

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Hector Constant-Rosales, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, composed by Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Laos, Mali, Nicaragua, State of Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Venezuela at the 67^o meeting of the Executive Council under agenda item three: Request by the Islamic Republic of Iran as contained in its Note Verbale No. 2535760.

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, composed by Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Laos, Mali, Nicaragua, State of Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Venezuela. We reiterate our categorical condemnation and denunciation in the strongest possible terms of the unprovoked and premeditated heinous attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran initiated on 13 June 2025, which resulted, among others, in the killing and injury of hundreds of civilians, including women and children, as well as Iranian scientists, university professors and high-ranking military officials, including the Commanders of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, some of them along with the members of their family while in their residence.
2. Similarly, we express our categorical condemnation and denounce in the strongest possible terms the airstrikes conducted by the United States of America, in coordination with Israel, on 22 June 2025, against three (03) peaceful Iranian nuclear facilities, in Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz, which represent an irresponsible escalation of the situation on the ground.
3. In this context, we express our unwavering solidarity with the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran – a fellow and founding member of the grouping – in the midst of the hostilities and heinous attacks against its sovereignty, and renew our call for an immediate end to the threats of use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran, while reiterating the content of the Special Communiqués issued by our grouping on 14 and 23 June 2025, respectively, on this subject.

Mr. President,

4. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations strongly condemns such deliberate attacks of Israel, which has been carried out against civilians, as well as civilian populated areas, where millions of civilians reside. They stress that the persistent, systematic and widespread targeting of women and children, infliction of grievous bodily harm and leveling military attacks on residential area, civilian objects and properties by Israel throughout its criminal acts in the region, including its recent attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, puts

in evidence, yet again, the total disregard of Israel to any law or norm and the *mens rea* in committing brutal crimes.

5. Moreover, the Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations stress that this reprehensible attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental principles of international law, including sovereignty, territorial integrity and the prohibition of threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of States, international human rights law, while grossly violates the fundamental rights, in particular the right to life and the right to health. *A fortiori*, these heinous attacks are a stark violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, among others.

Mr. President,

6. In connection with the U.S. airstrikes registered on 22 June 2025, we note that, on the one hand, they represent a deliberate violation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the most basic principles of international law, including the prohibition of threat or use of force, and, on the other one, that they constitute a blatant violation of the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the protection entailed to peaceful nuclear sites, particularly those under safeguards of and monitoring by the IAEA.
7. In this regard, we strongly condemn the targeting of peaceful and safeguarded nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States of America, in coordination with Israel, and express our grave concern over the reckless attacks, which pose severe risks of radioactive and chemical contamination with dire consequences for humans and the environment, extending beyond national borders.
8. Similarly, we condemn the targeting of the Shahid Meysami Group and other chemical and petrochemical facilities, which could result in the release of toxic chemicals, risking human and the environmental devastation. We emphasize, in this context, that decades after the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the international community shall not tolerate any threat of chemical weapons.

Mr. President,

9. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations cautions against the acquiescence and omission of the United Nations and the international community in the face of such persistent brutal attacks of Israel in the region and recalls that inaction and failure to act against such gross violations of Israel would erode the rule of law at the international level and undermine the credibility of the multilateral system, while normalizing its further commission of egregious crimes.

10. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations highlight that such blatant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and brutal attacks by Israel, which constitute serious threats to the regional and international peace and security, must be condemned unequivocally by all. In this regard, they underline that double-standards and selectivity in upholding the principles of international law, including the prohibition of threat or use of force, would corrode the integrity and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, setting a dangerous precedence for lawlessness.
11. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, in this context, also highlights the responsibility of international organizations in upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the norms of international law, by rejecting such deliberate and blatant use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We underline, to that end, the exclusive responsibility of the OPCW in the verification of chemical activities, as well as its obligations to promote the safety and security of chemical facilities.

Mr. President,

12. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations express their serious concern at the continued crimes committed by Israel to ignite and explode the Middle East region, as demonstrated, among others, by its reiterated gross violations of international law, coupled with its provocations and violations against countries in the region, which demonstrates its intent to escalate tensions on the ground and its responsibilities for the consequences thereof.
13. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations recalls the obligations of States under international law to refrain from any willful aid or assistance to Israel in its brutal commission of such heinous crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran and any other nations in the region, while highlighting the inherent right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to self-defense under international law, as well as the pressing need for international community to hold Israel accountable for all its crimes against the Palestinian People and the region as a whole.
14. At last, we request that this statement be considered as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW catalyst and public website.

I thank you, Mr. President.