



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL FORUM
ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

New York, 05 September 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, we would like to convey, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for having convened this High-Level Forum on such an important issue as the Culture of Peace, in line with the provisions of resolution 72/137, which was welcomed by our Movement along with the efforts made by the UN and its Member States on the Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.
3. Similarly, we would like to thank the Secretary-General and Dr. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, for their presence today and their much valuable remarks.

Mr. President,

4. The Culture of Peace has always been at the core of the work of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), taking into account the fact that our main goal is nothing more but to establish a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order. Just last November 2017 we convened a High-Level Meeting under the theme “Solidarity, Dialogue and Tolerance in a Diverse World: Towards a Culture of Peace” and later this month a Ministerial Meeting has been convened under the theme “Upholding the UN Charter and the Purposes and Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): Towards a Culture of Peace”. We truly believe that the consolidation of a culture of peace around the world is in the best interest of humanity and future generations, reason for which we should spare no effort in advancing in this field.
5. Moreover, during the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers noted that the world today is composed of States with diverse political, economic, social and cultural systems and



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religions determined by their history, traditions, values and cultural diversity, whose stability can be guaranteed by the universal recognition of their right to freely determine their own approach towards progressive development. In this context, they emphasized that respect for the diversity of such systems and approaches is a core value which relations and cooperation among States in an increasingly globalizing world should be based on, with the aim of contributing to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order.

6. As noted in the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”. Therefore, today the Member States of the Movement reaffirm their full commitment with all the values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individual groups and nations.

Mr. President,

7. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stresses the importance of promoting a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter, and full realization of all human rights, including the right to development.
8. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement recall that, as recognized in resolution 72/136, interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute an important dimension of dialogue among civilizations and of a culture of peace. Therefore, we reiterate the importance of promoting full respect of all religions and cultures among all States, with a view to promoting and ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, while preventing abuses and incitement to religious hatred that could contribute to undermining the ongoing efforts to foster a culture of peace based on mutual respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and civilizations, as provided for in the international human rights instruments to which States are parties.
9. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), underscores the fact that there cannot be development without peace. Therefore, we reaffirm our commitment to ensure that the promotion of a culture of peace at the national, regional, continental and global level be a powerful enabler towards achieving the goals espoused in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and invite Member States to continue to place greater



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



emphasis on and expanding their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels, and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels, which would also in turn contribute towards sustaining peace, security and development.

I thank you, Mr. President.