



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. SAMUEL MONCADA,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING
THE SIDE-EVENT ON “A RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE
ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION”**

New York, 19 October 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 that comprise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), especially on a subject to which we have historically attached particular importance, bearing in mind the fact that the Declaration on the Right to Development was promoted by our Movement.
2. At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to H.E. Mr. Saad Alfarargi, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, for his kind invitation to participate as a panelist in this side event. We consider this to be a great opportunity for advancing our common position on the importance of implementing the right to development and its contribution to true international cooperation.
3. We also seize this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Alfarargi for his participation in relevant international dialogues and policy forums relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, with a view to enhancing the integration of the right to development and positioning this human right at the center of the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

4. Over three decades have passed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which is, as agreed in 1986, an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.
5. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the UN Millennium Declaration, in the Declaration on the Right to Development, and in the 2030 Agenda for



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Sustainable Development, while giving due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral economic and financial coercive measures on the realization of the right to development.

6. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement highlight the fact that the Declaration on the Right to Development recognizes that States have both the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the wellbeing of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution in the benefits resulting therefrom.
7. Consequently, we agree with the reflection included in the Concept Note for this side event: that South-South cooperation has become a vital element of the international cooperation architecture for sustainable development, including for the full and effective realization of the right to development.

Mr. President,

8. During the XVIII Mid-Term Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers reiterated their position on South-South Cooperation, which is a collective endeavor among peoples and countries of the South 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 and, as such, South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document and the Development Platform for the South of the G77, and also that South-South Cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation.
9. At that time, the Ministers also stressed that South-South Cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. In this regard, South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion, which is why it is so promising for the future, especially if a right to development perspective is incorporated into the design, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of South-South Cooperation process.
10. Similarly, they also recognized the increasing importance of South-South cooperation, and called for a more energetic effort to deepen and enhance it, while reaffirming the importance of strengthening the current institutional mechanisms for South-South



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Cooperation. They reaffirmed the role of South-South cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism, as a continuing process vital to confront the challenges faced by the South that remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable development.

Mr. President,

11. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) calls on promotion and strengthening of regional and sub-regional integration through groupings and other arrangements on the basis of mutual benefit, complementarities and solidarity among developing countries with a view to facilitating and accelerating the economic growth and development of their economies. In this regard, we welcome regional initiatives of South-South cooperation, based on solidarity and the principles of friendship among States, most notably in the field of sustainable development, in its three dimensions; namely, economic, social and environmental. All these initiatives, in our view, are conducive to the realization of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development. In addition, we call UN Member States to support international development funds aimed at financing the implementation of South-South Cooperation projects, such as the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.
12. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement recognize the positive contribution of the NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries, and the NAM Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, to the collective efforts of its membership to consolidate South-South Cooperation in various fields. We call for the strengthening of these experiences, which we put to the service of the international community, as an example of best practices and a concrete result of our political will to bolster South-South cooperation, and which constitute tools to advance, among others, sustainable development, human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through capacity-building.
13. On the other hand, we would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the South Centre as the think tank of the countries of the South, and emphasize its importance in enhancing South-South Cooperation through promoting solidarity and mutual understanding among the countries and peoples of the South; as well as providing the intellectual and policy support required by developing countries for collective and individual action in the international arena.
14. In relation to the preparations of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2019, which include



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various regional, sub-regional and sectorial meetings and consultations, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) considers that it will provide an opportunity to enhance the current institutional arrangements to effectively support South-South cooperation and promote South-South agenda, and we look forward to the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, whose mandate is very relevant to these discussions.

15. To conclude, we would like to seize this opportunity to renew our proposal on the convening of a United Nations-sponsored High-Level International Conference on the Right to Development, while reiterating our call for the elaboration of a Convention on the Right to Development.

I thank you, Mr. President.