



**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, 19 September 2017*

**Distinguished Guests, Excellencies,  
His Excellency Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the IAEA,  
Representatives of the United Nations and International Organizations in Vienna,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and would like to thank you on behalf of the NAM for your presence in this commemoration Ceremony.
2. NAM welcomes the convening of this ceremony to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The annual observance of this International Day is expected to become one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security.
3. 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.
4. The high level of participation and strong expression of support for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in that meeting is a clear manifestation of critical importance of nuclear disarmament to international peace and security.
5. Since that year, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons has been celebrated every September 26 and today, as it has been the practice during the last 4 years, we want to contribute to this commemoration.
6. 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



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multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament. NAM strongly urges nuclear-weapon States to comply with this long overdue legal obligation.

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Strong support was expressed at the high-level meeting for taking urgent and effective measures towards nuclear disarmament including through a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.
10. In this context, NAM supports the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons bringing together all the necessary aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as the effective and practical measure to achieve and sustain the abolition of nuclear weapons. This was reiterated in the Declaration of the 17 Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement that was held on 17 and 18 September of 2016. In the Summit, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their intention to redouble efforts towards eliminating the threat posed to the human species by the existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In this regard, they resolved to work to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.
11. We look forward to entering an era in which systematic implementation of effective and concrete steps for nuclear disarmament would turn this global imperative into reality.
12. The purpose of the proclamation of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is to focus the attention of people everywhere on the utmost importance of nuclear disarmament. A mobilized public opinion could unite to help chart a new course away from the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament.
13. In conclusion, NAM registers its appreciation to all delegations for their participation in this important gathering.



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I thank you.