



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MS. DELCY RODRÍGUEZ GÓMEZ, MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE CEREMONIAL MEETING TO MARK THE FORMAL HANDOVER OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF THE 77 FROM THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND TO THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

New York, 13 January 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).
2. At the outset, we would like to convey, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our respects to H.E. Mr. Rafael Correa, President of the Republic of Ecuador and Chair of the Group of the 77, as well as to H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, whose leadership and proactive role in Chairing the Group of the 77 for the last year we recognize and commend.
3. Likewise, we would like to acknowledge the participation of both the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, and the Vice-President of the General Assembly for its 71^o Session, H.E. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattacharai, as well as of the Chairs of the regional groups and the wider membership that comprise the Group of the 77.

Mr. President,

4. The history of partnership and cooperation between the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of the 77 goes for years back in history, as both organizations, apart from sharing most of its Member States, emerged during the early 1960s'; certainly with different focuses, but with one common goal: bringing together the countries of the developing world to discuss issues of mutual interest, and to address challenges that were – and still are – common to the Global South.
5. This cooperation has been bolstered since 1994, when the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of the 77 was established, with the primary objective of enhancing collaboration, avoiding duplication of efforts and providing greater efficiency in the attainment of the common goals of the developing countries, as well as for harmonizing and coordinating the activities of both groupings in



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the economic and social fields, within the context of South-South and North-South cooperation.

6. In this regard, we must acknowledge that the strength of our forums is sustained by the solidarity of its Member States in the defense and promotion of its core values and principles, on the basis of unity in diversity, considering this concept as the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, as it encompasses the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformative objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples.

Mr. President,

7. During the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, in September 2016, the Heads of State or Government agreed to continue to strengthen the coordination and cooperation, as well as the formulation of common positions and strategies on economic development and social progress issues with the Group of 77 (G-77), through the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM (JCC), in order to advance the collective concerns and interests of developing countries at the relevant international forums, and to ensure that the views of developing countries are fully taken into account before decisions on relevant issues affecting them and the international community are made by developed countries.
8. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement reaffirm once again the importance of strengthening the current institutional mechanisms for South-South Cooperation, considering it as a complementary tool, and as a collective endeavor of developing countries, based on the principles of solidarity and on the premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations.

Mr. President,

9. The Non-Aligned Movement, like the Group of the 77, attaches great importance to the universal goal of decolonization, a fundamental right and a goal that remains both valid and essential to our groupings. Hence, we call on the international community to speed up the process of decolonization towards the complete elimination of colonialism, particularly during the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020).
10. In this regard, we are pleased that the peoples and countries under foreign occupation were included in all major outcome documents; such as the 2016 Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF, the New Urban Agenda, and the QCPR resolution – being this one the first



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consensual resolution adopted by the Second Committee – so as to forge their right to self-determination and support an inclusive implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda, without leaving no one behind.

Mr. President,

11. The Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement congratulate the Republic of Ecuador upon its assumption of the Chairmanship of the Group of the 77, while extending it its full support in its new responsibilities and making vows to work together in order to both advance the interests of the countries and peoples of the South, to bolster coordination between the two groups, including through the framework provided by the JCC, and to consider the pertinence of initiating consultations for the establishment of a Secretariat of the South to coordinate and articulate activities between both forums and to support the implementation of its decisions.
12. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Group of the 77 and reaffirms all its positions concerning economic and social development issues, aimed at establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, and a just and equitable world order, including through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Mr. President.