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Points 23, 28, 58 et 122 de l'ordre du jour

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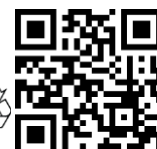
Lettre datée du 22 septembre 2023, adressée au Secrétaire général par le Représentant permanent de la République bolivarienne du Venezuela auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

J'ai l'honneur d'appeler votre attention sur des questions concernant le Groupe des Amis pour la défense de la Charte des Nations Unies, qui a tenu sa quatrième réunion ministérielle à New York le 22 septembre 2023, en marge du débat de haut niveau de la soixante-dix-huitième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

À cet égard, je vous fais tenir ci-joint copie de la déclaration politique ainsi que des déclarations spéciales adoptées à cette occasion (voir annexes)*, en vous demandant respectueusement de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de ses annexes à l'ensemble des États Membres comme document de l'Assemblée générale, au titre des points 23, 28, 58 et 122 de l'ordre du jour.

L'Ambassadeur,
Représentant permanent de la République
bolivarienne du Venezuela auprès
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
(Signé) Samuel **Moncada**

* Les annexes sont distribuées uniquement dans la langue de l'original.



**Annexe I à la lettre datée du 22 septembre 2023 adressée
au Secrétaire général par le Représentant permanent
de la République bolivarienne du Venezuela
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

**Political declaration of the fourth ministerial meeting of the Group
of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations**

1. We, representatives of Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe, members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, met at the ministerial level, in New York, on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 78th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in order to undertake an assessment of recent developments in the international arena, including of challenges and threats to the Charter of the United Nations – which continues to underpin multilateralism – and to exchange views on existing, new and emerging issues of collective concern and common interest.

2. We recall the political declarations adopted on 06 July, 23 September and 12 October 2021, 22 September and 05 November 2022, as well as the positions contained in the various joint statements and communiqués issued on various specific items of the agenda of the United Nations, and reiterate our firm and full commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, mindful of the fact that the principles and purposes contained therein remain timeless, universal and that they are all indispensable not only for preserving and promoting international peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, as well as human rights for all, but also for achieving a more peaceful, prosperous, just and equitable world, and a system based, precisely, on the rules it contains.

3. We reiterate our serious concern at the current and growing threats against the Charter of the United Nations, including by practices that in no way contribute to addressing, through peaceful means and cooperation, the complex, emerging and common challenges faced in this era by humanity. In this context, we renew our firm determination to continue preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations through concerted actions, galvanizing the platform provided by the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, to whose goals and objectives we remain committed. We consider this to be critical in order to ensure that we can promptly return to a state of normalcy in international relations, which will ultimately allow for nations to get back on track, among others, towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. We note with deep concern that, at present time, new threats to the Charter of the United Nations are emerging, as a result of the policies and practices of certain governments, which seek to exert domination, including through modern neocolonial practices, particularly over independent and sovereign nations, blatantly disowning the core tenets contained therein.

5. We also reiterate our most serious concern at 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 has agreed upon for conducting their international relations, and which form the basis for peaceful and friendly relations and cooperation among States. Therefore, we are of the

view that efforts aimed at promoting the notion of a “rules-based order” ultimately seek to weaken the Charter of the United Nations, in a clear attempt to ignore and even substitute the purposes and principles it contains, as well as the well-established norms of international law, with a new set of so-called “rules” that, apart from remaining unknown to date, have never been discussed in an inclusive or transparent manner. We stress that such an attempt shall not be accepted in any way and call on firmly upholding the UN-centered international system and an international order underpinned by international law.

6. We express our categorical rejection of all unilateral coercive measures, including those applied as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, and, in this context, reiterate our unwavering support and solidarity with nations and peoples subjected to such measures, which violate both the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the basic norms of international law, especially with those that are part of our grouping, while renewing our call for their complete, immediate and unconditional lifting. We express our firm adherence to the provisions of the Special Declaration adopted on this subject.

7. We, in line with our historic and principled positions, express our unwavering solidarity with the people and government of the Republic of Cuba, which has heroically endured the negative impact of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on it by the United States of America for over sixty years, representing the single major impediment for its full economic and social development, and urge the government of the United States of America to immediately, completely and unconditionally put an end to the blockade against Cuba, while looking forward to concrete measures that could foster an environment conducive to the reengagement into a political and diplomatic process towards the normalization of bilateral relations. We also strongly reject the drafting of unilateral lists of States that allegedly sponsor international terrorism and the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba in such an illegitimate list, whose negative effects include the worsening of obstacles to financial transactions. We, thus, demand the termination of these illegal and unilateral acts, as well as the complete exclusion of Cuba from that list.

8. We reiterate our serious concern at the growing resort to unilateralism, in detriment not only of multilateralism, but also of genuine international cooperation and solidarity, which must be strengthened now more than ever, particularly at the current juncture, in which we face a multifaceted global crisis, with multiple dimensions. Multilaterally agreed solutions are a guarantee for the effective implementation of international agreements. Reviving and strengthening multilateralism is essential, in order to forge collective, inclusive and effective solutions to the common challenges and threats of the 21st century. In this regard, we express our firm rejection to unilateral actions, measures and approaches that, far from bridging existing differences and bringing us closer to the realization of international peace and security, sustainable development, and respect for human rights, are aimed at intervening in the internal affairs of States, at destabilizing entire nations, and at claiming non-existent exceptionalisms for the purpose of exerting cultural, economic, social and political domination over those who have sovereignly and freely decided to control their own destiny and define their own systems.

