



**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 OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON “MEDIATION
AND THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS”**

New York, 29 August 2018

Mr. 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).
2. At the outset, we would like to convey, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our respects to H.E. Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, and also express our appreciation to his delegation for having convened this Open Debate on such an important matter, as well as for the Concept Note that was prepared to guide our discussions today.
3. Similarly, we would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Archbishop of Canterbury and [civil society representative] for their much valuable briefings.

Mr. President,

4. The theme for today’s Open Debate represents a worthy occasion for paying tribute to the life and legacy of Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, who was a true advocate for peace, social justice, development, human rights, solidarity, and many other values that are very dear to us all. Among others, he was an expert, precisely, on mediation, and a leader who understood the importance of dialogue and inclusiveness for making of this a better world for future generations. As the Nobel Peace Prize once said himself, “when one acts as mediator, one has to think what the biggest need of the people concerned is”. This is nothing more than a token of his commitment with and faith in humanity.
5. The main aim of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is to make a positive contribution towards the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous world and the realization of a just and equitable world order. This will hardly be achieved insofar as there remain conflict situations around our world. Hence, the importance, among others, of diplomacy



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for peace, as opposed to the increasing tendency and deepening by certain States to resort to unilateralism, arbitrariness and unilaterally imposed measures.

6. In this regard, and in the context of existing and new threats and challenges, it is imperative for the Movement to continue to promote multilateralism, especially by strengthening the central role of the United Nations, including in Global Governance, and in both defending the interests of developing countries and preventing their marginalization. Therefore, we are committed to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and multilateral diplomacy, considering these as the most appropriate frameworks to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind.
7. Consequently, and bearing in mind that the current challenges facing international community need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through multilateralism, we underscore that any initiative of the international community for promoting peace must be based on high ethical values, justice and friendship, in order to denounce acts of aggression and to reinforce and promote stability, tranquility and durable peace throughout the world.

Mr. President,

8. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has historically been an advocate for the peaceful resolution of disputes, the non-resort to the threat or use of force, and for a greater use of the provisions of Chapter VI and VIII of the UN Charter, in particular its Article 33. As a matter of fact, it has even suggested – without success thus far – that the International Law Commission should consider including in its Programme of Work a study on the obligation of States to resort to peaceful means for settling international disputes, considering that this would make a positive contribution for the maintenance of international peace and security.
9. In this regard, we also seize this opportunity to recall the landmark that represents the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, which was elaborated on the initiative of our Movement, and which marks the first time a normative text developed a comprehensive plan and consolidates a legal framework for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. It reflects the international community's increasing reliance on the rule of law as a cornerstone not only of the peaceful settlement of disputes, but also of the maintenance of international peace and security.
10. Moreover, during the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers recognized the growing interest in and the provision of mediation and its use as a promising and cost-effective



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



tool in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, without prejudice to other means mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter, including the use of arbitration and the roles and functions of the International Court of Justice. In addition, it is worth recalling that, on the basis of an initiative of our Movement, the next thematic discussion to be held within the framework of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization will be precisely on mediation.

11. In this connection, we cannot overemphasize the importance of the consent of all concerned parties for ensuring the success and legitimacy of any mediation process, if the ultimate goal is to truly achieve durable, inclusive and comprehensive settlements, as stated in the Concept Note for this Open Debate.
12. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), true to its commitment of enhancing its status as an anti-war peace-loving force, reaffirms its determination to strengthen its role in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence building, and post-conflict peacebuilding and rehabilitation in or between Non-Aligned Countries, in particular through seriously identifying concrete measures to expedite the creation of a NAM mechanism in this regard, whose terms of reference must be in conformity with its Founding Principles, the UN Charter and international law, while stressing that any such mechanism should be based on the consent of the States concerned.

I thank you, Mr. President.