



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 DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 110, ENTITLED  
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”, WITHIN  
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

*New York, 03 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. This being the first time we take the floor during this current 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, allow us to convey our best wishes to you and to the other members of the Bureau. We look forward to working closely together and assure you of our delegations' commitment to engaging in an active and constructive manner throughout this session.
3. We also take note of the Secretary-General's report under this agenda item, contained in document A/79/99.

**Mr. President,**

4. Terrorist acts not only endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States, but also national, regional and international peace and security. Not only do they generate terror and violate human rights, but they also seek to destabilize legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, thus, affecting the stability of nations and the very basis of societies. In addition, terrorist acts create adverse consequences, among others, on the economic and social development of entire nations, while resulting in both an incommensurable human toll and in important economic losses, including as a result of the destruction of States' public and private infrastructure, including that of a critical nature.
5. We therefore express our categorical rejection to all acts of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, including



those committed directly or indirectly by States. All acts, methods and practices of terrorism are criminal, unjustifiable and represent clear violations of both the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. Similarly, the provision of any sort of support, active or passive, to terrorist organizations or persons for the purpose of inciting, planning, financing, perpetrating or participating in the carrying out of terrorist acts, including through the resort to mercenaries, is also contrary to the values, tenets and spirit of the founding Charter of our Organization.

6. The fight against international terrorism must unite us and commit us all. However, the common quest for the achievement of a world free of terrorism has been for long undermined as a result of the politicization of counter-terrorism fight for advancing interventionist agendas. The political manipulation of the fight against terrorism and the incitement to commit terrorist acts, combined with the application of unilateral coercive measures, as part of strategies aimed at promoting regime-changes against sovereign countries, constitutes a flagrant violation of both the letter and spirit of the most basic norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
7. That being said, we ought to stress, on one hand, that terrorism shall in no way be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and national liberation, and, on the other one, that terrorism shall not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
8. Similarly, we reject the political manipulation of the fight against terrorism, including through the issuance of arbitrary and unilateral lists accusing States of allegedly supporting terrorism; a practice that is totally inconsistent with international law.
9. The arbitrary inclusion of Cuba in the illegal and unilateral list of countries falsely accused of sponsoring terrorism, fabricated by the U.S. government, has significantly reinforced the negative effects of the criminal and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against the Cuban people by the government of the United States of America, including enormous difficulties in carrying out financial and commercial operations and serious damages to the subsistence and integrity of the Cuban population. We, once again, request the immediate exclusion of Cuba from that arbitrary and unilateral list that we firmly reject in its entirety.
10. We also stress that the promotion or facilitation of terrorism, as well as the use of digital platforms to incite and finance terrorist acts, for the purpose of advancing



regime-change policies or agendas seeking neocolonial domination is inadmissible.

11. Efforts to prevent and combat international terrorism, we cannot overemphasize, shall not be used, under any circumstance, as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to resort to the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, as this clearly goes in contradiction with both the spirit and letter of the very Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

**Mr. President,**

12. The annual adoption, without a vote, of the resolutions presented within the context of this Committee under this agenda item, is a clear demonstration of the unwavering commitment of the international community with the efforts to both prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We reaffirm, in this context, the leading role and primary responsibility of States and their respective national institutions, with the assistance of the United Nations, and upon request, in efforts at the national, regional and international levels to both prevent and counter this despicable scourge.
13. Although, much has been achieved in this common battle, there is still a long road ahead for achieving our common goal of a world free of terrorism, which requires, among others, a balanced implementation of relevant resolutions on this field, and the fulfillment of relevant international obligations. This is a fight that admits no double standards: there cannot be good and bad terrorists.
14. Moreover, we also insist on the need to resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, covering all aspects of the phenomenon, confident that such a treaty would complement the set of existing legal instruments in this field.
15. In this context, and mindful of the fact that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone, we cannot overemphasize the importance of comprehensively addressing its root causes, in order to effectively overcome those conditions that may provide breeding grounds for the promotion of criminal agendas based on hatred, defamation, intolerance, racism, including supremacism and neo-Nazism, and which seek to inflame tensions and foster the commission of terrorist acts.



16. We refer, among others, to poverty, social and economic inequalities, political and ethnic intolerance and/or conflicts, as well as colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, systematic violations to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of peoples and nations, all of which are part of the so-called push drivers of terrorism. These must therefore be addressed accordingly, if we truly want to eliminate the scourge of terrorism not only in the short, but also in the long term.
17. Consequently, without fear of making mistakes, we can assert that unilateral coercive measures foster those conditions that we have repeatedly urged to be addressed, including the root causes of international terrorism. The implementation of unilateral coercive measures undermines international cooperation, including in the field of counter-terrorism.

**Mr. President,**

18. 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.
19. In this context, we condemn the heinous attack of Israel against Lebanon on 17 and 27 September 2024, which claimed the lives of hundreds of Lebanese people and high-ranking Lebanese officials, as well as an Iranian high-ranking military advisor, while injuring many others, including the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Lebanon. We also condemn the heinous attack perpetrated by Israel against the Iranian Embassy in the Syrian Arab Republic on 01 April 2024, which killed several Iranian officials including a high-ranking Iranian military adviser and led to the destruction of the diplomatic premises in question. Similarly, we condemn the heinous attack carried out on 31 July 2024, that resulted in the assassination of the former Prime Minister of the State of Palestine.
20. Our solidarity with all those innocent civilians affected by the most recent heinous attacks perpetrated by Israel in Palestine, Iran, Lebanon and Syria, and our best wishes of a full and speedy recovery of all those other who have been left wounded. Our solidarity also with all other victims affected by this heinous scourge,



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including with our brothers and sisters from Mali, a fellow member of our grouping, who have been lately affected by terrorist acts.

21. Allow us now to conclude by reaffirming the resolve of the Member States of our Group of Friends to take speedy and effective measures, rooted in international legality and the founding Charter of our Organization, to eliminate once and for all international terrorism. At last, we call on all responsible members of the international community to put aside differences and, instead, to engage with each other and work together, in a decisive, inclusive and coordinated manner, in order to achieve a world free of terrorism, in the interest of both present and future generations.

I thank you, Mr. President.