

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. YURI GALA, AMBASSADOR,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE 2024 ECOSOC'S HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT (HAS)**

New York, 25 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, whose Member States make vows for the success of this year's Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in the interest of achieving true progress and moving once and for all from a purely humanitarian approach towards one that would support robust sustainable development of developing countries, upon request and based on their specific needs and priorities, thus addressing the causes of humanitarian emergencies, and taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Mr. President,

2. From the very outset, allow us to reaffirm the unwavering solidarity of our grouping with the Palestinian People, who has been enduring a tragic carnage in the Gaza Strip for almost nine (09) months now, in flagrant violation of the most basic norms of international law, including international humanitarian law. We seize this opportunity not only to express our strong condemnation of the ongoing crimes, but also of those that have been committed with total impunity for over 70 years.
3. In this context, we would like to reiterate our call for a lasting, sustainable, permanent, and fully respected ceasefire which, would, among others, ease the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe, while also preserving a political horizon that could ultimately lead to a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects.

Mr. President,

4. In recent decades and years, we have all witnessed with serious concern how natural disasters, including major droughts, floods, abrupt changes in climate patterns, among others, have disrupted biological cycles and entire geographies,



altering human dynamics and the legitimate aspiration of our peoples for sustainable development. Such events, that could ultimately lead to humanitarian emergencies, require the leading role of the United Nations System, full consultation and coordination with affected countries, and maximum international cooperation and solidarity to overcome such challenges, especially through capacity-building, investment and transfer of technology to developing countries.

5. In this context, an exacerbated consumption model and pattern, which concentrates wealth in the hands of few and devastates the environment and Mother Earth as a whole, underlies as the structural cause of these emergencies, compounded by the commodification of scientific advances and the privatization approach to humanitarian assistance that some sectors seek to impose.
6. The induction of conflicts and destabilization for political purposes, coupled with the plundering of natural resources of developing countries, which has historically been a lucrative business for some nations of the North, has generated artificial humanitarian crises, resulting in poverty, extraordinary migratory flows, and economic and financial disruptions. All of this serves to advance interventionist agendas and to disregard the sovereignty of States, in flagrant disregard for the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter, while also undermining the prospects for a truly lasting peace.

Mr. President,

7. While the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations values international efforts aimed at providing assistance in response to humanitarian emergencies of various natures, particularly those under a multilateral approach, it recalls such an assistance, as enshrined in General Assembly resolution 46/182, must be provided in line with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, as well as with full coordination with the recipient States, upon their request. Full respect and strict adherence for said guiding principles would ensure the effectiveness of humanitarian activities.
8. Moreover, and taking into account the complex challenges that have emerged following the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, we emphasize the importance of incorporating the principles of burden-sharing, as well as common but differentiated responsibilities, into every international humanitarian response.
9. In the same vein, we seize this opportunity to insist that the political, economic and social impact of the systematic application of unilateral coercive measures against entire peoples, in contravention of all norms of international law,



represents the most sophisticated cause of global emergencies of human displacement, by depriving more than one-third of the humanity from the full enjoyment and realization of their human rights, including to food, health, vaccines and medical treatment, financial services, education, while also infringing upon the economy of the countries subjected to such illegal measures that undermine the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and represent a clear attack, among others, on the very realization of the inalienable human right to development. We regret that some governments still refuse to recognize the obvious consequences of unilateral coercive measures on humanitarian activities, as we all clearly witnessed during the negotiations on the draft HAS ECOSOC resolution earlier this month.

Mr. President,

10. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations highlights the invaluable contributions of the humanitarian community, including the United Nations, in addressing humanitarian emergencies and navigating highly complex environments. We recognize the substantial financial resources required for these activities and the significant operational risks involved, which underscore the high political and social sensitivity of such endeavors. Therefore, we urge all parties engaged in these operations to adhere strictly to their mandates and to comply rigorously with national and international regulations, while ensuring national ownership at all times. It is crucial to prevent any misuse of humanitarian efforts for the pursuit of unjust economic or commercial gain by certain obscure interests. Such an approach of exploitation not only seeks to profit from human tragedies, but also to perpetuate them indefinitely in time – a reprehensible practice that we unequivocally condemn.
11. To conclude, allow us to reaffirm the importance of collaboration at the regional and international levels with international humanitarian agencies, particularly in emergencies neglected for political reasons or suddenly caused by nature, based on our common commitment with international cooperation and solidarity, and always adhering ourselves to the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and to the very tenets enshrined in the founding Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.