



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 DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 93, ENTITLED “THE RULE
OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”, WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, 16 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. At the outset, allow us to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for the presentation of his report under this agenda item, contained in document A/78/184, of which we have taken due note.
3. Similarly, we also seize this opportunity to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the honorable Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

4. We note with deep concern that, at present time, new threats to the Charter of the United Nations are emerging, as a result of the policies and practices of certain governments, which seek to exert domination, including through modern neocolonial practices, particularly over independent and sovereign nations, blatantly disowning the core tenets contained therein.
5. The continued, systematic, relentless, unprecedented and ever-increasing promulgation, implementation and expansion of unilateral coercive measures, coupled with attempts to establish a so-called “rules-based order”, that remains unclear and which has the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level and the very tenets of the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles enshrined therein, which constitute the only set of rules that the entire international community has agreed upon for conducting their international relations, and which form the basis for peaceful and friendly relations

and cooperation among States, are clear examples of those emerging threats to the founding document of this Organization.

Mr. President,

6. Unilateral coercive measures are a reality that can no longer be ignored or swept under the carpet, especially in the midst of the current juncture, when we are witnessing a new generation of these illegal measures, which are now much more cruel and destructive than ever before, and which not only use the pain and suffering they deliberately cause as a means for advancing interventionist and destabilization agendas, but that also deliberately exacerbate the current global multifaceted crisis that is confronting humanity at present time.
7. Unilateral coercive measures are illegal, cruel and inhumane. They are tools of coercion used to advance foreign policy aims and are used as means for exerting political, economic and financial pressure on independent and sovereign nations, particularly from the developing world. They are a direct and deliberate impact on development, and their negative impact, in many instances, is rather incommensurable. It is a proven fact that they can be even as lethal as weapons used in conventional warfare. They are certainly mass violations of human rights and also constitute themselves in crimes against humanity, as they clearly seek to deprive entire populations of their means of subsistence.

Mr. President,

8. As responsible members of the international community that we are, we ought to once again raise awareness, particularly in the midst of current tensions and polarization at the international level, about the dangers of the potential entrenchment of a Cold War era mentality that is based on ideological confrontation, the deepening of divisions and the imposition of disparate visions and agendas, in an attempt to divide our world into blocs.
9. In this context, we call for the redoubling of efforts towards the democratization of international relations and the strengthening of multilateralism and of a multipolar system, based, among others, on mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, as well as on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, for the rule of law, diplomacy, political dialogue, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, respect for diversity, inclusiveness, a culture of peace and non-violence, and due consideration for existing differences, all of which are essential for constructively and effectively working together on issues of common interest and concern.



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10. Similarly, we continue to firmly advocate for the promotion of international relations rooted in the rule of law and the tenets enshrined in the founding Charter of our Organization, for which it is essential to put an end, among others, to unilateral and selective approaches and double standards, as well as to exceptionalist and supremacist mentalities, while stressing, in this regard, that, by virtue of international law, no State or group of States have the authority to deprive other State or group of States of their legal rights due to politically-motivated reasons.

Mr. President,

11. To conclude, the Group of Friends vows to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate our firm and principled position of support and adherence to its very tenets, which not only are the legally binding and agreed rules by all members of the international community to govern our system of international relations, but are also indispensable for fostering international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress. We must not lose sight of this, as we mobilize to redouble our collective efforts for advancing our shared objectives and ensuring that no one is left behind, while delivering on the promise of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you.