



**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 “UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL LAW  
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MAINTENANCE OF  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY”**

*New York, 17 May 2018*

**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 to H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland, and also to express our appreciation to his delegation for having convened this Open Debate on such an important matter, as well as for the Concept Note drafted to guide our discussions today.
3. Similarly, we would like to thank the Secretary-General and the President of the International Court of Justice for their much valuable briefings.

**Mr. President,**

4. Almost a month ago the Coordinating Bureau of our Movement issued a Communiqué, which was transmitted at that time to the Member States of the Security Council for their due information, in which we reaffirmed the validity of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of the norms of international law, as well as our unwavering commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with Article 2, Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of resolution 26/25 of 24 October 1970, which is key for both preventing and putting an end to conflicts, including those of a protracted nature.
5. In this regard, we seize this opportunity to commend the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Statute of the ICJ, in particular Articles 33 and 94 of the Charter, while urging the Security Council to make greater use of the ICJ as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant



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norms of international law and on controversial issues. In addition, we urge the Council to consider that its decisions be reviewed by the ICJ, bearing in mind the need to ensure their adherence to the UN Charter, and international law.

**Mr. President,**

6. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms its commitment to the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with international law as a whole and relevant UN resolutions, including those adopted by this body, which are legally binding to all Member States of the Organization, in order to contribute to strengthening international peace and security and to save future generations from the scourge of war and armed conflict, including through strengthening the role of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence building, national reconciliation, and post-conflict peace building, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.
7. In this regard, we reiterate our full commitment to enhance the role of the Movement as an anti-war and peace-loving force. In order to achieve this, it is of utmost importance to uphold, precisely, international law, which is the only shield for us, small and developing countries from the South, to protect ourselves from the multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges that we face nowadays, including, among others, acts of aggressions from imperial powers.
8. Moreover, in the context of the maintenance of international peace and security and/or of armed conflicts, this should not be the exception: international law must be upheld and respected. Moreover, in cases in which violations of international law take place, those responsible must be held accountable, in order to, as rightly stated in the Concept Note for this Open Debate, prevent their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation. Otherwise, impunity will go rampant and perpetrators would be *de facto* encouraged to continue pursuing their crimes.

**Mr. President,**

9. During the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, the Ministers emphasized that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles and rules of international law are indispensable in preserving and promoting peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, and human rights for all. In this context, they agreed that UN Member States, including those of the Security Council, should renew their commitment to respect, defend, preserve, and promote the UN Charter and international law, with the aim of making further progress to achieving full respect for international law.



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10. At that time, they also underlined that the strict observance of the principles of international law and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is of the utmost importance for the maintenance of international peace and security, and reaffirmed that NAM Member States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and inviolability of international borders of Member States.
11. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement reaffirm their determination to refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extraterritorial or **unlawful** unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries – threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment – and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States; and in this regard, further reaffirm its opposition and condemnation of these measures or laws and their continued application, while requesting States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.
12. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) seizes this opportunity to make an appeal to the international community for keeping our word to the Peoples of the United Nations, as stated in the founding Charter of this Organization, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. Let us redouble our efforts and show our true political will for making of peace not only a chimera but a reality, in our collective efforts to establish a peaceful and prosperous world.

I thank you, Mr. President.