



**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 THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO
COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE THE “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE”**

New York, 24 April 2019

Madam 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) and address the General Assembly of the United Nations during this historic High-Level Meeting to commemorate, for the first time ever, the “International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”.
2. We thank you, Madam President, for convening this plenary meeting and for your continued efforts throughout your tenure for making the United Nations relevant to All People, which necessarily passes through ensuring that we have a strong and efficient multilateralism to address, hand in hand, the many and complex challenges we face today.
3. Similarly, we acknowledge the presence amongst us of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, while echoing his words in stating that our Organization must, first of all, “be an instrument for a surge in diplomacy for peace”.

Madam President,

4. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has for long time been of the view that there is a pressing need to promote, defend and strengthen multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making processes, by strictly adhering to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and to the norms of international law.
5. It is for these reasons, that on 26 September 2018, having met on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and having held frank discussions on the need to uphold the UN Charter and the Purposes and Principles of NAM, the Ministers of our Movement unanimously adopted a Political Declaration in which they decided to initiate consultations to establish this important



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International Day that we are commemorating today, following the adoption of resolution 73/127.

6. In this context, we reaffirm our confidence that the approach of multilateralism and diplomacy could reinforce the advancement of the three pillars of the United Nations. Hence, the International Day we celebrate today constitutes a means to promote the values of our Organization; to reaffirm the faith of our peoples in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter; to reaffirm the importance and relevance of multilateralism and international law; and to advance the common goal of lasting and sustained peace through diplomacy.

Madam President,

7. We currently live in a world that faces multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security, which we believe must indeed be addressed, jointly, as responsible members of the international community, and, precisely, through multilateralism, within the framework of international law and relevant UN resolutions. For it is multilateralism, together with international law and diplomacy, the only shield that we, small and developing countries from the South, have to protect ourselves from any act of aggression. Multilateralism does not represent, in any way, a threat to the sovereignty or to the national interests of any State, as it is rather a means to address, precisely, those complex challenges that affect us all in an increasingly interdependent world, and to ensure the realization of the principle of sovereign equality of States.
8. Nonetheless, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is conscious that multilateralism is currently under attack, precisely when it is needed the most. The non-fulfillment of the commitments and obligations assumed under relevant international and legally binding instruments, following multilateral negotiation processes, especially on weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons treaties, terrorism, conflicts, climate change, as well as the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the use of double standards in international relations, and the continuing failure and unwillingness of the majority of the developed countries to fulfill their commitments in the economic and social field, are all examples that can be referred to.
9. In this context, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to reiterate their strong concern and opposition at the growing resort to unilateralism, arbitrariness and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the Charter of the United Nations and international law as a whole, including the use and threat of use of force, as well as pressure and coercive measures used as means to achieving national policy objectives.



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10. In light of the above, we renew our determination to continue working towards the establishment of a multi-polar world, through the strengthening of multilateralism and multilateral diplomacy, and through the United Nations and the multilateral processes, considering these as the most appropriate frameworks to preserve the interests of our countries and to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind. In this regard, and in keeping our commitment to “The Peoples of the United Nations”, in line with the determination included in the Preamble of the UN Charter, we have the duty to promote, support and embrace a reformed, reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system that reinforces and fosters stability, tranquility and durable peace throughout the world, as well as a just and equitable world order.

11. To conclude, today when we commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the historic Afro-Asian Conference of Bandung, which laid the grounds for the establishment of our Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), we make an appeal to the members of the international community, from the very house of multilateralism and this emblematic General Assembly Hall, for joining efforts to achieve the realization of the three pillars of the United Nations; namely, peace, development and human rights, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, including by becoming champions of effective multilateralism and diplomacy for peace.

I thank you, Madam President.