



**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 CEREMONIAL  
MEETING TO MARK THE FORMAL HANDOVER OF THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF THE 77 FROM THE ARAB  
REPUBLIC OF EGYPT TO THE STATE OF PALESTINE**

*New York, 15 January 2019*

**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 respects and warm congratulations to H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine and Chair of the Group of the 77 for 2019, on this momentous occasion of the State of Palestine's assumption of the Chairmanship of the Group. Similarly, we wish to express our appreciation to H.E. Mr. Sameh Hassan Shokrv Selim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, whose leadership and proactive role in Chairing the Group of the 77 for the last year we highly recognize and commend.
3. Likewise, we would like to acknowledge the participation of both the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, and the President of the General Assembly for its 73<sup>rd</sup> Session, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, as well as of the Chairs of the regional groups and the wider membership that comprise the Group of the 77 in this special meeting.

**Mr. President,**

4. The history of partnership and cooperation between the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of the 77 goes for years back in history, as both organizations, apart from sharing most of its Member States, emerged during the early 1960s'; certainly, with different focuses, but with one common goal: bringing together the countries of the developing world to consider issues of mutual interest, and to address challenges that were – and still are – common to the Global South. This cooperation has, without a doubt, been bolstered since 1994, when the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of the 77 was established, with the primary objective of enhancing collaboration, avoiding duplication of efforts and providing



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greater efficiency towards the attainment of the common goals of the developing countries, as well as to harmonize and coordinate the activities of both groupings in the economic and social fields within the context of South-South and North-South cooperation.

5. In this regard, we must acknowledge that the strength of our forums is sustained by the solidarity of its Member States in the defense and promotion of its core values and principles, on the basis of unity in diversity, considering this concept as the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, which are central to the sustainability of international relations and cooperation, peaceful coexistence and stability, and the transformative objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples.

### **Mr. President,**

6. During the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers agreed to continue to strengthen the coordination and cooperation, as well as the formulation of common positions and strategies on economic development and social progress issues with the Group of 77 (G-77), through the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM (JCC), in order to advance the collective concerns and interests of developing countries at the relevant international forums, particularly in the context of UN reform, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in expanding and deepening South-South cooperation, and to ensure that the views of developing countries are fully taken into account before decisions on relevant issues affecting them and the international community are taken by developed countries.
7. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement look forward to the Third South Summit in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, this year, confident that it will provide a prominent opportunity for us to continue working hand in hand with the Group of the 77 in maintaining a coherent, strong and coordinated position among developing countries on matters of mutual interest and concern.
8. Moreover, we reaffirm once again the importance of strengthening the current institutional mechanisms for South-South Cooperation, considering it as a complementary tool and *not* a replacement for North-South Cooperation, and as a collective endeavor of developing countries, based on the principles of solidarity and on the premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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**Mr. President,**

9. The Member States of the Movement congratulate the State of Palestine upon its assumption of the Chairmanship of the Group of the 77 for 2019, expressing confidence in its ability to fulfill this important role, while also extending it its full support in carrying out its new responsibilities, including on the basis of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 73/5, and renewing the commitment to work together in order to advance the interests of the countries and peoples of the South, to strengthen the cooperation and bolster coordination between the two groups, within their respective mandates, including through the framework provided by the JCC.
  
10. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its full commitment to both multilateralism and to the purposes and principles of the Group of the 77, and reaffirms all its positions concerning economic and social development issues, with the ultimate purpose of moving forward towards the realization of a peaceful and prosperous world, and a just and equitable world order, including through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Mr. President.