



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 PLENARY SEGMENT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE
QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
TWO-STATE SOLUTION

New York, 29 July 2025

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, whose Member States commit themselves to ensure that this High-Level International Conference bring us closer to ending once and for all one of the most painful conflicts of our time and to justly and peacefully resolving this historic injustice.

Mr. President,

2. At this critical juncture, our Group of Friends reaffirms its firm support to the Palestinian cause, as well as its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom, including the independence of a sovereign and viable State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with the relevant UN resolutions and the two-State solution.
3. We stress, in this context, that the ongoing denial of this fundamental right, amid decades of occupation, displacement, colonization, annexation, brutal violence, and systemic impunity, remains one of the most pressing and enduring injustices and tragedies of our time, spanning now for nearly eight (08) decades, with a devastating human toll. A first practical step to redress this issue would be the immediate admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member State of the United Nations, taking into account its wide recognition among UN Member States as an independent and sovereign State; a concrete affirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Mr. President,

4. The very essence of this High-Level International Conference, rooted in the political and moral authority of the General Assembly, is a timely and necessary expression of multilateralism in action. It reflects our shared responsibility to achieve peace through the pursuance of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees and the realization of their right to return, in accordance with international law, the relevant UN resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations, and on the basis of the two-State solution.
5. In this regard, our Group of Friends values the work of the eight working groups that were established ahead of this gathering, whose respective thematic scopes reflect the multidimensional nature of this protracted conflict and the urgent need for coordinated action. The socio-economic viability of a future Palestinian State, for instance, as well as sustained humanitarian and reconstruction assistance, must be prioritized as key pillars of post-conflict recovery.

Mr. President,

6. At this stage, allow us now to highlight four (04) overarching principles that should guide our collective vision, in order to redress a question that remains a profound stain on the conscience of the international community and on the very credibility of the international system:
 - a. Peace through Justice and *not* through Force: There can be no sustainable peace without justice. This requires full respect for and implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Violations of international law must not be normalized and the crimes committed to date against the Palestinian people cannot go unpunished. Accountability is indispensable for deterrence, reconciliation and lasting peace.
 - b. Palestinian's sovereignty and their right to self-determination: We reject any attempt to alter the demographic or territorial character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including all unilateral and unlawful steps by the Occupying Power aimed at creating "facts on the ground", through illegal settlements, forced displacement, and annexation plans. Such actions, coupled with prevailing double-standards, continue to thwart the realization by the Palestinian



people of their inalienable right to self-determination and severely erode the viability of the two-State solution.

- c. Narratives of Peace, Dignity and Coexistence: A genuine peace process must be grounded in the principles of international law and justice, including, among others, self-determination of people and the rejection of incitement and dehumanization. We call for educational and diplomatic efforts that reject exclusion, discrimination, inequality, bigotry and supremacy on any ground; that is, efforts that cultivate tolerance, understanding, and respect, especially among the younger generations, founded on respect for human rights and dignity.
- d. International Responsibility and Action: The Security Council remains prevented from fully assuming its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, due to the recurrent use of the veto by the United States of America. We call on the U.S. government to put an end to its ongoing complicity, shielding Israel, the Occupying Power, from accountability for its crimes and, thus, preventing unified action of the Security Council to address the prevailing crisis and resolve this conflict. The inaction, paralysis, or selective implementation of resolutions of the Security Council on the Question of Palestine, which are legally binding for all, only fuels impunity. In this context, we support ongoing efforts in bringing a halt to the violence and bloodshed, the forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population and any attempts by Israel to annex any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in pursuing accountability including through redressing the hardship and the suffering that Israel, the Occupying Power has inflicted upon the Palestinian people, and in achieving rapid and unhindered support and assistance to those in desperate need, in a consistent and safe manner, at scale and under the leadership of UNRWA. It is past time to seize the political momentum to achieve real and meaningful results.

Mr. President,

- 7. Having said that, we emphasize the importance of the full and effective implementation of the ceasefire agreement previously reached. We therefore call, once again for a permanent end to hostilities, for the release of all hostages and detainees, including thousands of other Palestinians that for years have been held



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captive in Israeli prisons and detention centers, for the withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from Gaza and for the start of a major multi-year reconstruction plan for Gaza, with international support swiftly mobilized, based on the Arab and OIC Gaza Relief and Early Recovery Plan, in full coordination with the State of Palestine. It is of utmost importance to advance in all these fields, in order to preserve a political horizon that can ultimately lead us to the comprehensive end for this protracted and disastrous conflict.

8. Moreover, we also take this opportunity to reiterate our call for immediate steps to be taken to halt the provision or transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment to Israel, the occupying Power, in all cases where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024.

Mr. President,

9. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations reiterates that the implementation of the two-State solution is *not* just a political goal or a diplomatic aspiration, but a legal and moral imperative, central to preserving peace, dignity, and justice for all peoples in the region. It is a test of our collective resolve to uphold the international order rooted in the very tenets enshrined in the founding Charter of our Organization and to reaffirm the foundational promise of the United Nations: that all peoples, regardless of might or geography, are entitled to live in freedom, dignity, and peace.
10. We therefore call upon all parties to engage constructively, and to translate proposals and outcomes from this High-Level International Conference into tangible progress on the ground aimed at the ultimate realization of justice and peace. Let us act decisively, guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and by our collective political, legal and moral obligations *vis-à-vis* the Question of Palestine. Let us act to end impunity, restore hope, preserve a political horizon and realize the long-deferred promise of a just peace for the Palestinian people and the region as a whole.

I thank you, Mr. President.