



**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 WORLD CONFERENCE  
AGAINST ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS**

*Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 2-9 August 2018*

**Mr. President,**

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor during this year's World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, allow us to thank the distinguished Organizing Committee for its kind invitation to participate in this important World Conference, under the theme "For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World", and which is convened at a time when we mark the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
3. We would also like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the People of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their kind generosity and hospitality.

**Mr. President,**

4. Since its establishment, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has remained at the forefront of nuclear disarmament, and has termed nuclear disarmament as its highest priority, while striving towards achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, considering, among others, the threat posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.
5. In this regard, it is worth noting that during the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in April 2018 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers welcomed the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, they took note of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. We hope that, when entered into force, the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.



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**Mr. President,**

6. The Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) seize this opportunity to reiterate their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security, while calling for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.
7. In this regard, they continue to express their deep concern over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and strongly urge the United Nations Secretary-General and the three cosponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East to fully implement it without further delay, taking into account that the indefinite extension of the NPT is inextricably linked to the implementation of this Resolution.
7. Moreover, while reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, we reiterate our determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. We must underline that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.
8. In this connection, the Movement emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. Therefore, we reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
9. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) invites the international community to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities, as outlined in resolution 68/32 of the General Assembly of the United Nations; while also inviting it to participate on 26 September 2018 in the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting to observe said day.

I thank you, Mr. President.