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Strengthening of the United Nations system

**Letter dated 29 September 2021 from the Representatives of
Algeria, Angola, Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia,
Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of
Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran,
the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian
Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Syrian Arab
Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the State of
Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

We have the honour to address Your Excellency with the opportunity of informing you that on 23 September 2021 the “Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations” held its first ministerial meeting in New York on the margins of the high-level week of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In this regard, we are pleased to transmit herewith a copy of the political declaration adopted at that time, which was endorsed by the States of the representatives who are signatories to the present letter, and which remains open to other States that may be interested in endorsing it (see annex).

We respectfully request that your good offices circulate this communication and its annex among the Member States of the Organization and issue them as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 124.

(Signed) Sofiane **Mimouni**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Algeria

(Signed) Maria de Jesus dos Reis **Ferreira**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Angola

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Belarus



(Signed) Diego **Pary Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

(Signed) Sovann **Ke**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cambodia

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China

(Signed) Pedro Luis **Pedroso Cuesta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba

(Signed) Song **Kim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

(Signed) Anatolio **Ndong Mba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea

(Signed) Sophia **Tesfamariam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Eritrea

(Signed) Majid **Takht Ravanchi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

(Signed) Anouparb **Vongnorkeo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

(Signed) Jaime **Hermida Castillo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua

(Signed) Vasily A. **Nebenzia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

(Signed) Bassam **Sabbagh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

(Signed) Riyadh H. **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine

Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2021 from the Representatives of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political declaration adopted during the first meeting of the "Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations"

1. We, representatives of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the State of Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, and Venezuela, met at the ministerial level, in New York, on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 76th 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 underpins multilateralism, and to exchange views on existing, new, and emerging issues of collective concern and common interest.
2. We recall the declaration adopted on 06 July 2021, in New York, at the ambassadorial level, and reaffirm that the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes and principles 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 all human rights for all, but also for achieving a more peaceful, prosperous, just and equitable world, and a system based, precisely, on the rules contained in that universal and legally binding instrument that constitutes an exceptional achievement for humankind and a true act of faith on the best of humanity.
3. We vow to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations, which, in the current international juncture, has a renewed and even more important value and relevance. In this regard, we express our resolve to expand the work of our Group of Friends beyond the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, particularly at the Offices of the United Nations in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, as well as at the Headquarters of other UN Specialized Agencies, in order to advance our joint efforts for ensuring the respect and adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, in both its letter and spirit.
4. We express our serious concern at the growing resort to unilateralism, in detriment not only of multilateralism, but also of international cooperation and solidarity, which must be deepened now more than ever, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to forge collective, inclusive and effective solutions to the common challenges and threats of a 21st century of interconnectedness. Hence, while renewing our firm commitment with a reinvigorated multilateralism that shall have the United Nations at its centre, we convey our support to nations and peoples subjected to unilateral and arbitrary approaches that violate both the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms of international law, and renew our call for the full respect to the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, as well as the territorial integrity and political independence of all nations.

5. We invite those members of the international community that are committed with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, with the prevalence of legality over force, with the values of dialogue, tolerance and solidarity, as well as with an effective and inclusive multilateralism, in which all regions and all size of States are equal and engaged alike, to consider joining our Group of Friends and/or endorsing this Declaration at their earliest convenience, as part of our common efforts to advance our common agenda and to ultimately keep delivering on the promise of the Charter of the United Nations and ensuring that no one is left behind.

New York, 23 September 2021
