



**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 “PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA:
STRENGTHENING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN AFRICA”**

New York, 20 November 2018

Mr. President,

1. I have the 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 express our appreciation to the Delegation of the People’s Republic of China for having convened this Open Debate on such an important matter, bearing in mind that 88% of peacekeeping personnel deployed in the field come from Non-Aligned countries.
3. Moreover, we would like to thank the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for their much valuable briefings.

Mr. President,

4. At the outset, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its commitment to the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with Article 2 and Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with relevant UN resolutions and international law as a whole, convinced that this will strengthen international peace and security, contributing in our collective efforts 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 and the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the UN Charter.
5. Similarly, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to note that during their XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers reaffirmed their principled position on peacekeeping operations, which must be carried out with strict adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter, and emphasized that respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in the internal affairs of any State, are key elements of the joint efforts in the promotion



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of international peace and security. In this regard, they reiterated that the respect to the basic principles of peacekeeping; namely, consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, is essential for the success of peacekeeping operations, in particular those with Protection of Civilians mandates.

6. While agreeing that UN Peacekeeping Operations have been an indispensable tool in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, we stress that, in the context of the comprehensive approach and the objective of a lasting peace and security, the implementation of all mandated tasks to peacekeeping operations should be supported and accompanied by a parallel, comprehensive and inclusive political process towards sustaining peace, that is well planned and carefully designed, and based on national ownership and the support of the international community, as well as on the consent and adherence of the parties concerned. In other words, Peacekeeping Operations should neither be used as an alternative to addressing root causes of conflicts, nor for managing the conflicts themselves, and they should be provided, from the outset, with political support, full and optimal human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies, so that the safety and security of peacekeepers are guaranteed.
7. On the other hand, we would like to reiterate the importance we attach to the deliberations and report of the annual substantive session of the C-34, which is the only body mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including the development of concepts, policies, doctrines and strategies. In this connection, we stress the need for effective triangular consultations, or rather a renewed and revitalized partnership of shared responsibility between the Security Council, the troop and police contributing countries and the Secretariat, with a view to making objective assessments and leveraging the potentials of peacekeeping mandates and operations. This, in our view, could result, among others, in the drafting of clear and achievable mandates that are up to the challenges on the ground, but only if this cooperation is continuous, substantive, representative and meaningful, including well ahead of mandate renewals.

Mr. President,

8. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) welcomes the determination of the United Nations to enhance its relationship and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular with the African Union, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and in line with the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), confident that their partnership, as stated in the Concept Note for this Open Debate, plays a crucial role, especially in peace and security matters, and bearing in mind the incredible potential of the African continent in various fields, insofar



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as peace and stability prevail. Strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa can certainly serve this purpose.

9. In this context, the Member States of the Movement, while reiterating the important role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in dealing with situations of conflict, reaffirm their support to the continuing efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and emphasize the importance of implementing the Joint United Nations – African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017, in the short, medium and long terms in all relevant areas, while recommending the enhancement of an effective and strategic partnership between the UN and the African Union, in order to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations.
10. In this regard, and in line with our principled position of “African solutions to African problems”, we stress the importance of finding ways to secure predictable, adequate and sustained financial support to African Union-led Peace Operations mandated by the UN Security Council, so that the missions deployed, which have demonstrated their ability and flexibility to respond to challenging security situations, including the African Standby Force, could maximize their operational effectiveness on the ground.
11. To conclude, we would like to express that the safety and security of the UN Missions personnel remains a major concern, reason for which we condemn in the strongest terms all attacks and acts of violence against peacekeepers, and call for provisions to be taken so that those responsible are brought to justice and held accountable. In this connection, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), seizes this opportunity to pay tribute and recognize the commendable work carried out by all peacekeepers; men and women that carry out their work in the context of armed conflicts, and who operate, in many cases, in adverse conditions on the ground, and even risking their lives on a daily basis. Our sincere recognition goes to all of them, including to those who have lost their lives in field operations, defending the flag of the UN and defending the cause of peace.

I thank you, Mr. President.