



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. FELIX PLASENCIA,
VICEMINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE 45th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC
COOPERATION (OIC)**

Dhaka, 05-06 May 2018

**H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,
H.E. Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire and Chair of
the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers,
H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh,
H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen, Secretary-General of the OIC,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is a great honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to address this 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, allow me to thank the honorable Government of Bangladesh and the Secretariat of the OIC for their kind invitation to participate in this important Summit, and to express our gratitude and appreciation to the people of Dhaka for their generosity and kind hospitality.

Mr. President,

3. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) have a history of close partnership and cooperation, sharing most of its Member States in both forums. Most worthy of noting is the fact that both the NAM and the OIC are united by a common purpose and by the sharing of the same principles, understanding that the preservation and promotion of an inclusive multilateralism is the most effective tool for addressing the global and emerging challenges that we currently face.
4. We currently live in a world that faces multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security, which we believe must indeed be



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addressed, precisely, through multilateralism, within the framework of international law and relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

5. Just a few days ago we celebrated the 63 Anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference of 1955, in which the Bandung Principles were proclaimed. Let us be clear: those principles are today as relevant and valid as they were 63 years ago. Their respect and preservation, along with the defense and commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the norms of international law, is the most effective shield for us, the countries of the South, to protect ourselves from those threats and challenges that we face today, including, among others, acts of aggressions from imperial powers.

Mr. President,

6. There are many things that unite our two forums. Among those, we could highlight the following principled positions: the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes, democracy, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rejection of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, the rejection of the imposition of unilateral sanctions, the determination to reach the sustainable development of our peoples, and the condemnation of all acts of terrorism. In relation to the latter, it is worth stressing that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, *inter alia*, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy.
7. Perhaps, the best example of NAM's commitment to both the OIC and the peaceful settlement of disputes is their shared principled position in relation to the Question of Palestine, which certainly remains a priority on the Movement's agenda. In that regard, we stress hereby the urgency of the achievement of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, while condemning the illegal policies and practices of the Occupying Power. In this regard, we reaffirm our grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, which do nothing more but foster impunity, and further destabilize the situation on the ground and diminish peace prospects, while reaffirming the importance of ensuring that the Occupying Power complies with its duties and responsibilities in virtue of international law. Otherwise, it would be alarming that a country with such a background becomes a non-permanent member of a body entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security and the implementation of the resolutions it adopts.

Mr. President,



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8. The Movement's calls for social justice, peace and development are reflected in the theme of this important Ministerial Conference: "Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development". In this regard we reaffirm the importance that we attach to international solidarity, one of the core principles of our Movement, as well as to the promotion of a dialogue among peoples, civilizations, cultures and religions, based on the respect of their symbols and values, which in turn will foster tolerance and peaceful coexistence, as well as non-discrimination, in our common quest to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and islamophobia.
9. A month ago, during the XVIII NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers reaffirmed their strong belief in the need to stress moderation of all religions and beliefs and to promote understanding through dialogue within and across religions. In this connection, they expressed their deep alarm at the rising trends of discriminatory national laws and policies adopted and exercised against any religion, stigmatizing groups of people on the basis of religions under variety of pretexts relating to security and illegal immigration, particularly people from certain ethnicities and religious minorities following the events of 11 September 2001. Therefore, we underline once again the important role of education in the promotion of tolerance and the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief.
10. Moreover, we agree that there is a need to bring a "Paradigm Shift" in our global consciousness, as stated in the invitation letter we received to participate in this meeting. It is the time for our peoples, the peoples of the South. Therefore, we must join together and double our efforts to make of both peace and development a reality for our nations, based on the respect for each other values and beliefs. Let us make of 2018, when we commemorate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, a year in which we make tangible progress towards peace, dialogue, tolerance, understanding, and development, in the interest of humankind and our nations as a whole.
11. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement wishes every success to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), including during this 45th Council of Foreign Ministers, and looks forward to further strengthen its partnership, in their mutual strive for peace, prosperity and harmony for all, and for a world more just and equitable.

I thank you, Mr. President.