



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 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 82, ENTITLED
“CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE
PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES”, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 01 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.
2. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the honorable Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), while taking note of the report presented by the Secretary-General in connection with this agenda item, as contained in document A/79/143.

Mr. President,

3. Diplomacy is built on respect for the positions, views and concerns of other States, as well as on the need to engage, in good faith, in political dialogue and constructive negotiations, with a view to accommodate the interests of all parties involved in relation to a given issue. Diplomacy, together with an inclusive multilateralism and other tools provided by relevant legal frameworks, included those foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations, is key to strengthening, among others, the advancement of the pillars that underpin our Organization.
4. Collective solutions are most needed at a time when we face complex and common challenges in a variety of areas. Diplomacy is most needed at present time worldwide. In this context, we take this opportunity to underline the importance of full compliance with the norms of international law and with legally binding commitments, including as means to facilitate the work of diplomatic and consular agents, while ensuring their safety and security, as well as the security, inviolability and sanctity of diplomatic and consular missions, including in cases where



diplomatic relations have been broken, in strict accordance with relevant applicable legal instruments, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, while also taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions.

5. In this regard, we take this opportunity to reaffirm our categorical condemnation and rejection of the atrocious attacks perpetrated by Israel against diplomatic premises of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, on 01 April 2024, which resulted in the assassination of at least five individuals, including senior Iranian officials, while completely destroying the diplomatic premises in question. Also, we categorically condemn and reject the premeditated heinous attack perpetrated on 17 and 18 September 2024, in Lebanon, which was conducted by detonating hand-held communication devices and that resulted in the killing of dozens, while leaving thousands of civilians injured, including the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Lebanon.
6. We underline that these reprehensible acts and attacks represent a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles and norms of international law, as well as the core principle related to the inviolability of diplomatic agents and also the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973). We stress the importance of bringing to justice those responsible for these heinous attacks and, once again, warn against such irresponsible attacks that seek to further increase tensions in that region.

Mr. President,

7. The conditions in which diplomatic and consular agents carry out their work, in particular those related to security, are closely linked to their ability to perform such work in an effective manner. In various parts of the world, however, certain diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives operate under rather hostile conditions. They receive phone calls and e-mails with threats and insults against them, they are victims of attacks, acts of terrorism and vandalism against them and their diplomatic premises, in some instances even under the open sponsorship of recipient States, which fail to fulfill their legally-biding responsibilities. Threats and provocations are, regretfully, a daily thing.
8. We express, in this regard, our strong condemnation of such acts and our full solidarity with those affected by this reality, while urging governments, as appropriate, to carry out appropriate investigations to ensure that the instigators,

organizers and perpetrators of these sort of actions are held accountable, and to also take relevant preventive measures, in order to urgently redress such situations.

9. We reiterate, in this context, the duty of host countries to take all appropriate measures, as required by international law, to prevent acts that may be detrimental to diplomatic and consular missions and their agents. The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations are crystal clear in this regard. Similarly, the General Assembly has adopted several resolutions on this subject, which reiterate the obligations of States regarding the security and protection of diplomatic and consular missions and agents.
10. Along similar lines, we would also like to express our concerns as to severe affront and insults against diplomatic and consular representatives and representatives to the United Nations. We reiterate that these unlawful acts constitute a clear attack on the honor and dignity of representatives.

Mr. President,

11. A final point we would like to raise is the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the ability of diplomatic and consular missions and agents to exercise their functions and responsibilities. In violation of the provisions of Article 25 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the application of this kind of illegal measures has a direct impact on the adequate functioning of Diplomatic Missions in some countries, taking into account, among others, the fact that banking services are not provided, as a result of the application of these unilateral coercive measures, which, in some cases, even prevent States from fulfilling their financial commitments abroad.
12. In this connection, we also express our concern at very particular instances in which, as a result of a policy of aggression, marked by unilateral coercive measures, the sanctity of diplomatic premises is violated, as demonstrated by the illegal seizure and retention, in this very country, of diplomatic premises belonging to members of our grouping; a situation that clearly undermines the very notion of privileges and immunities and which has the potential to set a dangerous precedent that may put at risk all diplomatic properties abroad, due to the exceptionalist mindset of certain host countries.
13. In conclusion, our 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 very tenets, which are not



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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, social progress and diplomatic solutions to global challenges and common threats.

I thank you, Mr. President.