



GROUP OF FRIENDS  
IN DEFENSE OF THE  
CHARTER OF THE  
**UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOAQUÍN PÉREZ  
AYESTARÁN, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
BEFORE THE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 78, ENTITLED  
“CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY” WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*New York, 10 October 2022*

**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,**

2. We would like to register our serious concern at recent procedural developments in our Committee, while cautioning that, unless these developments are properly and urgently redressed, they pose an immediate threat to the traditions and well established practice that make this Sixth Committee so unique amongst the other Main Committees of the General Assembly.
3. In this context, we refer specifically to the draft resolution on crimes against humanity, introduced by a group of States without holding any prior consultations and even before the Bureau had a chance to appoint facilitators for this agenda item; a practice that has for years been key in reaching compromises and consensus.
4. We have looked at the rationale provided by this group of States for proceeding in such a manner, which is contrary to the well-established practice, and still find it difficult to agree with the approach and course of action they have decided to carry out.

**Mr. President,**

5. While it is true that, in general, under the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly any Member State can put forward a proposal, including the drafting of a substantive resolution, there is a lot of specificity as to how the Sixth Committee carries out its work. There are practices and traditions in place, which have long



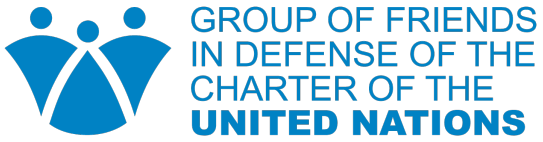
existed and have, until very recently, been supported by the wide majority of the General Assembly, needless to say, for a good reason.

6. As you are all aware, the Sixth Committee possesses unique competence to produce texts that have the potential of becoming new norms of international law. But this will remain true only as long as we work on the basis of and preserve the practice of adoption our decisions by consensus. To divert from this practice would only jeopardize the possibility for any texts that may be produced in this Committee from ever becoming treaties or other international norms, let alone of universal character. Let us recall, in this context, that outcomes reached by consensus make it easier for them to be implemented, while enhancing our credibility as responsible members of the international community.
7. Nevertheless, far too often, instead of a proceeding in good faith and with a constructive spirit, aimed at finding solutions that may be acceptable to all, we see a growing resort to an activism-based approach, dominated by political pressure and self-imposed deadlines arising from artificial senses of urgency. Such an approach should have no place in the Sixth Committee. Similarly, we can in no way accept the imposition of proposals that have not been subjected to an inclusive and transparent process of intergovernmental negotiations.

**Mr. President,**

8. The manner in which a group of States have proceeded with regards to the draft resolution presented under the agenda item entitled “Crimes against Humanity”, not only denotes a selective approach, but is far from saving our Committee from a stalemate. Quite the opposite, it would open a Pandora box that has the potential to ultimately change in a drastic manner the way in which we carry out our works in this Committee.
9. In this context, we seize this opportunity to also recall that, for decades, this Committee has been unable to move forward on some other agenda items, precisely, because of both a clear lack of consensus and a true desire of preserving this practice that for year has guided our common endeavors. Departing from that understanding would only further exacerbate any differences there may exist, while removing any incentive for actually engaging, accommodating the views and concerns of all Member States and, ultimately, forging consensus.
10. To conclude, we alert that, should there be a departure from the well-established working methods and the practice of consensus, the door would be then opened





for proceeding in that very same manner with other agenda items under the purview of the Sixth Committee. We appeal on Member States to preserve traditions and practices, while respectfully calling on the Chair and his Bureau to urgently interpose their good offices to address this unfortunate situation in which we are currently at.

I thank you, Mr. President.

