



**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 INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, UNDER AGENDA ITEM
71, ENTITLED “PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS”,
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 16 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.
2. We take note of the updates provided by H.E. Mr. Volker Türk in his presentation, and reaffirm our willingness to continue engaging in an active and constructive manner with his Office.

Mr. President,

3. We have been witnessing lately, with utmost concern, how the governments of some States insist on resorting even more fiercely to the illegal and immoral application of unilateral coercive measures as part of their strategies to advance political agendas in nations that do not yield to their threats and blackmail.
4. Therefore, before moving any further, and mindful of the negative impact of those so-called “sanctions”, particularly on the full enjoyment and realization of human rights, including the right to development, we would like to pose the following question to the High Commissioner:
 - a. Could you please share your assessment of this reality, as well as any additional data that may have been compiled by your Office on this subject?

Mr. President,



5. The Member States of our Group of Friends attach a supreme value to the promotion and protection of all human rights, both individuals and collectives, without distinction of levels or categories, and consider also that their promotion and protection is enhanced on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation, and within a framework of equality and mutual respect between States.
6. In this context, we note that the mandate of the OHCHR contains one of the highest responsibilities within the UN System for the realization of one of the three main pillars of our Organization, which is why it is of utmost importance that its endeavors are carried out not only in a responsible manner, but in one that does not attempt against the core values and principles previously referred to, in order to avoid that it be instrumentalized for attempting against the sovereignty of States or for interfering in the internal affairs of States, while ensuring that its credibility is in no way put at stake. It is of equal importance that the provisions of Article 100 of the UN Charter be fully respected.
7. We, thus, seize this opportunity to reiterate our categorical rejection of double standards in the field of human rights, as such an approach prevents a harmonious environment and progress in this field. Similarly, we also express our serious concern at the continued and growing proliferation of mechanisms and procedures that pretend to conduct “impartial” assessments of the human rights situation in specific States and which, in most cases, lack the due consent and participation of the concerned State; rely on sources of a secondary, tertiary or other nature that may be either biased or lack credibility; and respond to political agendas of dubious nature. In this context, it shall be noted that, in certain instances, some assessments of the OHCHR have even gone far beyond its mandate.
8. Additionally, we stress the importance of, on one hand, ensuring due respect and tolerance for the political, economic, social and cultural diversity that comprise our world, while, on other one, refraining from focusing on differences, with the sole intent of creating divisions, exacerbating the growing trends towards unilateral approaches and, ultimately, weakening the United Nations and all it represents.
9. To conclude, we insist that there shall be no other option but dialogue, cooperation, engagement and national ownership in each and every process that is truly aimed at strengthening human rights, at both the national and international levels, and that unilateral trends must be unequivocally rejected in all UN fora, which requires a clear and unambiguous condemnation by UN representatives, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights. At last, we also reaffirm our determination to



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continue working in an active and constructive manner towards the enhancement of the efficacy and reach of the Universal System of Human Rights.

I thank you, Mr. President.