



## CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT UNESCO CHAPTER



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. RUBEN DARIO MOLINA,  
VICEMINISTER FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OF THE  
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, RUBEN DARIO MOLINA,  
IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIR OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
(NAM)**

*Paris, 12 December 2017*

**Distinguished representatives of the Member States of the NAM,  
Madame Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General of the Social Sciences Sector, who  
accompanies us as representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Madame Audrey  
Azoulay,  
Mr Firmin Matoko, Assistant Director-General of the Africa Department and Chief of the  
Cabinet of the Director-General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. On behalf of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros and our Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, we express our warm greetings to all our brothers and sisters of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), on the occasion of this plenary meeting dedicated to the theme of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, in the context of the reactivation of the NAM UNESCO chapter, in compliance with the mandate set forth during the High Level Meeting of NAM (Tehran + 10), which took place on November 30, in New York.
2. I would like to open with these words, by referring to the Preamble to the UNESCO Constitution, which reads: **“since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed,”** a phrase that today is fully valid to address important issues related to the competences of this Organization.
3. In order to achieve peace, the international community must establish policies directed toward achieving high levels of coexistence and tolerance through respect for different cultures and ways of conceiving the world, which include the different systems of organization and the diversity of beliefs, religions, and particularities of each people. There is no doubt that respect for diversity constitutes a healthy principle aimed at improving the levels of justice, solidarity, and understanding among those who inhabit this planet, especially as we begin the commemoration next year, of the 70th anniversary of the adoption by the UN of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



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4. The adoption of the Ministerial Political Declaration of the NAM and its 2017 Programme of Action, in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Tehran Declaration, led Venezuela, in the exercise of its Chairmanship of the Movement, to hold a debate on the theme "*Solidarity, Dialogue, and Tolerance in a Diverse World: Towards a Culture of Peace*," in which it was considered pertinent to include all these key elements to ensure the realization and full enjoyment of human rights and the sustainable development of peoples, especially in light of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.
5. Some powers of the North have tried to impose their own conception of the world, always under the precept of cultural superiority, and this has resulted in various armed interventions in the name of democracy, freedom, and the apparent common good of humanity, with pretensions of tutelage anchored in the supposed "Responsibility to Protect" and to convert culture into a commodity. It is for this reason that, from this rostrum, we emphatically call for tolerance and respect for diversity in all its expressions, so that dignity, multiculturalism, and human rights may prevail as the supreme goals of our Movement. Bien decía el presidente Nicolás Maduro en la XVI Cumbre del MNOAL en 2012: "en el marco de una gobernanza global conjunta, la eliminación de la pobreza y la exclusión social, que sufren miles de millones de ciudadanos del planeta, es hoy una obligación política y moral, que el Movimiento de Países No Alineados, debe levantar con renovada fuerza para construir un mundo solidario". As President Nicolás Maduro stated at the 16th NAM Summit in 2012: "within the framework of a joint global governance, the elimination of poverty and social exclusion, suffered by billions of citizens of the planet, is today a political and moral obligation, that the Non-Aligned Movement must raise with renewed strength to build a world of solidarity."

### **Esteemed colleagues,**

6. In face of the unilateral coercive measures that are imposed on some countries of the South, with the construction of walls and both explicit and silent invasions, Venezuela advocates in favor of the preservation, promotion, and strengthening of inclusive multilateralism, reiterating that all unilateral sanctions are illegal under international law, taking into account, among others, its extraterritorial nature and disregard for territorial sovereignty, independence, and indivisibility.
7. Indeed, the unilateral coercive measures were recently rejected by the NAM countries in the Ministerial Political Declaration of New York of September 20, 2017, for violating International Law and International Humanitarian Law. Therefore, any show of contempt for multilateralism, which is undermined once again by the unilateral recognition of



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Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, by the President of the United States, Donald Trump, and the transfer of his Embassy to that Holy City, is unacceptable. Faced with this new imperial attack, the Coordination Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement quickly pronounced itself, issuing a communiqué of rejection and concern on the Violations and Provocations in relation to the Status of Jerusalem, on December 05 of this year, which are contrary to the resolutions adopted by UNESCO on this territory as a World Heritage Site in Danger.

8. The world requires without further delay a new social and ethical understanding, sustained on inclusion, peace, coexistence and intercultural dialogue. As a product of segregation, military and ideological invasions and occupations, racism and intolerance, the planet is experiencing profound and complex challenges, which include the increase of radicalization and extremism, in a context of crisis and threats marked by conflicts of identity and political, cultural, and religious tensions that exacerbate xenophobia, violence, and hatred among peoples and nations.
9. The reactivation of the NAM UNESCO Chapter should embrace as its own the debate on the relationship between Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, with a view to the recognition of the national and regional particularities of all peoples, in an environment of peaceful coexistence and understanding of differences.
10. On this commitment, the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of UNESCO, represents an important contribution to the international community for the achievement of the objectives of our Movement and the socio-cultural accomplishments of the South.
11. Likewise, the reactivation of the NAM-UNESCO Chapter constitutes a strategic opportunity for the implementation of the Programme of Action (Tehran +10) in the areas of competence of the Organization, on which the promotion of South-South Cooperation constitutes an effective mechanism to improve governance and strengthen its intergovernmental nature.
12. In Venezuela, a country that defines itself as multicultural as a result of its historical cultural mixing and the numerous waves of migration it has received with open arms, solidarity, dialogue, and tolerance are core values of its national character and constitute, in turn, guiding elements of the doctrine bequeathed by our Liberator Simón Bolívar and reflected today in our Bolivarian Diplomacy of Peace.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**



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13. We trust that this plenary meeting, and the reactivation of the UNESCO Chapter in the NAM, will allow us to advance in accordance with the objectives of the Culture of Peace held by this Organization. As Comandante Hugo Chávez pointed out, "we respect all the peoples of the world. We want universal harmony and peace, to end the age of empires that attack the most vulnerable." With the work of all, we are sure that the NAM will contribute to the recovery of UNESCO's pioneering and universal role.

Thank you very much.