

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOAQUÍN PÉREZ
AYESTARÁN, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 84, ENTITLED
“THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVELS”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 06-07 October 2022

Mr. President,

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honor 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, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe, and its very own, Venezuela, all of which are members 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 the Sixth Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau, while looking forward to working closely throughout this 77th Session of the General Assembly. Rest assured of the constructive and active engagement of our delegations.
3. Similarly, we also seize this opportunity to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the honorable Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

4. The Group of Friends renews its firm and full commitment with the Charter of the United Nations, including with the purposes and principles contained therein, which remain timeless, universal and indispensable not only for preserving and promoting international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, as well as all human rights for all, including the right to self-determination, but also for achieving a more peaceful, prosperous, just and equitable world, and a system based, precisely, on the rules contained in that





universal and legally binding instrument that constitutes an exceptional achievement for humankind and a true act of faith on the best of humanity.

5. In this context, we are convinced that the following elements are key in the promotion of international relations rooted in the rule of law:
 - a. First, the principle of sovereign equality, which entails, among others, the provision of equal and fair opportunities for all States, without exceptions or exclusions, to participate, at the international level, in decision-making processes that may have an impact on them.
 - b. Second, all States must equally respect and fulfill their obligations under international treaties and customary international law, which, at the same time, requires the avoidance of any selective approach in this regard.
 - c. Third, the sovereign and legal rights of States under international law must be respected by all, as well as any legitimate concerns.
 - d. And, fourth, the provisions of the Declaration of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations continue to constitute a landmark in the development of international law and relations among States, while promoting the rule of law among nations and the universal application of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

6. That being said, we seize this opportunity to express our serious concern at growing attempts to establish a so-called “rules-based order” that remains unclear and which has the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level and the very tenets of the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles enshrined therein and which constitute the only set of rules that the entire international community, including all Member States of our Organization, have agreed upon for conducting their international relations, and which form the basis for peaceful and friendly relations and cooperation among States.
7. Similarly, we express our concern about the continued application of unilateral coercive measures, in flagrant violation of the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, while underlining their negative impact on the rule of law at the international level, as well as on international relations. In



this context, we stress that no State or group of States have the authority to deprive other State or group of States of their legal rights for politically-motivated reasons.

8. The application in good faith of the generally recognized principles and norms of international law excludes any possible practice of double standards or the imposition by some State or group of States of their will on other State or group of States, including through the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures, whether of a political or economic nature, insofar as aimed at exerting pressure, in particular, but not exclusively, on developing countries, and at forcing their sovereign will.
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 shared objectives 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.

