



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

**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 INFORMAL AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS
ON THE REVISED VERSION (REV.2) OF THE “PACT FOR THE
FUTURE”**

New York, 29 July 2024

Madam Co-Facilitator,

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, whose Member States align themselves with the statement delivered by Uganda, on behalf of the Group of the 77 and China.

Madam Co-Facilitator,

2. Our delegations have been participating in an active and constructive manner, since day one, individually, in their national capacities, and through other grouping formats, as part of our unwavering commitment to reach, as defined in General Assembly resolution 76/307, a concise and action-oriented outcome document, on which we can reach the necessary consensus well in advance.
3. We have been engaged in good faith convinced that, as stated in the report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, from which the forthcoming Summit of the Future stems, the purpose of this entire process is “to turbocharge the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. As such, one would expect that the “Pact for the Future” would put its emphasis on development and avoid diverting the attention of our countries from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which must continue to be our top priority.
4. Nevertheless, the progress of the “Pact for the Future” has shown us otherwise. While we are grateful for the release of this second revised version of the document, and acknowledge the efforts of the co-facilitators and their teams, we ought to note that, in our view, the latest version of this document is rather unbalanced, with an extremely higher emphasis on the human rights pillar, while putting sustainable development – a truly cross-cutting issue – as a secondary question.



5. As a matter of fact, this second revised version of the “Pact of the Future” is far more unbalanced than the previous ones, with an even much greater emphasis on the human rights pillar. Action 47 and all paragraphs under it are, for instance, a clear example of this lack of balance across the text. Such an approach is not correct, mindful of the positions previously expressed by multiple delegations, including ours, and is rather unacceptable for us, as we continue to consider the attainment of the SDGs to be of pivotal importance, in line with the aims of the ongoing Decade of Action.

Madam Co-Facilitator,

6. Allow us now, very briefly, to make four (04) very concrete comments on the text:
 - a. First, the outcome document of the Summit of the Future must ensure that our leaders recommit themselves to both the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to preserving the intergovernmental nature of our Organization.
 - b. Second, if we are truly committed to reaching consensus and at ensuring that this document be adopted by consensus, we ought to desist from incorporating elements that not only are of a divisive and non-consensual nature, but that also lack a clearly defined and intergovernmentally-agreed definition, as is the case, for instance, of the notion of “human security” or the so-called “emergency platforms” and “human rights defenders”.
 - c. Third, it is essential that approaches or ideas that may infringe on the national sovereignty of States to be eliminated from the text. For instance, it is not acceptable the assertion that humanitarian access should be allowed without observing the required safeguards to preserve national sovereignty. At the same time, it must be avoided that the “Pact for the Future” be used as a platform to include languages that are the exclusive prerogative of sovereign and independent States.
 - d. And fourth, on the issue of follow-up, it is clear that there is no agreement as to the establishment of yet another mechanism for following up on the “Pact for the Future”. We emphasize, in this context, that proceeding otherwise would only threaten to undermine the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which shall continue to be our compass for the coming years. Only in 2030, when meeting to

review our progress on the attainment of the SDGs, can we define a new plan for continue further pursuing development for our peoples.

Madam Co-Facilitator,

7. As mentioned before, this document should put greater emphasis on development, in order to ensure that our nations, particularly from the Global South, get back on track towards the timely attainment of the SDGs, especially in the midst of a global multifaceted crisis. This, of course, entails strengthening the language on the reform of the international financial architecture, which is currently designed to serve the interests of the developed world, and ensuring that the paragraph referred to unilateral coercive measures be retained in the text, as these so-called sanctions represent today the greatest obstacle to the development of the nations illegally subjected to those policies of aggression.
8. Moreover, there is yet another issue that cannot be ignored, especially if we want our leaders to adopt a document that is in line with the current challenges of the world and that upholds the commitment of leaving no one behind. The “Pact for the Future” must contain a clear reference to the inalienable right to self-determination of peoples living under foreign and colonial occupation, whose years for freedom and justice have been protracted for far too long. It is our duty to advance and conclude the decolonization agenda.
9. The Palestinian question and the unfolding human tragedy in the Gaza Strip serves as a stark reminder of the vital importance of this timeless principle, which has decades of occupation and its subsequent consequences at its core. In this context, the Pact for the Future must also include, if not a call for justice and an end of the occupation and this protracted tragedy, at least an explicit call for an immediate, unconditional, permanent and fully respected ceasefire in Gaza, as well as for the Security Council to favorably reconsider the question of Palestine’s request for admission as a full Member State of the United Nations. Remaining silent is not an option for our delegations. Remaining silent will only continue to embolden the Occupying Power and further discrediting our Organization.

Mr. Co-Facilitator,

10. At last, allow us to conclude by reiterating that you can count on the constructive engagement and due flexibility from our delegations, insofar as this is reciprocated across the table, so that we can reach consensus the adoption of the Pact for the Future by consensus, as stipulated in the General Assembly resolution related to the scope and modalities of the forthcoming Summit of the Future.



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I thank you.