9. We welcome, in this spirit, the mediation efforts led by H.E. Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, to find a peaceful political solution to the crisis in Niger and, in that context, reject any act that could threaten the stability and security of the Niger and the Sahel region as a whole.

10. We raise awareness, particularly in the midst of current tensions and polarization at the international level, about the dangers of the potential entrenchment of a Cold War era mentality that is based on ideological confrontation, the deepening of divisions and the imposition of disparate visions and agendas, in an attempt to divide our world into blocs. In this context, we call for the redoubling of efforts towards the democratization of international relations and the strengthening of multilateralism and of a multipolar system, based, among others, on mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, as well as on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, for the rule of law, diplomacy, political dialogue, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, respect for diversity, inclusiveness, a culture of peace and non-violence, and due consideration for existing differences, all of which are essential for constructively and effectively working together on issues of common interest and concern. Thus, we call on all responsible members of the international community to seize and rise to the historical moment and, in the spirit of San Francisco, work hand in hand towards redoubling all efforts aimed at establishing a just and equitable world order conducive to lasting peace and prosperity for all.

11. We welcome the progress made towards the consolidation of a multipolar world, rooted in the Charter of the United Nations, in the values of true multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity, and in which BRICS countries are playing an important role. We welcome, in this regard, the invitation extended, among others, to the Islamic Republic of Iran, a fellow member of our grouping, to join that bloc of emerging economies, and look forward to further expansion phases in the near future. We further note the interest expressed by the governments of various other nations, including from our grouping, in also becoming full members and/or strengthening their partnerships and cooperation with BRICS, while recognizing their respective potentialities for further boosting this bloc, including in the economic and trade fields.

12. We acknowledge that humanity lives in an indivisible security community in which one nation's security is indivisible from the common security of a given region and that of the international community as a whole, and that therefore no State can seek its own security at the cost of the security of another State or group of States. Disowning this cardinal principle, may ultimately have a detrimental impact on international peace and security, while putting at risk the very existence of humanity as a whole. In this regard, we remain committed to taking seriously the legitimate security concerns of all countries, including from those that are part of our Group of Friends, to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation, to upholding the principle of indivisible security, and to promoting an inclusive global dialogue that may lead towards the establishment of a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security system that is based on a just, equitable and indivisible global security architecture that, at the same time, shall necessarily be rooted in international law.

13. We recognize the emergence of non-traditional domains that may pose threats to the maintenance of international peace and security and, in that regard, stress the importance of engaging with a spirit of cooperation and inclusivity, particularly under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to jointly address, among others, issues related to countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes and strengthening security in the use of ICTs. We reject the misuse of information space with subverting and destabilizing aims against independent and sovereign nations and stress the importance of ensuring that new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, be used for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We express our support to the work of the "Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Criminal

Purposes”. We also support the work of the “Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Security of and in the Use of Information and Telecommunications Technologies (2021–2025)”. We further reaffirm our commitment to participating in an active and constructive manner in both processes, with a view to fulfilling their respective priority tasks of further developing rules, norms and principles of responsible behavior of States, including of a legally binding nature.

14. We express our deep concern at the potential impact of current geopolitical tensions around the world on the multiple challenges in the field of sustainable development, including on efforts towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are not only exacerbating already difficult socioeconomic conditions, but also fueling greater uncertainty and largely affecting commodity prices, especially food and energy prices. We, thus, welcome the Global Development Initiative (GDI) presented by the People’s Republic of China, which advocates for a spirit of open and inclusive partnership and aims at accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the benefit of all peoples, at facilitating people-centered solutions to challenges, at navigating the crossroads at which the global cause for development currently stands, and at fostering a global community of development with a shared future.

15. We recognize that development is the top priority for developing countries and also that the world today is still far away in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that it is even off track for meeting the SDGs, while many of the hard-won achievements in the development field have even been reversed in multiple cases. We therefore welcome the convening of the SDGs Summit and expect it to inject new political impetus to accelerating implementation of international commitments in the development field, particularly those related to the eradication of poverty and hunger and to the tackling of climate change, etc., while renewing our firm commitment with the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, under the UNFCCC, and other milestone international agreements aimed at realizing sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Time has come for translating once and for all promises and ambitions into concrete, real and transformative actions, and we thus call for the provision of and the removal of any measure that may hamper adequate access to the necessary means of implementation.

16. We recognize the right to development as a universal, indivisible and inalienable human right that must be guaranteed by all States and recognized as such by the International Human Rights System, and, thus, express our firm support to the efforts of the **Intergovernmental Working Group of the United Nations on the Right to Development in drafting a legally binding international instrument on this subject. We look forward to the prompt submission of the latest version of the draft Convention, by the Human Rights Council, to the General Assembly for further debate, in order to maintain political momentum and advance towards its long overdue adoption.**

17. We emphasize that greater efforts must be made towards the establishment of a New International Economic Order in which all countries, without exception or exclusion, benefit from a universal, inclusive, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system. This New International Economic Order must be truly fair and equitable, as well as more inclusive and participatory, for which it is necessary to advance, among others, on the reform of the global financial architecture, including of the Bretton Woods institutions and their governance, mindful of the inadequacies of the current system, which is morally bankrupt, especially in the midst of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the “Declaration on the Establishment of

a New International Economic Order” and its Programme of Action, as contained in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), respectively. We strongly support, in this context, the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture, paying attention to the structural problems that have plagued the global economic governance system, to enhance the voice and representation of developing countries and emerging markets in the international economic and financial governance system, and to ensure their full participation in the decision-making processes.

