



*Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Samuel Moncada,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations*

on behalf of the

“Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations”

during the consideration of Agenda Item 84 of the Program of the General Assembly, entitled

*“Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”*

New York, 03 November 2021

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Mr. President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honored to take the floor on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Lao, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe, and its very own, all of which are members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. While welcoming the convening of this meeting to consider an agenda item of utmost importance, we take note of the report of the “Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”, as contained in document A/76/33.

Mr. President,

3. The Group of Friends considers the Charter of the United Nations to be a milestone and a true act of faith on the best of humanity. It is the code of conduct that has ruled international relations between States for the past 76 years, on the basis of timeless principles; such as, sovereign equality of States, self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and refrainment from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. These are all basic norms and principles that, apart from being the foundation for modern-day international law, today remain as relevant as back in 1945.
4. In addition, we consider that ensuring compliance with and strict adherence to both the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations is fundamental for ensuring the realization of the three pillars of our Organization, as well as for advancing towards the establishment of a more peaceful and prosperous world and of a truly just and equitable world order.
5. In this context, we express our serious concern at the current and growing threats against the Charter of the United Nations. We refer, among others, to the growing resort to unilateralism; to the attacks against multilateralism; to the claiming of non-existent exceptionalisms; to the attempts to ignore and even substitute the purposes and principles contained in the UN Charter with a new set of so-called "rules" that have never been discussed in an inclusive or transparent manner; and to selective approaches or accommodative interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter.
6. These practices contribute in no way to addressing, through peaceful means and cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced in these days by humanity. Instead, they contribute to an increase in uncertainty, instability and tensions around the world.

Mr. President,

7. The Group of Friends attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee, mindful of the fact that it can play an active and constructive role in enhancing the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes, including through strengthening the role of the Organization, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and developing its full potential; a process that, needless to say, must be pursued on the basis of the principles and procedures envisaged in the UN Charter itself.

8. In this regard, while reaffirming our commitment to efforts aimed at ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes, we seize this opportunity to voice our concern over the unwillingness of certain Member States to engage in a meaningful debate for considering the valuable proposals that for long have been before this Special Committee and which have been largely presented, precisely, by some of the members of our Group of Friends, as responsible members of the international community. We appeal to those States to give concrete demonstrations of their political will for effectively carrying out the mandate of the Special Committee in a manner that would allow a successful outcome as that of 1982 when approving the historic Manila Declaration, which is soon to commemorate its fortieth anniversary.
9. To conclude, the Group of Friends vows to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate our firm and principled position of support and adherence to its very tenets, which not only are the legally binding and agreed rules by all members of the international community to govern our system of international relations, but are also indispensable for fostering international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress. We must not lose sight of this, as we mobilize to redouble our collective efforts for advancing our common agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind, while delivering on the promise of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.