



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 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 18, ENTITLED
“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 14 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.

Mr. President,

1. We consider that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established important agreements aimed at achieving more peaceful, just and inclusive societies. This common roadmap, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, among others, is the guarantee for fully and effectively realizing sustainable development in its three (03) dimensions: economic, social and environmental.
2. Today, we are six (06) years away from 2030, and it ought to be recognized that we are not even close to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This reality, coupled with the impact of protracted armed conflicts and injustices, in the midst of the current global crisis and its multiple dimensions, has even managed to reverse some hard-won achievements. The recently concluded Summit for the Future, which was meant to “turbocharge” the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it has to be said, failed to deliver in that regard, particularly on the level of ambition many of our nations were expecting, as a result of the clear lack of political will from developed partners.
3. In this regard, we call for greater efforts aimed at facilitating the implementation of our international commitments on the field of development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in the countries of the Global South, while stressing that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and



dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge for achieving sustainable development.

Mr. President,

4. We consider that, far from discouraging us, this current stalemate must be a wake-up call for redoubling our efforts. In this regard, it is of utmost importance not only to act with a sense of urgency, but also of unity, within the framework of a reinvigorated and truly inclusive multilateralism, in order to together overcome the current and common challenges we have ahead, and advance, among others, towards the mobilization of the resources that would facilitate the financing for development, the increase of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and a substantive increase in and enhancement of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, the transfer of technology, the adoption of measures to relieve the burden of external debt, among others.
5. In this regard, we consider that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development may provide a privileged opportunity for closing the existing gap in terms of financing for development, which will, in turn, serve the purpose of accelerating both the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of its SDGs.
6. In this context, it is worth referring, for instance, to the Global Development Initiative (GDI), promoted by a fellow member of our Group of Friends – the People’s Republic of China –, which advocates for a spirit of open and inclusive partnership and provides a platform for, precisely, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the benefit of all peoples, while facilitating also people-centered solutions to common challenges, as we jointly navigate the crossroads at which the global cause for development currently stands and continue to promote a global community of development with a shared future. This is an initiative that we support, which has had a successful start-up and we seize this opportunity to invite Member States to consider joining the Group of Friends of the GDI.

Mr. President,

7. The Member States of our Group of Friends advocate for the full recognition of the right to development as a universal, indivisible and inalienable human right, and remain confident that the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on this subject would ensure that it be one of the top priorities of the international community and the United Nations System as a whole. We recognize, in this context, that



achieving the sustainable development of our nations also requires, on one hand, the strengthening, deepening and expansion of international cooperation and solidarity, and, on the other, the implementation of other equally important commitments that are intrinsically linked to this overarching goal, particularly with regards to Mother Nature and the need to urgently change the current system of consumption and production towards sustainable patterns.

8. The adverse impacts of climate change are threatening humanity as a whole, particularly vulnerable countries. Recent disasters around the globe prove so: floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires and extreme storms, including sand and dust storms, are becoming the new trend, while leaving catastrophic consequences behind, including human and economic losses, biodiversity loss, desertification and environmental degradation, among others. We must correct the path; we must do so now. Time has come to once and for all turn pledges into actions that lead to concrete and tangible results.
9. In this context, we call, on one hand, for urgent actions to redress this situation and ensure that we get back on track towards effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and, on the other hand, for developed countries to fulfill their commitments, on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and reflecting the principles of equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities”, as well as respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances, and for international financial institutions to facilitate the provision of the resources needed in developing countries for mitigation and adaptation efforts, in a non-politicized and non-discriminatory manner.
10. Energy is one of the key sectors enabling global development. We emphasize the critical importance of aligning energy priorities with SDG7. Achieving universal energy access is essential for sustainable development, while energy security ensures stability and resilience in supply systems, safeguarding communities and economies. We reiterate that renewables are only a part of the multifaceted solution to addressing energy poverty and just transitions. In this context, natural gas, for instance, plays a pivotal role as a transitional fuel, helping reduce carbon emissions while supporting energy reliability. At the same time, nuclear energy is also vital for long-term energy security, offering a low-carbon option that can meet rising global demand, while contributing to a more sustainable future. Any transition, however, shall be made in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and different national circumstances, pathways and approaches.



Mr. President,

11. There is yet another reality that is keeping over a third of humanity from fully realizing the sustainable development of their nations. We refer to unilateral coercive measures which, in flagrant violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of every norm of international law, continue to be illegally applied against the peoples of over 30 nations around the world. Such illegal measures constitute themselves into a deliberate attack on the right to development of targeted peoples, while undermining national efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of its SDGs and targets.
12. As a matter of fact, unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope, extraterritorial implications and systemic nature, are exacerbating the multifaceted crisis humanity is facing today and will continue not only to negatively impact global economy as a whole, but also to cause and prolong human suffering around the world, unless a complete, immediate and unconditional end is put to all these illegal measures, that would then allow all nations to fully pursue their productive potentials and contribute to the stabilization and overcoming of current challenges.
13. In this context, we emphasize that our future depends on ensuring that our nations, particularly those of the Global South, get back on track towards the timely achievement of the SDGs. This, of course, requires reforming the international financial architecture, currently designed to serve the interests of the developed world and to perpetuate a model of subjugation, domination and dependence, and ensuring that States refrain from the use of unilateral coercive measures, which today represent the greatest obstacle to the development of nations illegally subjected to such policies of aggression. These are two concrete issues on which we need to advance, should we be truly committed to our pledge of leaving no one behind.

Mr. President,

14. To conclude, despite all these challenges, many of which have been the result of actions beyond the control of our developing nations, the Member States of our Group of Friends vow to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, while reaffirming their unwavering commitment to continue working steadfastly towards the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.