18. We commend the leadership of the Republic of Cuba – a fellow member of our Group of Friends – at the helm of the Group of the 77 and China throughout 2023 and express our continued support to all its endeavors throughout its tenure as President of the G77+China in defense of the interests of and in promoting concerted actions for advancing towards the realization of the legitimate aspirations for sustainable development of the Global South, including during the Havana Summit on “Science, Technology and Innovation”, held on 15-16 September 2023, and the upcoming preparatory process for the Third South Summit, to be held in January 2024, in Kampala, Republic of Uganda.

19. We express our determination to promote and protect the true spirit of human rights and the value of democracy, in light of ongoing and increasing attempts to weaponize them against sovereign States and national governments, including through strategies aimed at redefining human rights and democracy, in an effort to categorize countries, further divide the international community and ignore global political, economic, social and cultural diversity. In this context, we stress the need for upholding the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization, in order to avoid the instrumentalization of human rights for advancing agendas of a dubious nature, for attempting against the sovereignty of States or for interfering in the internal affairs of States.

20. We express grave concern over the proliferation of disinformation campaigns, particularly in online platforms, including on social media, created, disseminated and amplified by certain governments and non-State actors for political or ideological motives, and note that such practices may undermine the political sovereignty of States and disrupt the social cohesion of States, while also fostering hate speech, racism, xenophobia, stigmatization, superiority, including fascism, Nazism, neo-Nazism and other similar ideologies, and further inciting violence, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, in violation of the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations. We firmly condemn and reject such manifestations, as they infringe upon the fundamental rights, dignity and value of the human person, among others, and call upon responsible members of the international community to urgently adopt measures to both prevent and counter this trend that is currently growing at an alarming scale, while redoubling efforts towards the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence. We also call on States to advocate for the common values of humanity, including peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, and to let cultural exchanges to transcend estrangement, mutual learning to transcend clashes, and coexistence to transcend feelings and mentalities of superiority.

21. We congratulate and applaud the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the peaceful, free and fair manner in which they participated in the 2023 Harmonized Elections, and H.E. Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for his re-election for a second five-year term. This result demonstrates the broad support for his government and its people-centered policies aimed at entrenching constitutional democracy and inclusive national development, in furtherance of the wellbeing and prosperity of the entire Zimbabwean people.

22. We note that presidential elections are scheduled for 2024 in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and, in that regard, express our confidence on the robust

participative and protagonist model of democracy prevailing in that nation, while looking forward to the holding of said electoral process in a civic and peaceful manner. We firmly reject any attempt from external forces to meddle into or disrupt the upcoming presidential electoral elections in Venezuela, including through the resort to violence, hate speech and other extremist practices, for the purpose of curtailing the right to self-determination, as well as the sovereignty and political independence of the Venezuelan people, while threatening their wellbeing and right to peace.

23. We express our concern at the continued attempts of certain members from the international community to push for controversial, non-consensual and rather divisive approaches that have the potential of further increasing tensions and mistrust around the globe; such as, the notions of the “responsibility to protect”, “human security” or “humanitarian interventions”. In this regard, we underline the importance of making greater use of the tools provided by multilateralism and diplomacy for the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Charter of the United Nations, and in the interest of jointly addressing common challenges facing us all, insofar as a global community with a shared future.

24. We reaffirm the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes and express our firm conviction that States shall resolve their disputes through the dispute settlement mechanisms that they have agreed upon, and underline that all means of settlement of disputes should be used in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation, in order to serve the goal of resolving disputes in a peaceful manner, in accordance with applicable international law and, thus, leading to de-escalation of tensions and the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, we stress the importance of safeguarding the credibility and independence of the principal judicial body of the United Nations, as established by the Charter of the United Nations, and caution against the misuse of Article 63 of the ICJ Statute.

25. We underscore the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in promoting and encouraging the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, as foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations, and in such a manner that international peace and security, as well as justice, are not endangered. We noted, in this context, the validity of the judgment delivered by the ICJ on 27 June 1986, concerning the case of “the Republic of Nicaragua vs. the United States of America”, and therefore urged for respect and compliance with it.

26. We are concerned by the ever-growing attempts of certain States to use mechanisms of international criminal justice for political purposes, in order to target citizens of countries aspiring to conduct independent foreign policy, while utilizing all means, including unilateral coercive measures and threats, to shield their own citizens from the jurisdiction of such mechanisms.

27. We reaffirm the immunities of States and their officials under customary international law from foreign criminal jurisdiction, as well as jurisdiction of bodies or mechanisms to which respective States are non-parties. These immunities derive from the principles of sovereign equality and political independence of States. We reaffirm that mechanisms of international criminal justice must strictly observe the very principles of sovereign equality and political independence of States, as well as immunities of States and their officials.

