

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE DEBATE ON AGENDA  
ITEM 84, ENTITLED “THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*New York, 17-18 October 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.

**Mr. President,**

2. We reiterate the importance of commitment of *all* States to the Charter of the United Nations, including its purposes and principles, as well as to the rule of law and key elements such as: (i) the principle of sovereign equality; (ii) the duty of States to fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; (iii) the obligation to respect of sovereign and legal rights of States under international law; and, (iv) the provisions of the Declaration of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
3. Having said that, it would be irresponsible from us to address this agenda item without referring to the ongoing situation in the Middle East. In that regard, we seize this opportunity to express our most serious concern at the continued attempts of Israel, the Occupying Power, to ignite and explode the Middle East region as a whole, as demonstrated, among others, by its reiterated gross violations of international law, including through its provocations and violations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region, which demonstrates its intent to escalate tensions on the ground, at the expense of the human rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Such aggressions, including the ongoing genocide in Palestine, needless to say, are a clear and deliberate affront to the rule of law at both the national and international levels.
4. The rule of law is currently in jeopardy, due to the unbridled brutal attacks of Israel against Palestinians and other people of the region. Israel, the Occupying Power, has killed more than 45,000 of people, including women and children, injured thousands more, while many people are still under rubbles. Israel has displaced millions of people, also deliberately cutting their access to essential humanitarian aid, food, water and shelter. The rule of law would be just words uttered in total ignorance if the international community as a whole does not restore it, starting with an immediate stop to the attacks and horrendous atrocious crimes perpetrated by Israel against innocent civilians in Gaza and beyond.

5. We continue to condemn in the strongest possible terms the egregious crimes of Israel committed against the Palestinian people and other peoples of the region, and reiterate that the international community must not allow Israel, the Occupying Power, to operate with impunity. The international community must fully hold Israel accountable and bring it to justice for all the crimes it has perpetrated.
6. That being said, we seize this opportunity to express our grave concern about the ongoing threats to the Charter of the United Nations, arising, among others, from the neocolonial practices by which certain governments are attempting to exercise dominion over independent sovereign States, in blatant disregard for the fundamental principles contained in the UN Charter.

**Mr. President,**

7. The ever-increasing, systematic and unprecedented resort to unilateral coercive measures and the attempts to establish a so-called “rules-based order” – a vague notion that has the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level, as well as the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, which constitutes the only universally agreed set of norms governing international relations – are clear examples of such threats.
8. Unilateral coercive measures have, as a matter of fact, become increasingly cruel and destructive. They can no longer be minimized or ignored. They are deliberately being used to cause pain and suffering, as a means of promoting destabilizing interventionist agendas, as well as to exacerbate the current multifaceted global crisis. Unilateral coercive measures are illegal and inhuman tools for promoting illegitimate foreign policy objectives and exerting political, economic and financial pressure on independent sovereign States, especially in the developing world. They have a direct and intentional impact on development and can be as lethal as conventional weapons. Unilateral coercive measures constitute a significant violation of human rights and a crime against humanity, taking into account the fact that their very use intentionally deprives entire populations of their basic means of subsistence.
9. In this context, we stress that no State or group of States has the authority to deprive another State or group of States of their legal rights for politically motivated reasons. The application in good faith of the generally recognized principle and norms of international law excludes the practice of double standards or imposition by some State or group of States of their will on another State or group of States, including through the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures.
10. International relations should be grounded in the rule of law and the principles enshrined in the founding Charter of this Organization, the provisions of which are essential for promoting international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development, and social progress. Unilateral and selective approaches, double

standards, and exceptionalist and supremacist thinking must end once and for all. Under international law, no State or group of States has the authority to deprive another State or group of States of its legal rights for purely unjust and illegitimate political purposes.

**Mr. President,**

11. Let us conclude by reassuring that 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 and the rule of law, both at the national and international levels.

I thank you, Mr. President.