

STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF
AGENDA ITEM 83, ENTITLED “REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION”
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 04 November 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 take note of the report presented by the Secretary-General in connection with this agenda item and contained in document A/79/33.

Mr. President,

2. The Group of Friends considers the Charter of the United Nations to be a landmark and a true act of faith in the best of humanity. It is the code of conduct that has governed international relations between States for the past 79 years, based on timeless principles, such as, the sovereign equality of States, self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. These are basic norms and principles which, in addition to being the foundation of international law, remain today as relevant as they were back in 1945.
3. Moreover, we believe that ensuring compliance with and strict adherence to both the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations is fundamental to ensuring the realization of the three pillars of our Organization, as well as to advancing towards the establishment of a more peaceful and prosperous world and a truly just and equitable world order.
4. Against this background, we renew our serious concern at the current and growing threats to the Charter of the United Nations, as well as at those of an emerging nature, arising, among others, from the policies and practices of certain governments that seek to exercise domination, including through modern neo-colonial practices, in particular over independent and sovereign nations, in blatant disregard for the basic principles contained in the UN Charter.
5. These threats also include, among others, the increasing recourse to unilateralism; the systematic attacks on multilateralism; the continued claims of non-existent exceptionalisms; the growing attempts to disregard and even replace the purposes and principles contained in the UN Charter with a new set of so-called “rules” that

have never been discussed in an inclusive or transparent manner and which even have the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level; and to selective approaches or accommodating interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter.

6. Such approaches and practices, we must recognize, in no way contribute to addressing the complex, emerging and common challenges facing humanity today through peaceful means and cooperation. On the contrary, they contribute to increasing uncertainty, instability, mistrust and tensions around the world.
7. In this context, it would be irresponsible from our part not to refer to the current situation in the Middle East and the ongoing genocide in Palestine. In this regard, we take this opportunity to express our grave concern at the continuing attempts by Israel, the occupying Power, to ignite and explode the Middle East region as a whole, as demonstrated, among others, by its repeated and serious violations of international law, including through its provocations and violations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of several countries in the region, demonstrating its intention to escalate tensions on the ground, at the expense of the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the Occupied Territories.
8. Along similar lines, we categorically condemn in the strongest possible terms the premeditated heinous attack of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 October 2024, whereby Israel conducted a series of airstrikes against multiple locations in Iran, resulting, among others, in the martyrdom of four Iranian military officers who sacrificed their lives to defend the Iranian people and the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, we stress that this reprehensible attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental principles of international law, including the prohibition of threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of States, while representing also a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
9. Moreover, we also condemn the deliberate attacks of Israel against UN staff in Palestine, which has claimed the lives of more than two hundreds. Allow us to express, in this context, our serious concern and rejection at attempts of Israel aimed at undermining the United Nations, its founding Charter and the principal organs of the United Nations, including through directing affront to the Charter, as conducted on 10 May 2024 by the representative of Israel in the General Assembly, shredding the UN Charter and attacking the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who as, as recent as on 02 October 2024, declared “*persona non grata*”.
10. Needless to say, such aggressions, attacks and affronts by Israel are all clear and deliberate acts aimed at undermining the Charter of the United Nations. We demand their end, while renewing our call for redoubling efforts towards the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution, rooted in international

law. Similarly, we also stress the need to hold Israel accountable for all its crimes against people of the region.

Mr. President,

11. The Group of Friends attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee, mindful of the fact that it can play an active and constructive role in strengthening the capacities of the United Nations to achieve its purposes, including by strengthening the role of the Organization, to increase its effectiveness and develop its full potential, within the framework of a process that should undoubtedly be advanced based on the principles and procedures provided for in the Charter of the United Nations itself.
12. In this regard, while reaffirming our commitment to efforts aimed at ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes, we take this opportunity to express our concern at the unwillingness of some Member States to engage in meaningful discussions to consider the valuable proposals which have for long been before this Special Committee and which have been put forward, to a large extent, precisely, by some of the members of our Group of Friends, as responsible members of the international community.
13. We call upon those States to demonstrate concrete signs of their political will for the effective implementation of the mandate entrusted on this Special Committee, so that we can achieve meaningful, tangible and successful outcomes in the near future.
14. In this context, and without prejudice to the importance of all the various working documents currently under consideration by the Special Committee, we ought to note that we place special emphasis on the urgent need to make progress on the one related to a subject to which we all attach particular importance; namely, the guidelines proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran on ways and means for preventing, removing, eliminating, minimizing and redressing the adverse effects and impacts of unilateral coercive measures. Unilateral coercive measures are a reality that can no longer be ignored and, given its negative impacts at the global scale, shall be addressed collectively. These illegal measures, which flagrantly violate the Charter of the United Nations and the most basic norms of international law, impact the daily lives of more than one-third of humanity, making it our moral duty, absent of their total and unconditional elimination, to work together to minimize their negative impact and, thus, advance on this concrete proposal, as revised earlier this year.
15. Furthermore, we seize this opportunity to briefly refer to the ongoing challenges with regards to the implementation of the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, which has resulted in obstacles that continue to deliberately limit the ability of certain Member States to effectively discharge their responsibilities and, thus, fulfill the purposes of the Organization. In this context,

we consider that this Special Committee could play a positive role in reviewing such concerning situation, in light of its implications to the Charter of the United Nations and the role of the Organization, particularly to the principle of sovereign equality of States, as well as the very provisions included in said Agreement for pursuing a judicial settlement when any dispute of its interpretation or application arises and has not been resolved by negotiation in a reasonable and finite period of time, which is certainly the case at this time

Mr. President,

16. In conclusion, the Group of Friends pledges to spare no effort to preserve, promote and defend the prevalence and validity of the UN Charter. We reiterate our firm and principled position of support and adherence to its tenets, which are not only the rules agreed by all members of the international community to govern our system of international relations, but are also indispensable for the promotion of international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress for all.

I thank you.