28. We reaffirm that the United Nations remains a central and indispensable forum for addressing issues relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, human rights and the rule of law, on the basis of dialogue, cooperation and consensus- building approaches amongst States, and therefore remain fully committed to both its revitalization and the strengthening of its role, particularly at the current international juncture, in which the

world needs much more solidarity and cooperation. Moreover, while reaffirming the political nature of the United Nations, as well as its intergovernmental, universal and democratic character, we express our determination to actively and constructively participate in ongoing processes of a fundamental nature, which shall necessarily be States-led and driven, including, among others, the preparations for the Summit of the Future and the Social Summit. With regards to the former, we expect that it would facilitate, among others, the reform of global governance system, that it would address global challenges and outstanding obstacles in achieving the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that it would pursue true multilateralism with the United Nations at the center of our common efforts, that it would foster common security, that it would promote common development and that it would pursue a common future based on trust, partnership and solidarity.

29. We call on all members of the international community to put an end to zero-sum games, cold-War era or supremacist mentalities, punitive, divisive or confrontational approaches, provocative actions or double standards, and the deepening of divisions and polarization, and to, instead, pursue win-win cooperation, engagement in good faith, peaceful resolution of conflicts and mutual accommodation, with a view to bridging positions and forging broad consensus and, thus, be in a position to effectively address the challenges humanity is collectively facing at present time, so that a community with a shared future for humankind can be effectively built. We consider such an approach to be the best path, among others, for achieving the goals and purposes foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations, for upholding international law, and for unleashing the great power of multilateralism.

30. We recognize that, since its establishment, in 2021, the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations has made significant progress in advancing its objectives and in implementing its annual Programme of Work, and, in that context, express our appreciation to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its leadership and coordination efforts. Moreover, we also express our determination to redouble efforts aimed at positioning our Group of Friends as an active and key player at all relevant international forums and intergovernmental processes, including in the context of the General Assembly of the United Nations during its 78th Session, as part of our continued endeavors for ensuring respect for and adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, in both its letter and spirit.

31. We welcome the recent and successful activation of a Chapter in Geneva and stress our firm determination to continue ongoing efforts to positioning it as an active and key player, including on human rights-related issues, confident that it will provide added value to the critical deliberations and multiple intergovernmental processes held in Geneva. We note with interest the proposal to continue discussing the potential activation of new Chapters at other locations that host United Nations Offices and/or United Nations Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes, as part of ongoing efforts to achieve the core objective of our Group of Friends.

32. We renew our invitation to those members of the international community that are committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, with the values of dialogue, tolerance and solidarity, as well as to the strengthening and revitalization of an inclusive multilateralism, in which all regions and all States, small or large, are equally engaged alike, to consider joining our Group of Friends at their earliest convenience, for each national contribution is essential for achieving the goals that motivated the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 and for overcoming the current global multifaceted crisis, including the common challenges humanity as a whole is currently facing. We shall stand by one another, in solidarity and mutual support, in this noble endeavor.

New York, 22 September 2023

**Annex II to the letter dated 22 September 2023 from the
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Special declaration on decolonization and modern
neocolonial practices**

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, held on 22 September 2023, in New York, on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 78th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, we, representatives of Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe, declare the following:

1. We underline that the very existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, as well as its modern neocolonial practices, including economic exploitation, unilateral coercive measures, limitation of access to new technologies and other attempts to limit development, as well as attempts to eradicate variety of cultures and civilizations, and other forms of hegemonism and of colonial and neocolonial restraint of the freedom of national development, are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
2. We note that, while the United Nations has made great progress in the field of decolonization since its establishment in 1945, as demonstrated by the increase in the membership of the Organization over the past seventy-eight years, this task remains incomplete, as 17 Non-Self Governing Territories, plus the State of Palestine, a fellow member of our grouping, and Puerto Rico, still await on the international community to fulfil their promise of self-determination, equal rights, freedom and justice, as contained in the Charter of the United Nations.
3. We reaffirm our historic and principled positions on decolonization, including our full adherence to the provisions of the "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", which was adopted over sixty years ago, and our condemnation of any attempt to suppress the legitimate aspirations to self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, while further reaffirming our unwavering moral and political commitment with the full realization of the inalienable rights of the peoples of each and every Non-Self-Governing Territory, as well as with those in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and the Occupied Syrian Golan.
4. We regret that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2030, as called by General Assembly resolution [75/123](#) of 21 December 2021, have not been successful, and reiterate our conviction of the need to eradicate colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, which has been one of the top priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities.

5. We emphasize that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a major obstacle to the promotion of international peace and security. Therefore, we insist that any potential development of “A New Agenda for Peace” must recognize that the continued existence of colonialism has implications on the full and effective realization of the three pillars of the United Nations.

6. We remain conscious that the only way to move forward in this important field is through the active and meaningful engagement of all concerned parties, both Administering and Occupying Powers and Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this context, we urge Administering and Occupying Powers to renew their commitment and political will towards that end, in order to reach, once and for all, a fair and comprehensive solution to each of these pending questions.

7. We call on the international community to redouble their efforts in this field, in order to speed-up the pending processes of decolonization, taking into account, among others, the fact that the yearn for freedom and justice of millions of peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories have already been protracted for way too long, and particularly within the context of the Fourth International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism, which is scheduled to end in 2030, when the international community should have achieved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We further call for the seizing of such a synchrony, bearing in mind that colonialism adversely affects the economic and social development of peoples.

