

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. YVAN GIL PINTO, MINISTER
OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, DURING THE PLENARY
SEGMENT OF THE "SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE"**

New York, 23 September 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. When over a year ago we agreed on the modalities of the Summit for the Future, we were conscious that the challenges the international community was facing at that time, which have only deepened, were interconnected. We also recognized that through enhanced solidarity and international cooperation, and through a reinvigorated and more inclusive multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, we have the potential to not just meet, but overcome the challenges of both the present and the future, while creating a better world for all.
3. Despite those noble ideals, the negotiations of the outcome documents of this gathering took place in a context marked by an ongoing genocide in Palestine and attempts to unleash a regional-scale conflict in the Middle East, by the deepening of the gaps between the North and the South, by the ever-increasing weaponization of human rights and interference in the internal affairs of States, by a lack of implementation of climate-related commitments, among other deplorable events and tendencies that threaten, not only the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of its SDGs, but also the very existence of humankind itself on this planet.

Mr. President,

4. Paradoxically, at a time when increasing global interconnectedness demands greater pluralism, the world is witnessing a growing resort to unilateralism. This tendency, marked by isolationist and arbitrary actions, including the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, the attempt to replace international law with an alleged "rules-based order" or the withdrawal from flagship agreements and

multilateral institutions, is undermining critical efforts to address common and global challenges. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations advocates that true multilateralism and a non-double-standard application of the principles of the founding Charter of this organization are at the core of international relations and are necessary for peaceful coexistence among nations.

5. In this regard, we have advocated, including throughout the negotiations of the “Pact for the Future”, for the importance to ensure that our leaders recommit themselves to both the letter and the spirit of the United Nations Charter, in the understanding that it is crucial that we commit to strengthening multilateralism and inclusive multilateral decision-making processes, particularly by preserving our Organization's intergovernmental nature and by refraining from the growing tendency to replace, minimize or equate the central and leading role of States in the United Nations, with that of non-State actors, most of which represent the interests of the developed world.

Mr. President,

6. There will be no future without peace, and there will be no peace without sustainable development, which requires, among others, ensuing the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination for people living under foreign and colonial occupation. The Question of Palestine and the human tragedy unfolding in the Gaza Strip are a stark reminder of the vital importance of this timeless principle, which has at its core decades of colonialism and its subsequent consequences. We ought to advance towards the elimination, once and for all, of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. It is our moral and ethical duty to conclude the pending decolonization processes around the world.
7. In this context, and as we look to the future, we must, while renewing our abiding calls for justice and an end to the illegal Israeli occupation, reiterate our urgent call for an immediate, unconditional, permanent and fully respected cease-fire in Gaza, as well as for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities, including by favorably reconsidering the question of Palestine's application for full membership in the United Nations. Remaining silent is *not* an option for our delegations, as it will only continue to embolden the Occupying Power, as it persists in the commission of its grave breaches of international law undeterred, while further discrediting our Organization, at a time when our peoples fail to understand the added value of this forum, that does not necessarily respond to alleviating the challenges they face, some of them even of an existential nature, and that in certain instances has allowed for international law to be violated without

consequence of any sort, thus exacerbating crises and the suffering of millions of people worldwide.

8. In addition to peace, our people deserve to live well, and in this sense, we are convinced that the right to development must be the driving force and object of our organization. Our future depends on ensuring that our nations, particularly those of the Global South, get back on track towards the timely achievement of the SDGs, especially amid a multifaceted global crisis. This, of course, requires reforming the international financial architecture, currently designed to serve the interests of the developed world and to perpetuate a model of subjugation, domination and dependence, and ensuring that States refrain from the use of unilateral coercive measures, which today represent the greatest obstacle to the development of nations illegally subjected to such policies of aggression.

Mr. President,

9. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations agrees that it is crucial to ensure a balanced realization of the three pillars of the United Nations, as well as to ensure a peaceful, prosperous, just and equitable world order, in compliance with and in strict adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, for it is the consolidation of friendly relations of cooperation among States that will ensure peace, security, stability and development for the international community as a whole. In this context, we regret, however, that, due to the lack of political will of developed partners, this Summit of the Future and its outcome documents may have not been as ambitious as expected, in terms of turbocharging the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which continues to be our compass in the years ahead.
10. Allow us to conclude by reaffirming our full commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to a future for all our nations that is based on peace, pluralism, solidarity, development, and well-being for all.

I thank you, Mr. President.