



**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 OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL ON “STRENGTHENING MULTILATERALISM
AND THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS”**

New York, 09 November 2018

Mr. President,

1. I have the 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 express our appreciation to the Delegation of the People’s Republic of China for having convened this Open Debate on such an important matter, especially in the current international juncture and the crossroad at which multilateralism seems to be currently, as well as for the Concept Note circulated for guiding our discussions today. Similarly, we seize this opportunity to also recognize the diligence and professionalism with which the Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, a fellow Member State of the Movement, carried out the works of this body during the last month.
3. In addition, we would like to recognize the presence of Secretary-General António Guterres, and to express our appreciation for his much valuable briefing.

Mr. President,

4. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is fully committed to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and reaffirms that the United Nations, its Charter, and the norms of international law remain indispensable tools and central in the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation.
5. Similarly, the Movement considers the United Nations, the only global body with universal membership and unquestioned legitimacy, as the central multilateral forum for addressing the pressing global issues and challenges presently being confronted by all States, including those related to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, human rights and the rule of law, on the basis of dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building amongst



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States. Therefore, we cannot overemphasize the need to strengthen multilateralism and the role of our Organization, including by developing its full potential.

6. In this context, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to reiterate their concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the UN Charter and international law as a whole, as well as their opposition to the use and threat of use of force, and pressure and coercive measures as a means to achieving national policy objectives.
7. These principled positions were renewed during the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, and most recently on 26 September 2018, when the Ministers of the Movement met in New York, on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and unanimously adopted a Political Declaration which was centered, among others, precisely on the need to defend multilateralism and to uphold the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, which remain today as valid as in 1945. Such is our commitment to these endeavors that we are currently promoting the adoption of a resolution of the General Assembly to establish the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.

Mr. President,

8. The promotion and defense of multilateralism and multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, as the appropriate frameworks to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind, is amongst the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). As stated in the Concept Note for this Open Debate, we are of the view that all these challenges we face nowadays in an increasingly connected world, must be dealt “in a fair and just manner”, collectively by the international community, on an equal footing.
9. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement are determined to continue to promote multilateralism, especially by strengthening the central role of the United Nations, including in Global Governance, with a view to continue defending the interests of developing countries and preventing their marginalization. It is our duty, as responsible members of the international community, to redouble our efforts towards the full realization of the three pillars of our Organization; namely, peace and security, development, and human rights, so that it be relevant to all people and we can truly achieve peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies. In doing so, we would be keeping our word to its founding Charter and to the determinations contained in its Preamble and made by “We the Peoples of the United Nations”.



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10. Moreover, we further seize this opportunity to express our serious concern and complete dismay at the victimization of innocent civilians in instances where force has been employed or sanctions have been imposed, including those authorized by this Security Council. In the spirit of the UN Charter, we call on all States to advance the principle of the non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes as a means to achieving collective security rather than the threat of or the use of force, bearing in mind that “armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest”, as stipulated in the Charter. In this regard, we urge ~~this body~~ **the Security Council** to make greater use of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, which has had a commendable role precisely in the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant norms of international law and on controversial issues, with a view to ensure their adherence to the UN Charter and international law.

11. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), true to its commitment of enhancing its role as an anti-war peace-loving force, reaffirms today its commitment to establish a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order, based on the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter and the norms of international law. We renew our determination to continue working towards the establishment of a multi-polar world through the strengthening of multilateralism and through the United Nations and the multilateral processes, which are indispensable in promoting and preserving the interests of our countries and humanity as a whole.

I thank you, Mr. President.