8. We reaffirm our responsibility, insofar as responsible members of the international community, as well as that of the United Nations, towards the people of the Western Sahara, Puerto Rico, Palestine, and the Syrian Golan, among others, and, in that context, we remain committed to promoting efforts that will enable them to fully exercise their inalienable rights, as foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations and, as applicable, in the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

9. We, in line with our principled and historic positions, reaffirm our firm commitment to the just cause of Palestine, as well as our unwavering solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle to achieve their inalienable rights, freedom and justice. We further reaffirm our full and continued support to all efforts aimed at ending the grave injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people since the 1948 *Nakba*. We also remain committed to strengthening our efforts, including active engagement in international initiatives, aimed at ending the Israeli occupation, which constitutes an illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime, and at achieving the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital; the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom; and a just and lasting solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees, in accordance with international law, the relevant UN resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations. We further reaffirm our support for the long-overdue admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member State of the United Nations and to enable it to take its rightful place among the community of nations.

10. We recall General Assembly resolution [77/125](#) and demand an end to all attempts aimed at changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure, and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and in particular, an end to the establishment of settlements.

11. We recall that the decolonization of Mauritius has not been lawfully completed and that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius. We further recall, in this context, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 73/295.

12. We call upon colonialist countries to assume their responsibilities for and pay full compensation for the economic, social and cultural consequences of their occupation, bearing in mind the right of all people who were or are still subjected to colonial rule or occupation to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation.

13. We further call on Administering and Occupying Powers to respect the inalienable right of all Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, as well as their right to establish and maintain control over their current and future exploitation. We also urge the Administering and Occupying Powers to avoid engaging in economic or other activities, including those of a military nature, that have the potential to negatively affect the interests and well-being of the peoples of said territories. We further call on Administering and Occupying Powers to refrain from any action that will impede or delay the completion of the processes of decolonization, in accordance with the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions.

14. We express our solidarity with those peoples around the world that have historically been subjected to years of exploitation and domination, particularly from foreign powers with colonial and supremacist mentalities, and including through the application of modern neocolonial practices, such as the plundering of natural resources. In this context, we make vows for their legitimate demands to be canalized in a peaceful and to be addressed in timely manner, confident that this shall enable them to realize their full potentials, as they struggle to fully pursue their respective national development plans.

15. We express our strong support to all the endeavors of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24), underline the necessity of reinforcing the importance of its decisions and urge Administering and Occupying Powers to support and fully cooperate with this important body in the fulfilment of its critical mandate.

16. We welcome, in this context, the offering of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a fellow member of our grouping, to host the 2024 Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24), and look forward to actively participating in it, with a view to ensuring its success.

17. We express our categorical rejection of the blatant and detrimental use of colonial and modern neocolonial practices in international relations, which include, among others, attempts to exert racial, cultural, economic, social and political domination, including through exploitation and discrimination, foreign occupation and policies of apartheid, external interference, as well as through other practices aimed at advancing perverse supremacist conceptions and at achieving the subjugation of others, which altogether impede the full socioeconomic development of subjected peoples and nations.

18. We further note that neocolonial practices may also include restrictions of opportunities for the development of States, limitation on access to new technologies, on the maintenance and widening technology gaps between

countries, as well as the disregard for market principles, including anti-market measures, among others, the attempts to substitute norms of international law, based on the tenets enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, with non-consensual so-called rules, the resort to unlawful unilateral coercive measures, the interference into the internal affairs of States, misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, inter alia, by exerting a monopoly in information and communication technologies and exercising political influence on mainstream social media platforms and on significant news broadcasting networks, as well as attempts to impose specific social, economic and political patterns of sovereign policies, plans and programs for national development, or the weaponization of human rights, of the economy and the international financial system.

19. We reaffirm that unilateral coercive measures, which are contrary to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to the norms of international law, can be defined as a new form of pretended domination and neocolonialism. We emphasize that such illegal measures, which have been exponentially increased over recent years, have become the preferred tool of certain governments for exerting pressure, particularly on developing countries and especially on those nations that have sovereignly and freely decided to control their own destiny, define their own systems and remain politically independent.

20. We stress our firm determination to continue participating in an active and constructive manner in all efforts aimed at advancing towards the achievement of a world free of colonialism and neocolonial practices, including through joint and concerted actions deployed within the context of the United Nations, as well as at raising awareness of the impact of colonialism, transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, which nowadays are amplified by an escalation and proliferation of modern neocolonial practices.

**Annex III to the letter dated 22 September 2023 from the
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Special declaration on food security

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, held on 22 September 2023, in New York, on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 78th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, we, representatives of Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe, declare the following:

