



GROUP OF FRIENDS  
IN DEFENSE OF THE  
CHARTER OF THE  
**UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MRS. ZAHRA ERSHADI,  
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE  
36th MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
TREATY BODIES**

*New York, 27 June 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. At the outset, allow us to extend our gratitude to the Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies in attendance, including yourself, Mr. President, as well as to all representatives of the treaty bodies.

**Mr. President,**

3. We would like to first and foremost reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian People, as well as our unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing carnage in the Gaza Strip, as well as of all other crimes that have been – and continue to be – committed for more than 76 years by Israel against the Palestinian people, with total impunity, and in clear disregard for the UN Charter and the most basic norms of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. We urge all members of treaty bodies, including their presidents, to unequivocally and unanimously join in condemning this systematic violation of all human rights of the Palestinian people and to demand an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, in the interest of humanity and the true spirit of human rights and to act with principle and urgency to ensure the realization of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and independence, to enable them to live in freedom, dignity and peace in their homeland.

**Mr. President,**

4. The Group of Friends attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all, without distinction. In this context, we firmly believe in the need to continue upholding both the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the



United Nations, whose principles and purposes constitute the cornerstone of the international balance in today's world, which includes the human rights dimension among its fundamental ideals.

5. Together with the Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights Council and the special procedures, the treaty bodies are called upon to generate, strengthen and preserve respectful institutional dialogue and to engage in a constructive exchange with States, on the basis of their national laws, priorities and capacities, and in strict adherence to the mandate of the respective treaties for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation. There is need for the Human Rights Treaty Bodies to contribute to the broadest possible political and operational consensus on human rights issues, in order to enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and partnership among all States.
6. Consequently, and mindful of the constant search for efficiency, coherence and optimal use of resources, General Assembly resolution 68/268 provides a reasonable framework for increasing the effectiveness of Human Rights Treaty Bodies and guaranteeing greater and more effective participation of States in the respective processes established in each treaty. In this context, we take note of the revised version of the OHCHR Working Paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the human rights treaty body Chairs, while expecting that deliberations will continue and that any decision that may be taken in this regard requires the support of Member States, insofar as State Parties to the treaties.

**Mr. President,**

7. The Group of Friends attaches utmost importance to the strict adherence by all State Parties of the treaty bodies to the prerogatives and mandates granted by each instrument, as part of the mandatory impartiality and independence, preventing external actors from instrumentalizing or weaponizing their essential work for political or economic purposes. This condition constitutes a *sine qua non* commitment to preserving the credibility of each body and its relationship with States and the System as a whole. The UN human rights bodies and mechanisms need to be safeguarded from fake news, disinformation and misinformation, and should also undertake their work based on credible information after taking into account the official responses that may be provided by concerned States. For this reason, we call on each of the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies, and all their members, to scrupulously ensure compliance with these principles,



in favor of an effective and lasting promotion of human rights, without double standards or politicization. There should be no space for these negative practices within human rights treaty bodies, as they threaten their very credibility.

8. The more human rights are used as a basis for unmitigated criticism, vilification and naming and shaming, the more they are likely to be discredited. Our Group of Friends believes that Human Rights Treaty Bodies were established by Member States to guide them on adherence and promote their compliance with human rights issues, rather than to isolate or target them for alleged breaches. Compliance is paramount for ensuring respect for human rights. All States must be willing and ready for constructive dialogue with Human Rights Treaty Bodies, as provided under the Universal Periodic Review, in the Human Rights Council, to this end. It is, therefore, essential to strengthen this consultative framework, in order to obviate some of the challenges being faced at present time.
9. We also consider it of great importance that the membership of the respective expert committees established pursuant to treaty bodies should be based on equitable geographical distribution and take into account the diversity of civilization and legal systems, as this would ultimately contribute to the enrichment, appreciation and action of each body, as well as to a truly democratic and equitable international system.
10. To conclude, the Group of Friends reaffirms its unwavering commitment to compliance with the provisions of the human rights treaties to which its Member States are party, and, most importantly, to engaging in a constructive manner to enhance mutual respect and full dialogue with the treaty bodies, fully cognizant that States are the ultimate guarantors of all human rights for their peoples, while the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, as well as of the right to development, are the shared responsibilities of all States of the international community.

I thank you, Mr. President.