

**JOINT STATEMENT AT THE ORGANIZATION OF  
WORK SESSION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**New York, 6 October 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor at this meeting concerning the organization of work of the Committee on behalf of Syria Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Russia Federation and the Republic of Cuba to support the legitimate right of UN member states, recognized by the Charter, to participate in the work of the Organization on equal footing and without discrimination.

We reject the ever increasing and systematic policy of the Host Country to discriminatorily apply the Headquarters Agreement thus undermining the independent exercise of our sovereign rights and privileges. Imposing travel and movement restrictions on representatives of Member States, insisting on the relocation of personnel of a Mission amid the pandemic, violation of inviolability of diplomatic properties as well as illegal and arbitrary expulsions

of members of Permanent Missions and the imposition of impediments for effectively honoring financial commitments to the UN with the purpose of preventing Member States from full exercising their rights, including to vote, are matters of serious concern.

We reject the abuse by the United States of its status as Host Country, in particular regarding the delay or outright denial in the issuance of visas thus preventing access of UN delegates to the Headquarters. We strongly object the non-issuance of visas to the 18 delegates of a Member State as well as the unprecedented move of the Host Country denying a visa for a Foreign Minister. At the same time, we reject its discriminatory process for granting visas that prevent delegates from traveling during the course of their Mission in New York.

This practice is nothing more than a deliberate attempt aimed at disrupting the full and efficient discharge of our responsibilities at the United Nations thus limiting rights and privileges of our countries, as Members of the Organization, in

violation of the Charter and the Headquarters Agreement, in particular its sections 11, 12, 13 and 27 and related norms of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations as well as the General Convention.

The affected Member States have repeatedly raised their concerns without any solution despite the requests made in the General Assembly Resolution A/74/195. Therefore, we rely on the Member States gathered here to prevent the work of the United Nations from being held hostage to political agendas.

We take note of the recent statement of the Legal Counsel, specifically his reference to the lack of progress in talks with representatives of the Host Country. We call upon the Secretary-General to utilize his powers in order to ensure that the principle of sovereign equality of States is respected and to guarantee that participation of Member States in the work of the Organization is non-discriminatory and equal. In particular, we request that Section 21 the Headquarters Agreement is triggered in order to find

a legal solution to the long-standing dispute between the United Nations and the United States.

Finally, we appeal to you, Mr. Chair, in your capacity as the chairman of this Committee to follow up on these persistent problems in collaboration with the relevant UN authorities and assist us to accomplish our assignment efficiently and contribute to the cause of this august body.

Thank you very much