



**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 NELSON MANDELA  
PEACE SUMMIT**

*New York, 24 September 2018*

**Madam President,**

1. It is a great honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at this historic Peace Summit in which we commemorate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela.
2. At the outset, allow us to express, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our full recognition and appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and South Africa, including their respective teams, for their leadership as co-facilitators of the Political Declaration that we are to adopt today, which was negotiated in a transparent and inclusive manner.
3. Also, we would like to thank you, Madam President, as well as the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Ms. Graça Machel, and Mr. Kumi Naidoo for their presence here today and their much valuable remarks.

**Madam President,**

4. During the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers adopted a Special Declaration to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, and in which the international community was encourage to utilize this occasion for intensifying efforts aimed at addressing, among others, the challenges of poverty, underdevelopment, and for promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts.
5. At that time, the Ministers also reaffirmed that the lessons of Nelson Mandela's life resonate with the core principles, values and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM); namely, mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence and settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.



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6. Similarly, we cannot overemphasize the role and leadership of Nelson Mandela, together with our Movement – which he Chaired from 1998 to 1999 – in the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and Apartheid, particularly in South Africa, whose liberation marked a major turning point in the life of our Movement.

### **Madam President,**

7. Nelson Mandela is one of the most prominent leaders of our era. His legacy continues to inspire us, through his example of courage, service, forgiveness, reconciliation and compassion. In this regard, and most importantly, in order to honor his legacy, we must move from words to actions. As he himself said in 2004, “peace is not the absence of conflict”. We must therefore redouble our efforts to create around the world the conditions conducive to sustained peace; to truly foster a culture of peace, including, among others, through effectively addressing protracted conflicts, the root causes of terrorism and extremism, poverty in all its forms and dimensions, discrimination and xenophobia, intolerance and social injustices.
8. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement, true to their commitment of enhancing its role and status as an anti-war peace-loving force, and of establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order, consider that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a framework for action for people, planet and prosperity, where no one is left behind, which also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom, while also recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Today, we seize this opportunity to renew our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to reaffirm our pledge that no one will be left behind.
9. Moreover, we also reaffirm our commitment to honoring Nelson Mandela’s legacy and maintaining alive his values, including solidarity, and selfless dedication to the service of humanity, particularly in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, in the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of the culture of peace throughout the world, as well as in the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped communities.
10. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) looks forward to the different activities and initiatives to be convened within the framework of the 2019-2028 Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace, and calls for the active participation of the international community in this regard. Let us commit ourselves, as *Madiba* said, to the construction of a “complete, just and lasting peace”; let us do it for present and future generations.



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I thank you, Madam President.