1. We recognize the right to food and the right of everyone to be free from hunger an inalienable human right of each human being and, thus, reiterate our firm commitment to sparing no effort towards ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, in line with our relevant international commitments, including those derived from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with our respective national programs on this important field.
2. We recognize the multifaceted challenges the world is currently facing, including in the food security sector, with a significant increase in the number of severely food insecure peoples around the world and a real risk that multiple famines may be declared in the near future. We also acknowledge that this reality has been exacerbated, among others, by the worst pandemic humanity has faced in the past century, by the ongoing climate change, by growing inequalities and by conflicts, including those of a protracted nature.
3. We express our concern at the impact of current geopolitical tensions around the world on the ongoing global multifaceted crisis, particularly its effect on food and fertilizer and the increase on their prices, as well as on other commodities, goods and services necessary for ensuring, among others, the right to adequate food and the attainment of SDG 2 on "Ending Hunger, Achieving Food Security, Improving Nutrition and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture".
4. We denounce, once again, the continued, systematic and relentless promulgation, application and even expansion of unilateral coercive measures, which have no legal basis within the scope of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, constitute an affront, among others, to the right to food and development, and have a direct impact on the current state of food insecurity worldwide. We cannot overemphasize, in this context, the cruelty of these illegal measures, which seek, among others, to deprive entire populations from their means of subsistence, in flagrant violation of the basic norms of international law.
5. We stress that unilateral coercive measures will continue to cause and prolong human suffering around the world, unless a complete, immediate and unconditional end is put to such illegal measures, which would ultimately allow all nations – particularly those subjected to unilateral coercive measures –, without discrimination or limitation of any sort, to fully pursue their productive potentials and to therefore contribute to overcoming current challenges in the food security sector, including through the stabilization of certain basic commodity prices, including food and fertilizers.

6. We also stress, in this context, that the continued application of unilateral coercive measures makes it nearly impossible, among others, to purchase equipment, software or hardware and spare parts or to ensure the transfer of technology needed for the agricultural and food industry development and production by the nations subjected to such measures. We highlight, in addition, the extraterritorial implications and the impact of unilateral coercive measures on third parties and nations, which have reduced legal trade with targeted States, in fear of being subjected to secondary-sanctions, as registered in the 2023 Global Report on Food Crisis; a reality that has ultimately further exacerbated the current global food insecurity crisis. We emphasize, in this context, the strategic importance of facilitating steady access to agricultural inputs, on ensuring global food security.

7. We emphasize that food shall not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. Similarly, we also emphasize that unilateral coercive measures shall not be used as a tactic of warfare, for the purpose of inflicting starvation or the extermination of entire peoples, including through the deprivation of access to food, as a direct result of the application of such illegal measures.

8. We recall that the World Health Organization (WHO) has acknowledged that the application of unilateral coercive measures put at risk global food security. We also recall the joint statement issued in July 2022 by the Heads of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in which they affirmed that such kind of restrictive measures only contribute, among others, to the rise of food prices, as well as to a rise in hunger and malnutrition. We thus emphasize that the elimination of unilateral coercive measures would contribute towards ongoing international efforts to address the current global food security crisis.

9. We urge the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to urgently assess, address and produce a briefing on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the food security dimension of the current global crisis.

10. We recognize that the global food market has long faced problems; such as, monopoly of pricing power by major grain dealers, structural imbalance in production and supply chains, and high monetization of agriculture products. We, therefore, highlight the need to improve the global food and agriculture governance system, focusing on increasing the representation, voice and decision-making power of developing countries, removing the restrictions of unilateral coercive measures on food and fertilizers' production and exports, and working together to build a safe, stable, unimpeded, efficient, open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial food supply chain system, as well as a fairer and more reasonable international food trade order.

11. We stress that the path for successfully addressing and overcoming the current challenges in the food security sector is not the continued application of unilateral coercive measures or their expansion, nor the imposition of unjustified and arbitrary trade restrictions, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, but the adoption of joint, effective, inclusive and innovative measures that, in strict adherence to the very tenets of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, allow us together to surpass, through greater solidarity and cooperation, such a generational challenge that, be it for scarcity or inflation, threatens us all today, particularly hundreds of millions of people in the developing world.

12. We commit ourselves to accelerating actions aimed at ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and towards the realization of the right to adequate food, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods all year round, the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. We also commit ourselves to keep trade channels and markets open for the movement of food, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs and outputs, while recognizing the importance of shorter supply chains at the local levels.

13. We also commit ourselves to promoting greater cooperation, capacity-building and solidarity, as well as an expansion and deepening of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, for the sake of strengthening national capacities and supporting States in their national efforts to address, among others, extreme food price volatility. In this context, we highlight the relevance and timeliness of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), presented by the People's Republic of China, as well as the upcoming launch of China's Plan to Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, within the framework of the Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture. We also highlight the relevance of the most recent offering of the Russian Federation to donate thousands of tons of grain to a number of countries, particularly in Africa. We look forward to additional long-term initiatives aimed at meeting the needs and ensuring the food security of the peoples of the Global South.

14. We call for the promotion of new research, the development and transfer of the necessary technologies, and access to the existing ones, particularly in the area of food and nutrition, in order to contribute to the attainment of SDG 2 on "Ending Hunger, Achieving Food Security, Improving Nutrition and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture", and the overall achievement of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, human wellbeing and sustainable development.

15. As part of ongoing efforts at all levels aimed at achieving zero hunger, we stress the importance of transforming Food Systems, so they be people-centered, as well as more sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient, taking advantage of agricultural innovations and modern-day technology developments in this field. We stress, in this context, the importance of building Food Systems that take into account environmental concerns, and that can ultimately ensure that peoples have access to affordable, nutritious and safe food wherever they live. However, we emphasize that, in order to effectively advance towards that end, it is of utmost importance to provide access to adequate, predictable and sustainable access to financing and means of implementation, as well as debt treatment, coupled with the removal of any limitations that may be currently in place, to developing countries, in order to ensure that they are in a position to make proper and sufficient long-term investment in their national Food Systems. We renew our commitment with this important goal, convinced that sustainable agriculture and Food Systems are key drivers of sustainable development.

