



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JORGE ARREAZA
MONTSERRAT, 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
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

New York, 26 September 2017

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor at this important session, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), today when we commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
2. This being the first time that I take the floor during this 72 Session, I would like to congratulate you for having assumed the Presidency of the General Assembly of the United Nations.
3. Similarly, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, for his participation in today's session, which is a testimony to his genuine support to nuclear disarmament, as well as for his opening remarks.

Mr. President,

4. Since its designation in 2013, the Non-Aligned Movement has welcomed the commemoration and promotion of the 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
5. The Member States of the Movement consider the annual observance of this International Day as one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on 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 seize this opportunity to reaffirm the Movement's principled position on the field of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest



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priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.

Mr. President,

7. During the XVII Summit of Island of Margarita, held in September 2016, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their intention to redouble efforts towards eliminating the threat posed to the human species 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.
8. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its support to the General Assembly's decision to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations High- Level International Conference on nuclear disarmament to review progress made in the field of nuclear disarmament.
9. 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.

Mr. President,

10. 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.
11. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement is deeply concerned over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) lack of accomplishment with the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.
12. Nonetheless, the Non-Aligned Movement takes note of the recent adoption, on 7 July 2017, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, following the convening of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, leading towards their Total Elimination, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/258, and which could contribute to furthering nuclear disarmament and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
13. Moreover, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which has always remained at the forefront of nuclear disarmament, while taking note of the recent adoption of the Treaty on



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the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, calls for the urgent commencement 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 71/71.

14. Therefore, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms the need for the NWS, which have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, to take urgent and concrete actions aimed at achieving this goal, in accordance with and in implementation of their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments. NWS have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

15. The Member States of the Movement also reiterate their 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, 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. We therefore stress 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).
16. In this regard, 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.
17. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement would like to welcome 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.

I thank you Mr. President.