

17 April 2025

**POLITICAL DECLARATION FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF NATIONAL
COORDINATORS OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS IN DEFENSE OF THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

1. We, the National Coordinators of the members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, met in Moscow, Russian Federation, in order to discuss ways and means to advance our common endeavors, aimed at preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, both in its letter and spirit, and to further improve our coordination on issues of common interest and concern.
2. We reiterate our full commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
3. We emphasize that all principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations must be respected and carried out in full and with due regard to their interconnected nature.
4. We note that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Second World War and condemn attempts to rewrite history, glorify Nazism or disgrace the memory of those who fought in the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition stressing that the Victory over Nazism laid the foundation for the establishment of the United Nations 80 years ago and drawing attention to the inextricable link between the two anniversaries.
5. We acknowledge that the current world order is facing a multifaceted crisis, which manifests itself in global fragmentation, credibility gap, polarization and inability to address the emerging threats in a timely and efficient manner. Some features of the crisis are reinforced by some countries that try to rule the world by eroding the basis of multilateralism and sustainable development. The emerging challenges to multilateralism cannot create a pretext or the conditions for its erosion.
6. We emphasize that the ongoing crisis of multilateralism is largely rooted in the attempts by certain UN members to substitute international law with a so-called “rules-based world order”, which undermines the integrity of the Charter of the United Nations and impedes genuine multilateralism.
7. We commend the emergence of new centers of power in the Global South, which play an ever-increasing role in international relations and aspire towards building a truly democratic and multipolar world. The polycentric development pattern considerably expands opportunity for sovereign nations to enjoy mutually beneficial and equitable cooperation.
8. We emphasize the need to establish a world, where all different approaches, visions and models available to each country are equally recognized.
9. We emphasize that a fundamental cause of the unjust and unequal world in which we live is the lack of political will of developed countries to assume their historical responsibilities, as well as the persistent failure to fulfill their international legal obligations and commitments. Therefore, we emphasize the urgency for developed countries to renew their previous commitments, largely unfulfilled and ignored, and make new commitments to reverse the socioeconomic and digital divide between developed and developing countries and allow for just transitions pathways.
10. We reject “peace through force” approaches used for some countries to expand their hegemonic economic and political powers, threatening global peace, security and stability. A peaceful world, we emphasize, requires all countries and peoples recognizing themselves as part of a larger community united by a shared future.

11. We reiterate the determination of our Group of Friends to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations, strengthen its authority and restore its central role in coordinating the actions of States, as it was envisioned by the founders of the Organization.

12. We reiterate that the efficiency of the United Nations to successfully tackle contemporary and emerging challenges depends on the political will of its members and their ability to reach consensus and, thus, we stress the importance of resuming the practice of genuine engagements, which is at the core of true multilateralism, ensuring the equitable inclusion of the voices of developing countries in decision-making processes.

13. We underline the need to take further steps in our joint fight against colonialism and neocolonial practices, in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 79/115, entitled “Eradication of Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations”, adopted on 4 December 2024, and proposed by our Group of Friends, paving the way towards a more just multipolar world, that will provide conditions for the comprehensive and sovereign development of States, without any form of coercion. It is critical resisting relations of domination that emerged and were propagated in colonial eras and persist over time. Decolonizing mindsets, narratives and practices around the world is of utmost urgency, prioritizing worldviews, systems of knowledge, and ways of living toward a peaceful, just, equal, inclusive and sustainable world.

14. We condemn the attempts by some to unilaterally grant themselves rights that undermine the rights of other countries and their peoples, including the right to development. We pledge our commitment, in this context, to expediting the ongoing process towards the adoption of a legally binding instrument on the inalienable right to development of our peoples.

15. We reiterate that one of the principal purposes of the United Nations, as expressed in its founding Charter, is to maintain international peace and security. While mourning the tragic loss of life throughout the Ukraine’s crisis, we acknowledge the adoption of the Security Council resolution 2774 (2025) and underline the importance of a sustained and lasting peace to the crisis, in particular by addressing its root causes.

16. We express our grave concern over the prolonged bloodshed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and, thus, renew our firm commitment to the just and comprehensive settlement to the cause of Palestine, as well as our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle to achieve their inalienable rights, freedom and justice.

17. We reiterate our principled stance and call for an immediate, unconditional, permanent and fully respected ceasefire in Gaza and other areas under attack by Israel, as well as for the observance and full compliance with international law, relevant agreements and UN resolutions. We also call for the release of all hostages and detainees, while also facilitating the rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all those in need.

18. We recognize UNRWA’s decades-long contribution to the wellbeing, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees. We express our serious concern at the legislative measures taken by Israel on the termination of any sort of cooperation with the Agency, which breaches, among others, Israel’s obligations as an Occupying Power under international humanitarian law. We reject any attempt aimed at preventing UNRWA from implementing its mandate and effectively continuing its essential work on the ground, and we condemn Israel’s deliberate attacks on the Agency’s personnel and premises, including the killing of approximately 300 staff members and causing destruction to its facilities, including hundreds of schools, which had to be turned into refugee camps.