16. We stress the importance of providing necessary and predictable funding, especially from developed countries, for United Nations Funds, Programs and Specialized Agencies concerned with the protection and promotion of food security. In this regard, we express our deep concern about the scarcity of donor funding for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the World Food Program (WFP), which threatens the achievement, among others, SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, while exposing certain developing countries to crises of food insecurity. We call for the strengthening of development and humanitarian cooperation, as well as for the provision of emergency and urgent funding to respond to the needs of the

most vulnerable, while stressing the importance of ensuring full adherence to the guiding principles for the provision of humanitarian assistance, as outlined in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#), and the need to count on the consent of the concerned State.

17. We emphasize that, within the context of the urgent and decisive measures and strategies that must be collectively adopted for overcoming the food insecurity dimension of the current global crisis, all States, small or large, shall be engaged alike, in order to be part of the solution. We stress that each national contribution is essential in this common endeavor and that all responsible members of the international community, particularly those from our Group of Friends, shall remain ready to do their part, including on the basis of the potential they each may have for contributing in the field of production and export of grains and fertilizers, among others.

**Annex IV to the letter dated 22 September 2023 from the
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Special declaration on the negative impact of unilateral
coercive measures**

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, held on 22 September 2023, in New York, on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 78th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, we, representatives of Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe, declare the following:

1. We express our categorical rejection of all unilateral coercive measures, including those applied as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular, but not exclusively, against developing countries, and, in this context, reiterate our unwavering support and solidarity with nations and peoples subjected to such measures – especially with those that are part of our grouping –, which violate both the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the basic norms of international law, while renewing our principled call for their complete, immediate and unconditional lifting.
2. We insist that unilateral coercive measures have created a systemic crisis into the entire system of international relations that continues to erode multilateralism, while increasing uncertainty, instability, mistrust and tensions around the world. In this regard, we express our serious concern at a new generation of these illegal measures, which are now much more cruel and destructive than ever before, using the pain and suffering they deliberately cause as a means for advancing interventionist and destabilization agendas.
3. We highlight the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, particularly on the enjoyment and the full realization of human rights, including, among others, the right to development, food and health. As such, unilateral coercive measures constitute themselves into a direct and deliberate attack on development, representing today the greatest obstacle to the implementation of the development plans of nations subjected to such illegal measures, including for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – which emphatically calls upon States “to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries” – and the attainment of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We insist, in this context, that unilateral coercive measures pose, among others, barriers to the procurement of goods and services, financial and technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building, which are critical, including in the context of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.
4. We stress that these illegal measures, which affect the daily life of over one third of humanity, particularly of those in more vulnerable situations, in more than thirty countries around the world, constitute themselves into crimes against humanity and mass violations of human rights, as they clearly seek to deprive entire populations of their means of subsistence. We highlight, in this

context, that unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope, far-reaching nature and the ineffectiveness of the so-called “humanitarian exemptions”, generate untold suffering on entire peoples and can be as lethal as weapons used in conventional warfare, an unfortunate reality that demonstrate that they can be part of the means used to either induce, escalate and prolong conflicts worldwide. We note that unilateral coercive measures may also have a negative impact on peoples in countries different to those subjected to these measures.

5. We stress that unilateral coercive measures, given their wide scope, extraterritorial implications and systemic nature, are deliberately exacerbating the multifaceted crisis humanity is facing today, including its energy and food security dimensions, and will continue not only to negatively impact the global economy as a whole, but also cause and prolong human suffering around the world, unless a complete and immediate end is put to all these illegal measures, that would then allow all nations, without limitation or discrimination of any sort, to fully pursue their productive potentials and contribute to overcoming current challenges, including through the stabilization of commodity prices, including energy, food and fertilizers, among others.

6. We express our serious concern at the continued, systematic, relentless, unprecedented and ever-increasing promulgation, implementation and expansion of unilateral coercive measures, a practice that decouples and severs supply chains, disrupts the market order and threatens multilateralism, violating the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations, and detrimentally impacting freedom of global trade, investment and development. We call on responsible members of the international community to uphold true multilateralism and to firmly reject unilateral coercive measures, to commit to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to building a community with a shared future for humankind.

7. In the absence of their elimination, and cognizant of their impediments, among others, on the ability to freely carry out commerce and investment amongst independent and sovereign nations, we express our commitment to a multilateral system anchored on the Charter of the United Nations, as well as our determination to explore potential ways and means to secure a framework or platform that is truly independent and respectful of international law, for carrying out financial transactions and payments between banks worldwide; that is, to establish a safe zone, free of unilateral sanctions, in which we can trade and process payments without hazards or arbitrary impediments of a punitive nature, with the purpose of ensuring both the wellbeing of our peoples and the development of our nations.

8. We acknowledge the legitimate claims, in accordance with the relevant norms of international law, by the affected States, whether directly or indirectly, and particularly of States and individuals specifically targeted, by unilateral coercive measures, for compensation for the damages incurred as a consequence of the existence, promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures, including as a result of the phenomenon known as overcompliance and of their extraterritoriality, which have reduced trade between targeted and non-targeted nations, in fear of the latter from being subjected to the so-called secondary-sanctions. We stand with them in solidarity as they pursue such efforts.

