



**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 PLENARY  
MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE AND  
PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL  
ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

*New York, 26 September 2018*

**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) at this important session, today, for both promoting and commemorating the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
2. At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to you for convening this High-Level Meeting and to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, for his participation today, which is a testimony to his genuine support to nuclear disarmament.

**Madam President,**

3. Nuclear disarmament has historically been the highest priority of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). In this regard, we seize this opportunity to reaffirm the Movement's principled position on the field of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.
4. Since its designation in 2013, the Member States of the Movement have welcomed the commemoration and promotion of the 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
5. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) considers the annual observance of this International Day as one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers and the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world, including the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security.
6. In this regard, we reiterate that the convening of the United Nations High-level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, as decided through the General



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Assembly resolutions, would provide an important opportunity to review progress made in nuclear disarmament and to further promote this noble objective.

**Madam President,**

7. During the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers *emphasized* that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security, while stressing the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament.
8. Moreover, at that time, the Ministers also 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 expressed their resolve to work towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

**Madam President,**

9. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use, threat of use and proliferation persists. Any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity. It is an established fact that any use of nuclear weapons would produce catastrophic humanitarian consequences. The only and absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.
10. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is deeply concerned over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) lack of progress to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations. Therefore, we reaffirm the need for the NWS, which have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, to take urgent and concrete actions aimed at achieving this goal.
11. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament. The international community is waiting for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. There is urgent need to make concrete and systematic progress towards this end. In this regard, we continue to express our deep concern over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and strongly urge the UN Secretary-General and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, to fully implement it without further delay, considering that the indefinite extension of the NPT is inextricably linked to the implementation of this resolution.



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**Madam President,**

12. While reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this connection, we have taken note of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. It is hoped that, when entered into force, the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
13. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement, which have always remained at the forefront of nuclear disarmament, call for the urgent commencement, without further delay, of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on further nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, as called for by General Assembly resolution 72/251, that sets, inter alia, a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.
14. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) also reiterates its concern over improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review and its National Security Strategy, in violation of their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as of the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravening the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. The Movement stresses once again that these improvements, as well as the development of new types of such weapons, violate also the commitments undertaken by the NWS at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and during the Review Conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
15. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) welcomes UN meetings and activities for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September, and we appreciate the participation of all delegations in this important meeting. We invite Member States, the UN system and the civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities.



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I thank you Mr. President.