19. We also highlight that without ensuring Palestinian fundamental rights for self-determination, independence and return to their homeland, there will be no lasting and stable peace in the region. In this regard, we 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 illegal Israeli occupation and at achieving the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem / Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital; the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom; and 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, enabling the realization of the independence of a sovereign Palestinian State, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

20. We condemn all unilateral and unlawful Israeli steps aimed at creating “facts on the ground”, including, inter alia, through the building of settlements and the announcement of plans on formal annexation of Palestinian territory in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

21. We express our serious concern at the continued attempts of Israel, the Occupying Power, to ignite and explode the Middle East region, as demonstrated, among others, by its reiterated gross violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and coupled with its provocations and violations against countries in the region, in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, we reiterate the positions contained and further elaborated in the Special Communiqués adopted by our grouping in recent months, including on the continued attacks and threats against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran from both regional and extra-regional actors, which undermine international peace and security and the rule of law at the international level.

22. We reiterate that unilateral coercive measures constitute flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international law. We stress that unilateral coercive measures threaten international legal and economic order, inter alia, by hindering international cooperation, trade and investment, and undermining the right and freedom of States to engage in international economic cooperation, and to choose the forms of organization of their foreign economic relations, while such unlawful measures also infringe upon the sovereign and inalienable right of States to choose their economic system without coercion, or threat in any form.

23. We express our serious concerns that unilateral coercive measures have also serious negative humanitarian impacts including by impeding the access of affected population to medicine, medical services and equipment and other essential commodities, and further express our serious concerns that unilateral coercive measures have inflicted and continue to inflict severe conditions of life upon the whole population of targeted States and violate and deprive them of, among others, the right to life and the right to health.

24. We urge States to refrain from recognition, giving effect to, providing aid or assistance or otherwise from engaging in any other measure or activity that may facilitate in any manner the adoption, promulgation or application of such unlawful measures. We highlight that States responsible for imposing unilateral coercive measures, in particular against Member States of our Grouping, must cease forthwith these unlawful measures, while providing appropriate guarantees and assurances of non-repetition, as well as reparations for all damages, injuries and losses incurred and inflicted upon targeted States and their people as a result of such internationally wrongful acts. In this context

and in line with our principled positions, as elaborated in previous outcome documents, we renew our firm support and solidarity with the peoples and government of Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe on their struggles to defeat the detrimental impact of unilateral coercive measures imposed on their nations, in order to ensure the wellbeing of their peoples and the development of their countries. We also reaffirm the Special Communiqué issued on 23 January 2025, demanding the removal of Cuba from the list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, which has reinforced the negative effects of the criminal and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against the Cuban people.

25. We renew our determination to advancing the global campaign in favor of the complete, immediate and unconditional lifting of all unilateral coercive measures, which counts on the support of the overwhelming majority of the international community. In this context, we also express our determination to join efforts leading to the establishment of an “International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures”, which shall serve, among others, as an important date to raise awareness on the negative impacts of such illegal measures.

26. We express our grave concern at ongoing attempts to undermine the multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, underpinned by the principles of universality, openness, transparency, predictability, inclusiveness, non-discrimination, equitableness, as well as the one referred to special and differential treatment, through the indiscriminate weaponization of trade instruments, such as tariffs. We emphasize that trade wars produce no winners and have the potential to result in global recession, further aggravating the current global challenges and crises, while having a particular detrimental impact on the most vulnerable developing countries, and, thus, call for an immediate end to unilateral measures and bullying practices, anchored in both supremacist and exceptionalist approaches, aimed at both exerting subjugation and domination and also hampering the sustainable development of targeted nations, for the sake of advancing non-trade-related agendas. We caution that, in the current context, tariffs will have a severe impact on both targeted nations and the international trade system, particularly on the right to development of countries from the Global South.

27. We recognize that human mobility is a complex issue that requires enhanced and sustained cooperation at the global level and note that international migration has been fostered by external factors, including the illegal application of unilateral coercive measures. We also recognize the importance of observing human rights obligations related to migrants and, in this context, express our deep concern at the increasing attempts of certain Western countries to both criminalize and securitize this phenomenon, including through mass deportation programs and the forced transfer of migrants in mass, in clear and flagrant violation of their most basic rights and human dignity, often resulting, among others, in the separation of families, exposure to violence, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, and deprivation of essential services. We therefore renew our categorical rejection of discriminatory, racist and xenophobic practices and, in this context, call for migration to be addressed through cooperative approaches that prioritize their protection and dignity.

28. We reaffirm our commitment and readiness to expand the scope of activity of the Group of Friends, as well as its list of members and venues for coordination and dialogue.

29. We, as part of our ongoing efforts to achieve the core objectives of our Group of Friends, particularly beyond New York and Geneva, and determined to further strengthen our coordination at all relevant fora, decide to elevate our coordinating efforts within the framework of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), building, among others, on the commonalities of our principled positions on inclusive and sustainable development, and, as such, to move towards the establishment of a Chapter in Vienna for that purpose.

30. We express our appreciation and gratitude to the People and Government of the Russian Federation for their generous and kind hospitality, as well as for the excellent organization and all efforts put for ensuring the success of the Third Meeting of National Coordinators of the Group of Friends in the Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

31. We renew our firm determination to maintain close coordination, including through the network of National Coordinators, in order to achieve the objectives of the Group of Friends in the Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

Moscow, 15 April 2025