the Holy month of Ramadan – which is to conclude in the coming hours –, and that will ultimately put an end to the months of unbearable suffering and traumas endured by the Palestinian civilian population and widespread destruction, while allowing for humanitarian actors on the ground, including United Nations Specialized Agencies, led by UNRWA, to provide rapid and unhindered support and assistance to those in desperate need, including to alleviate the acute food insecurity affecting the entire population and the horrific conditions of famine in northern Gaza.
7. Moreover, and more importantly, we demand the strict, immediate and full implementation of all relevant resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council concerning the Question of Palestine, including resolution 2728 (2024), which are legally binding by virtue of the provisions of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations.
8. Let us recall, in this context, that our Group of Friends was established almost three years ago as a result of our concerns regarding the increasing threats against the Charter of the United Nations, which include, precisely, selective approaches or accommodative interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter. We, thus, categorically reject any attempt to continue dismissing Security Council resolutions concerning the Question of Palestine, which ultimately only provides a framework of impunity to the Occupying Power, while further prolonging the most painful conflict faced by humanity for over 75 years.

Mr. President,

9. We cannot overemphasize that it is our joint responsibility to ensure that Security Council resolution 2728 (2024) does not remain as mere “words on paper”, like the preceding 90 plus resolutions that the Security Council has adopted on this subject.

10. Moreover, we highlight that strict and full compliance with the ceasefire and with the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), on 26 January and 28 March 2024 remain crucial, including for fulfilling the provisions of resolution A/ES-10/22, resoundingly adopted by this very General Assembly exactly three (03) months ago; time in which the vast majority of the international community has been patiently awaiting for the body entrusted with adopting such a resolution to ensure international peace and security – the Security Council – to do so, conscious that it is the sole thing that will ultimately stop the bloodshed, the forced displacement and Israel’s declared plans for a ground military operation in Rafah, which, needless to say, would have disastrous implications for the nearly 1.5 millions sheltering there, and that will in tandem allow for the protection of the Palestinian civilian population, in line with our collective obligations under international humanitarian law, including by ensuring the entrance of urgent aid to alleviate the catastrophic humanitarian conditions on the ground, including widespread hunger, disease and lack of shelter.
11. On a separate, yet related, note, we seize this opportunity to reiterate our full support to the long-overdue need of addressing the question of the membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations, so that it can finally be admitted as a full Member State of our Organization and finally take its rightful place in the international community. Thus, we trust that the Security Council will finally shoulder its responsibility in that connection, by positively considering the State of Palestine’s membership application, pending before that body since September 2011 and re-submitted for renewed consideration on 02 April 2024. We appeal to the Security Council, in the interest of truly preserving a political horizon for the Palestinian people, to submit a formal recommendation to this General Assembly to make this aspiration – an important expression of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence – a reality.
12. To conclude, let us reiterate once again our firm commitment to the just cause of Palestine, as well as our full solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their inalienable rights, freedom and justice, while reaffirming also our unwavering support for the preservation of a political horizon that can once and for all lead, among others, to the end of the illegal Israeli occupation and to the achievement of the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem / Al-Quds Al-Shariff as its capital, in accordance with the pre-1967 borders, which are, indeed, essential for the establishment of a just and lasting peace and security in the region.

I thank you, Mr. President.