



**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 OPEN
DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “COLLECTIVE ACTION
TO IMPROVE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS”**

New York, 28 March 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor and deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, we would like to convey, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our respects to H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and also express our appreciation to his delegation for having convened this High-Level Open Debate on such an important matter, as well as for the Concept Note drafted to guide our discussions today. We seize this opportunity to also recognize the diligence with which the Delegation of the State of Kuwait, a fellow Member State of NAM, carried out the works of this body during the short but intense month of February.
3. In addition, we would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Mrs. Fatimata Touré for their much valuable briefings.

Mr. President,

4. All that has to do with the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of UN Peacekeeping Operations is a matter to which the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) attaches particular importance, taking into account the fact that 88% of peacekeeping personnel deployed in the field come from Non-Aligned countries. Hence, we stress at the very outset 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 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.



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5. In this regard, the Plan of Action that followed the report on “Improving Security of the UN Peacekeepers” (Cruz Report), of which we have taken note of, provides a good basis for jointly addressing matters of concern, as well as common challenges ahead of us, and for defining a long-term strategy, while making sure that Peacekeeping Operations are able to meet realities in the field.
6. Having said this, the Member States of the Movement reiterate their 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, in order to contribute to strengthening international peace and security and 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, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence building, national reconciliation, and post-conflict peace building, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.
7. In this regard, while agreeing that UN Peacekeeping Operations have played a crucial role in achieving security and sustaining peace, as stated in the Concept Note for today’s session, 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 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.
8. Moreover, it is worth recalling that during the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, the Heads of State or Government reaffirmed our principled position on peacekeeping operations, which must be carried out with strict adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter. They also emphasized that respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, are key elements of the joint efforts in the promotion 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.

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9. As stated in Cruz Report, performance has a bearing on the safety and security of peacekeepers. Nonetheless, when talking about performance, it is the mission performance as a whole that needs to be assessed and not only the performance of contingents. To ensure effective implementation of Mission mandates is the responsibility of all stakeholders and is contingent upon several critical factors, including but not limited to well defined, realistic, and achievable mandates; political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels; adequate financial and human resources; policy, planning and operational guidelines and training. In addition, we reiterate our support for the Secretary General's Zero tolerance policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
10. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement reiterate the importance they attach to the deliberations and report of the annual substantive session of the Special Committee on UN Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), which is the only UN forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. In this connection, we recognize the need for further sensitizing military and civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions about the evolving policy discussions and approaches on this field.
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, which have seen a particular surge in 2017, and call for provisions to be taken so that those responsible are brought to justice and held accountable. In this connection, we, the 120 countries that comprise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), seize 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.