



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 2024 SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
DECOLONIZATION (C-24), UNDER AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED
“DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION”**

New York, 10 June 2024

Madam 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. This being the first time we take the floor at this current session, allow us at the very outset to convey our best wishes to you, as you assume the Chairmanship of this Special Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau, while expressing also our appreciation to the representatives from DPPA and DGC for their much valuable presentations.

Madam President,

3. Decolonization is one of those files in which the United Nations has indeed made great progress. There are multiple success stories, as demonstrated by the expansion of the membership of our Organization. Today we are a total of 195 Member and Observer States, in comparison to 51, when the United Nations was established back in 1945. Nevertheless, the task remains uncompleted: 17 non-self-governing territories and others which have not yet attained independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), still look up to us for ensuring that their inalienable right to self-determination is fully realized.
4. In addition, the question of Palestine, despite not being officially part of the agenda of this Special Committee, deserves a special mention, as it has years of colonial oppression and foreign occupation at its core.
5. All this is nothing more than a confirmation that, despite the fact that over sixty (60) years have passed since the adoption of landmark General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), much still remains to be done, in order to truly and effectively achieve the total eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.



6. We therefore seize this opportunity to reiterate our historic and principled positions on items under the purview of this Special Committee; to express our firm adherence to the provisions of the “Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”; and, most importantly, to reaffirm our unwavering political commitment to put an end to colonialism and ensure the full realization of the inalienable right to self-determination of each and every Non-Self-Governing Territory and others which have not yet attained independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), while calling on the Occupying and Administering Powers to constructively engage in a dialogue that would allow us to finally reach a fair and comprehensive solution to each and every one of these pending questions.

Madam President,

7. Colonialism, however, is not limited to the questions under the agenda of this Special Committee. Colonialism has evolved and the very same colonial powers who once ruled the world through occupation, subjugation and exploitation have today adapted their strategies, as part of their efforts to retain their domain over large parts of the world.
8. Thus, today, colonialism has a new face, with new forms, methods and practices, which include, among others, economic exploitation, artificial restriction of opportunities for the independent and sovereign development of States, limitation of access to new technologies, humanitarian aid and medical equipment, attempts to substitute norms of international law based on the UN Charter with a new set of non-consensual and unknown so-called rules, policies and programs, continued and growing resort to the promulgation and application unilateral coercive measures, interference into the internal affairs of States, as well as attempts to impose specific social, economic and political patterns on their development.
9. We strongly condemn the blatant and detrimental use of modern practices of colonialism, which deliberately prevent, among others, the development of international economic cooperation, while impeding the social, cultural and economic development of nations and militating against the ideals of universal peace and coexistence, as foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations.
10. In this context, while recognizing ongoing efforts of the UN Secretariat on the dissemination of information on decolonization, we call on all relevant departments, particularly DGC and DPPA, to develop an outreach programme to mobilize educational institutions and civil society in order to expand their activities in the field of remembering colonialism, its root causes and consequences, in order



to save the succeeding generations from the dangers of subjection of one State by another, to alien domination, foreign occupation, exploitation of colonized peoples, and to other contemporary forms and practices of colonialism aimed at restricting national sovereignty and development.

11. From our part, and with a view to contributing in this historic task, we officially announce today our intention to present before this Special Committee a draft resolution, precisely, on the eradication of colonialism and all its contemporary forms and practices. The text in question, which has already been uploaded via e-delegate, will be focused on several key elements; such as, the condemnation of crimes committed during colonial era, the call for the provision of assistance to countries affected by colonialism, the establishment of 14 December as an annual International Day against Colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as the inclusion of a new agenda item on this subject in the agenda of the General Assembly. We look forward to your active and constructive engagement during the upcoming days, when we intend to convene informal consultations, in order to ensure that this important text be adopted by consensus by the end of this year's annual substantive session of the C-24.

Madam President,

12. The international community must not lose sight of all these critical and pending questions regarding decolonization, as the yearning for freedom and justice, of millions of people have already been protracted for way too long, while negatively impacting both the rule of law at the international level and the very purposes of the Charter of the United Nations; namely, the principle of “equal rights and self-determination of peoples”, as foreseen in Article 1 (2).
13. We therefore renew our commitment with the realization of the mandate of this Special Committee and seize this opportunity to also express our gratitude and support to Timor-Leste, a success story of the decolonization process and the latest success story of this very Special Committee, for its offer to host the 2025 Pacific Regional Seminar, in which we are confident we will continue advancing towards the effective implementation of the Plan of Action for this Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.
14. In light of all the foregoing, allow us to conclude by reaffirming our commitment to sparing no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. We also reiterate our full support and solidarity with the peoples of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories and others which have not yet attained independence, in accordance with General Assembly



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resolution 1514 (XV), plus Palestine, in their struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as well as our firm determination to continue participating in an active and constructive manner in all efforts aimed at advancing towards the achievement of a world free of colonialism, with a view to settling, once and for all, our pending debt with humanity regarding the definitive conclusion of the decolonization processes around the world.

15. Let us truly honor our pledge of leaving no one behind, which, needless to say, must include those peoples under colonial subjugation, domination, foreign occupation and exploitation.

I thank you, Madam President.