



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 JOINT INTERACTIVE
DIALOGUE WITH MANDATE HOLDERS AND EXPERTS ON THE RIGHT
TO DEVELOPMENT, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE THIRD
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 13 October 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. Allow us, first, to express our appreciation to Ambassador Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, to Ms. Liliana Valiña, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, and to Mr. Surya Deva, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, for their reports and much valuable presentations on a matter to which we attach especial importance.

Mr. President,

3. The Group of Friends attaches great importance to promoting and protecting all human rights, without distinction of levels or categories. In this context, the right to development, which we consider a universal, indivisible and inalienable human right, represents one of the peoples' rights whose realization and enjoyment is most urgent, especially as the sustained and historical economic and social inequalities between the countries of the Global South and the North continue to expand. Such inequalities require reaffirming more than ever the transcendence of the right to development, which is enshrined in the very spirit of the UN Charter, as an inalienable human right that must be both guaranteed by all States and recognized as such by the International Human Rights System.
4. We consider that part of the gaps that exist to date, between developed and developing countries, are the result, among others, of the unequal and unjust exploitation of the vast natural resources of the countries of the South, obtained fundamentally in an advantageous manner; a situation that has consolidated over time a system of international relations in which the concentration of wealth in a few hands predominates, resulting in an inequitable economic order that is at the



core of the persistence, among others, of poverty, hunger and social, economic and technological inequalities, as well as turmoil and instability around the world.

5. In addition, the fact that certain developed countries insist on claiming non-existent exceptionalisms for the purpose of exerting cultural, economic, social and political domination over those who have sovereignly and freely decided to control their own destiny and define their own systems, have also had – and continues to have – a detrimental impact on the realization of the right to development. Such practices and approaches have also contributed to widening even more the gap between the North and the South, which has ultimately driven over 80% of the global population to live in poverty, while clearly disowning their inalienable right to development.
6. Perhaps one of the most illustrative examples of such a supremacist mindset, is the illegal imposition of unilateral coercive measures, which not only violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, as well as the norms of international law, but also pose an obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while representing a deliberate attack on the right to development of over one-third of humanity, as their ulterior objective is to cause pain and suffering, as a means for advancing agendas of dubious nature. We cannot overemphasize, in this regard, the importance and urgency of lifting all unilateral coercive measures, in order to ensure, among others, both the realization of the right to development and the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially mindful of the fact that development is a prerequisite for global peace.
7. In this context, as you may be aware, throughout this year, there have been lengthy discussions on the question of unilateral coercive measures, including on the basis of information that is of public domain and captured in the very reports that have been issued by UN independent experts on this subject. Yet, the Political Declarations resulting from the recently held High-Level Meetings of the General Assembly on health-related issues, as well as in the outcome from the SDGs Summit, blatantly disregarded this issue that is a day-to-day reality for over one third of humanity. Could you share with us your assessment of this situation, as well as any additional data compiled by your Office on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the realization of the right to development?

Mr. President,

8. Since the promulgation of the Declaration on the Right to Development in December 1986, indeed, significant progress has been made in this area.



Nevertheless, a long way is still ahead of us, especially for adopting once and for all a legally binding international instrument on the Right to Development. In this context, we reaffirm that the realization of the right to development requires full respect for the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and we call on the responsible members of the international community to accelerate efforts towards the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through a peoples-centered and gender-sensitive approach, that is respectful of human rights and has a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.

9. We also seize this privileged opportunity to express our firm support to the efforts of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the United Nations on the Right to Development in drafting a legally binding international instrument on this subject. We look forward to the prompt submission of the latest version of the draft Convention, by the Human Rights Council, to the General Assembly for further debate, in order to maintain political momentum and advance towards its long overdue adoption.

10. At last, and while firmly committed to our common mission of ensuring that development be fully recognized as a universal, indivisible and inalienable human right for all, our Group of Friends concludes by stressing its determination to support, with a sense of priority and urgency, each and every endeavor towards that end. We therefore renew our support for the institutional work carried out by the three mechanisms created by the Human Rights Council, today represented by you, the Working Group, the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, but also our determination to continue engaging in an active and constructive manner until this inalienable human right is realized and enjoyed by all peoples, in every corner of the world, honoring our pledge of leaving no one behind.

I thank you, Mr. President.