9. We encourage those in a position to do so to make greater use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a source of interpretation of relevant norms of international law and to consider, as and when appropriate, requesting Advisory Opinions to the ICJ on cases in which unilateral coercive measures,

which are promulgated and applied in violation of international law, may undermine international peace and security.

10. We call for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all unilateral coercive measures targeting the Republic of Belarus, its individuals and legal entities. We note, in this context, that the illegal and harmful practice of unilateral coercive measures, carried out in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, represents, among others, a disregard for the principles of equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, aimed at denying the sovereign right of the subjected country to development and of its citizens to exercise their inalienable rights.

11. We, in line with our historic and principled positions, express our unwavering solidarity with the people and government of the Republic of Cuba, which has heroically endured the negative impact of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on it by the United States of America for over sixty years, representing the single major impediment for its full economic and social development, and urge the government of the United States of America to immediately, completely and unconditionally put an end to the blockade against Cuba, while looking forward to concrete measures that could foster an environment conducive to the reengagement into a political and diplomatic process towards the normalization of bilateral relations. We also strongly reject the drafting of unilateral lists of States that allegedly sponsor international terrorism and the arbitrary and unjustified inclusion of Cuba in such an illegitimate list, whose negative effects include the worsening of obstacles to financial transactions. We, thus, demand the termination of these illegal and unilateral acts, as well as the complete exclusion of Cuba from that list.

12. We express our unwavering support for and solidarity with the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, subjected to unilateral coercive measures, including unilateral sanctions imposed by certain countries, which violate the Charter of the United Nations and the rules and principles of international law, while seriously threatening the full enjoyment of their human rights and the realization of their right to development. We further call for the “lifting of all such unilateral measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iranian nationals and companies”, as recommended by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights in her report to the Human Rights Council on 17 August 2022 ([A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#)), pursuant to her official country visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran from 07 through 18 May 2022.

13. We also reaffirm our strongest rejection and condemnation of the imposition of illegal sanctions, unilateral coercive measures against the People and Government of Nicaragua, and of aggressions that have a negative impact on the development and prosperity of the country. In this sense, we demand the immediate end of such sanctions.

14. We recognize that unilateral coercive measures against the Russian Federation and the overcompliance phenomenon on them constitute examples of the negative impact of such illegal measures on the global food security and global access to energy, due to disruptions of global supply chains.

15. We express our profound support and solidarity with the People and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in the face of the continued application of unilateral coercive measures, which exacerbate the already deteriorating humanitarian situation due to the terrorist war that was imposed on Syria over the past years. The phenomenon known as overcompliance with these measures, exercised by some countries, deprive the Syrian people from many basic needs,

including food, medicine, medical and health care supplies, and electricity, which disproportionately affect women, children and the elderly. These illegal measures also exacerbate the suffering of the Syrian people, following the catastrophe caused by the devastating earthquake that hit Syria on 06 February 2023, and hindered the access of heavy machinery required to save those trapped under the rubbles. We call for the immediate, full, and unconditioned lifting of these measures imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, as recommended, among others, by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights in her report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/54/23/Add.1](#)), following her official country-visit to the Syrian Arab Republic from 31 October through 10 November 2022.

16. We reject the illegal promulgation and implementation of over 900 unilateral coercive measures of an economic, financial and commercial nature against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which, apart from affecting the full enjoyment of human rights of the Venezuelan people, have resulted in both human and economic losses, as well as in the confiscation and pillage of Venezuelan financial resources and assets abroad. We deplore these illegal, unjustified and disproportionate measures, and join the Venezuelan people and the overwhelming majority of the international community in demanding their complete, immediate and unconditional derogation.

17. We also call for the immediate and unconditional removal of the illegal and unwarranted unilateral coercive measures imposed against the Republic of Zimbabwe after its historic land reform programme, aimed at distributing land to the previously excluded majority, and reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the heroic people of Zimbabwe.

18. We firmly call on States to refrain from promulgating and/or implementing unilateral coercive measures as a political means, including within the context of bilateral relations, with the purpose of, among others, exerting pressure or forcing the sovereign will of another State, including as part of regime-change policies, while urging for political relationships to be based on mutual respect and equal footing, in line with the principle of sovereign equality of States, as foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations.

19. We express our profound appreciation and recognition of Ms. Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, for all her efforts in the fulfillment of the critical mandate entrusted upon her by the Human Rights Council, including for her annual thematic reports and the operationalization of the “Sanctions Research Platform”, and stress our firm political commitment and readiness to continue supporting her endeavors, including within the context of official missions to countries that may be affected either directly or indirectly by the application of unilateral coercive measures.

20. We remain committed to continue organizing events aimed at raising awareness and highlighting the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, among others, on human rights and development, including on the margins of the General Assembly of the United Nations. In this context, we reiterate our resolution to ensuring that, at its upcoming 78th Session, the General Assembly of the United Nations holds a plenary debate on the agenda item entitled “Elimination of Unilateral Extraterritorial Economic Measures as a Means of Political and Economic Compulsion”, to shed light on the detrimental impact of said illegal measures. We express our firm determination to make all possible efforts, mindful of the importance we attach to this matter, to have this item considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations on an annual basis.