



**CHAIR OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
VIENNA CHAPTER**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE OBSERVANCE OF THE
“INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS”**

Vienna, 18 September 2018

Distinguished Excellencies,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and would like to thank you on behalf of the NAM for your presence in this commemoration Ceremony.
2. The high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament which was held on 26 September 2013, at the initiative of the Movement, represented a historic contribution in the long quest of the international community for achieving the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons.
3. In this regard, we seize this opportunity to reaffirm the Movement's principled position on the field of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.
4. During the seventeenth (XVII) Summit of Island of Margarita, held in September 2016, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their intention to redouble efforts towards eliminating the threat posed to the human species the existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In this regard, they expressed their resolve to work towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
5. NAM regards nuclear disarmament as its highest priority. Nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to humanity. The Movement is deeply concerned over their continued existence and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament. NAM strongly urges nuclear-weapon States to comply with this long overdue legal obligation.
6. Nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament. Moreover, modernization of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some nuclear-weapon States violates their legal obligation on nuclear disarmament, and should therefore be stopped



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7. Indeed, as long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use, threat of use and proliferation persist. Any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. It is an established fact that any use of nuclear weapons would produce catastrophic humanitarian consequences. The only absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.
8. NAM takes note of the recent adoption, on 7 July 2017, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, following the convening of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, leading towards their Total Elimination, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/258, and which could contribute to furthering nuclear disarmament and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
9. Moreover, NAM, which has always remained at the forefront of nuclear disarmament, while taking note of the recent adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on further nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, as called for by General Assembly resolution 71/71.
10. The Member States of the Movement also reiterate their concern over improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, in violation of their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as of the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravening the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. We therefore stress once again that these improvements, as well as the development of new types of such weapons, violate also the commitments undertaken by the NWS at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and during the Review Conferences of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).
11. While reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, NAM reiterates its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.
12. Finally, NAM registers its appreciation to all delegations for their participation in this important gathering today.

I thank you, Madam President.