

## **Statement by FM Osman Saleh at Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter**



**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

Let me first congratulate the Group for convening the fourth Ministerial Meeting and the Political Declaration and pertinent Special Declarations. My deepest gratitude further goes to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its tireless efforts in steering our work and for graciously hosting us at its esteemed Mission.

**Excellencies,**

The Fourth Ministerial Meeting of our Group of Friends in the Defense of the UN Charter is taking place at a critical moment when the lofty ideals of the UN Charter, principles of international law, and the notion of multilateralism have been intentionally undermined by unilateral coercive measures and unbridled exceptionalism. The erosion of these principles contravenes the sovereign equality of nations as envisioned in the UN Charter. These illegal and arbitrary

measures are inherently designed to subdue nations, foment chaos, and impoverish societies.

The inequalities and injustices created under the existing order are deeply rooted in the very exploitative nature of such a hegemonic global system. To make matters worse, the dangers of climate change and global pandemics are also aggravating human and socio-economic calamities.

### **Excellencies,**

Against this backdrop, it is incumbent upon us to endeavor to counter the dangers posed by weathering legacies of the so-called ‘uni-polar’ global order through a comprehensive strategy anchored on the ideals of the UN Charter and multilateralism.

The vision and actions of our Group of Friends need to be cogently articulated and executed. Sovereign equality, independence, territorial integrity, and non-interference should be resolutely upheld. The core purposes of the Charter – international peace and security, development, and human rights – equally remain crucial, indivisible, and indispensable in realizing the collective aspirations of humanity. Thus, the existing global order and its institutional architecture need sweeping and fundamental transformation. To this effect, a clear vision and coordinated programs of action need to be set out.

### **Excellencies,**

The Group of Friends has so far managed to galvanize the requisite groundwork for future collective endeavors, wherein the level of commitment and goodwill of member States is of essential imperative. As the global order is transitioning to the inevitable multipolar system, the role and responsibility of our Group can’t be understated. We should uphold the promotion of a just, inclusive, equitable, and peaceful global order that negates the self-professed “rules-based order”.

A qualitative expansion of our membership remains crucial to strengthening and deepening our work. The activation of the Chapter in Geneva is very welcome,

as it will promote the objectives and program of work of the Group to a wider scope.

Finally, I would like to assure you of Eritrea's commitment to upholding the objectives of our Group of Friends and deepening its partnership with fellow member states to promote collective interests.

**Thank You!**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, New York**