



**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 “REFORM OF UN
PEACEKEEPING: IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW UP”**

New York, 20 September 2017

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at this open debate on a subject to which we attach great importance, taking into account the fact that 88% of peacekeeping personnel deployed on the ground comes from Non-Aligned countries.
2. At the outset, we would like to convey, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our respects to H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as well as our best wishes to his delegation for a successful month in the conduction of the works of the Council, and our appreciation for its efforts in preparing the Concept Note for this session.
3. We would also like to acknowledge the diligence with which the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt carried out the works of this body during the month of August.
4. Likewise, we would like to thank H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Mr. José Ramos Horta, former Chair of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) for their much valuable briefings.

Mr. President,

5. Firstly, 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.



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6. In this connection, it is worth noting that during the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held last September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, the Heads of State and Government took note of the reports of the High-Level Independent Panel and the Secretary-General on UN Peace Operations and of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, and, in this regard, emphasized the importance of inclusive consultations and coordination with all Member States in relevant bodies, particularly in the Special Committee on UN Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), prior to the implementation of relevant recommendations.
7. At that time, the Heads of State and Government also reaffirmed the Movement's principled position on peacekeeping operations, which must be carried out with strict adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter, and emphasized that respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in the internal affairs of any State, 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.

Mr. President,

8. As rightly stated in the Concept Note for this High-Level Open Debate, UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKOs) have been an indispensable tool in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. In our view, their success depends, among others, on the support by a parallel, comprehensive and inclusive peace process 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.
9. Likewise, it is of great importance to reiterate that UNPKOs should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, with other political, social, economic and developmental instruments.
10. In this regard, we stress that peacekeeping efforts should be accompanied by peacebuilding activities, in such a manner as to facilitate the economic revitalization, development and to enable national capacity building, on the basis of national ownership, to pave the way towards a seamless exit strategy, to prevent recurrence of armed conflicts and to support critical tasks in order to achieve sustainable peace



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11. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement emphasize that UNPKOs should be provided from the outset with political support, full and optimal human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies. Policy development in peacekeeping must be also matched with the necessary resources in order to guarantee the effectiveness of UNPKOs.

Mr. President,

12. The Non-Aligned Movement has taken note of the Secretary General's peace and security architecture reform initiative, which has a particular focus on enhancing meaningful interface between the UN's political engagements and peacekeeping operations on the ground. The need for breaking down silos within the Organization and for ensuring that UNPKOs have the capability of adapting themselves to the realities on the ground needs not to be over-emphasized, including in order for peacekeeping mandates and operations to be well calibrated with the broader political and development objectives necessary for sustaining peace and preventing the recurrence of conflict. This could assist in ensuring, among others, greater efficiency and cost effectiveness in the financing of UNPKOs.
13. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement emphasizes and reiterates the importance of consistency in the use of agreed peacekeeping terminology and underlines that any discussion of the above should be done through the inter-governmental process and that only those guidelines and terminology that have been agreed by Member States should be implemented.
14. To be successful, the ongoing reform would need the full support of Member States in general, and of the Movement in particular. We therefore reiterate our concerns over the lack of consultations that we have lately observes on some particular issues and, in this regard, call upon all stakeholders to work hand in hand to achieve our common objective, which is to improve the safety, effectiveness and impact of UNPKOs.
15. In this connection, the Member States of the Movement reiterate the importance they attach to the deliberations and report of the annual substantive session of the C-34, which is the only body mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including the development of concepts, policies, doctrines and strategies. In this regard, we stress the importance of close consultations among Member States and between the Secretariat. In the same vein, there is a need for a structural and planned approach to triangular consultation among the Security Council, the troop and police contributing countries and the Secretariat, with a view to leveraging the potentials of peacekeeping mandates and operations. The Movement is currently working with partners to this end, and we seize this opportunity to welcome the positive discussions held thus far and encourage all Member States to strengthen their efforts towards this end.



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16. Moreover, the Non-Aligned Movement stresses that the UNPKOs, in particular those with Protection of Civilian mandates, should be guided by the principles of the Charter and should not be used as means for Government change and military intervention.
17. In addition, while reiterating the important role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in dealing with situations of conflict, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, we reaffirm our support to the continuing efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and emphasize the importance of implementing the Joint United Nations – African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017, in the short, medium and long terms in all relevant areas, while recommending the enhancement of an effective and strategic partnership between the UN and the African Union, in order to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we stress the importance of finding ways to secure predictable, adequate and sustained financial support to African Union-led Peace Operations mandated by the UN Security Council, so that the missions deployed, which have demonstrated their ability and flexibility to respond to challenging security situations, could maximize their operational effectiveness on the ground. Ongoing discussions have not yet resulted in an agreement on this critical issue; nonetheless, we remain confident that a solution is possible, for our collective benefit.
18. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) condemns in the strongest terms the recent surge in killing, kidnapping and targeting of UN peacekeepers, as well as all acts of violence against them, which are in violation of international law, while acknowledging the outstanding contribution and sacrifices of peacekeepers. The safety and security of our peacekeepers is a matter of great concern to the Movement and we will spare no efforts in promoting it. At the same time, we look forward to all UN peacekeeping personnel performing their duties in a manner that preserve the image, credibility, impartiality, and integrity of the UN. In this connection, we reaffirm our support to the policy of zero tolerance on all forms of misconduct by all UN personnel, including sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

I thank you, Mr. President.