



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

**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 HIGH-LEVEL
OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS ON "LEADERSHIP FOR PEACE"**

New York, 26 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, whose Member States appreciate the convening of this High-Level Open Debate under the theme "Leadership for Peace"; a theme that is of particular importance, particularly in the midst of the current international juncture, marked not only by a crisis of leadership, precisely, but also by tendencies that are certainly contrary to the true spirit of multilateralism and that, most certainly, contribute in no way to the achievement of a world of peace and development for all.
2. We also take this opportunity, on the one hand, to convey our appreciation to the panelists for their valuable presentations and, on the other one, to endorse the statement delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

3. Today's world is experiencing geopolitical tensions and increasing polarization. International uncertainty and instability are distinctive features of this era that further deepen the ongoing global multifaceted crisis. Hegemonism, attempts to promote an inexistent supremacy in all orders, and the ever-increasing resort to unilateralism present serious challenges and threats that directly impinge upon the core principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
4. Today, it is safe to say that multilateralism and the United Nations, as we have known them in recent decades, are being tested, as they are both currently under attack. Multilateralism is, indeed, changing, but **not** precisely in the right direction, much less is it capable at present time of offering guarantees to **all** members of the international community, particularly in the peace and security field, which ultimately have direct implications on sustainable development.



5. Attempts to replace the purposes and principles contained in the UN Charter and international law with a so-called “rules-based order”, never debated and plagued with selective approaches, have the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level and the precepts contained in the founding Charter of our Organization. The consequences of this attempt to erode multilateralism, we must say it very clearly, could be devastating for the delicate balances that still sustain today world peace and the current international order.
6. To move towards a more peaceful, just and less unequal world, it is necessary, among other things, to effectively address the root causes of conflict. Poverty and social exclusion, within and between nations, continue to trigger conflicts around the world. Therefore, it is evident that without a sustainable development that includes the vast majority of the planet’s population, there will be no sustainable peace around the world. Maintaining international peace and security is, as we know, the Security Council’s primary task, but it is important to bear in mind that this work must always be carried out in strict conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

7. The growing securitization of international relations is having a negative impact, particularly on developing countries. The instrumentalization and politicization of the Security Council to gain strategic advantages, including by addressing issues that are clearly beyond the scope of its competencies, contributes, to a large extent, to its current lack of action on the Question of Palestine, where we are witnessing a brutal genocide, in one hand, due to the position of the United States of America, and, in the other hand, due to the lack of implementation of Security Council resolutions on this issue, all of it as part of a clear and deliberate effort to perpetuate a brutal framework of impunity in favor of the Occupying Power, a reality that has already cost more than 40,000 innocent lives.
8. The work of the Security Council should therefore reflect the realities of the emerging multipolar world, based, *inter alia*, on mutual respect for sovereignty, on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, on political dialogue, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, respect for diversity, the culture of peace and non-violence, as well as on respect for the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and refrainment from the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of States.
9. To conclude, the Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations renew their unwavering commitment to a peaceful, just and



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more equitable world order, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to advance towards the achievement of the three pillars that underpin our Organization; namely, peace and security, sustainable development and human rights, confident that, realizing them will ultimately make us both honor our pledge of leaving no one behind, while delivering to the needs and aspirations of “We, the Peoples of the United Nations”.

I thank you, Mr. President.