



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



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. HENRY SUAREZ MORENO,
AMBASSADOR, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)
DURING THE MINISTERIAL OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND SUSTAINING PEACE**

New York, 10 January 2017

Madam President,

1. It is my honor 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. Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, and also express our appreciation to her delegation for having convened this important Open Debate, as well as for drafting the Concept Note for today's session. Likewise, we would like to express our appreciation to the speakers who preceded us, including the briefers and their much valuable appraisals and remarks.

Madam President,

3. As rightly pointed out in the Concept Note for this Open Debate, we currently live in a time that faces multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security, including those posed by colonialism, neocolonialism and foreign occupation, terrorism and violent extremism, genocide and ethnic cleansing, war and protracted conflicts.
4. In this regard, it is the view of the Member States of the Movement that these threats and challenges need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through multilateralism, and on the clear basis of international law. Hence, the need for a United Nations that is truly fit for purpose, responsive and resilient, functioning firmly in accordance with its Charter, in order to ensure that its principal organs play an active role in evolving and implementing a more effective collective security system, and in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, in accordance with their respective mandates and functions. It is also important to improve synergies between the activities of peacekeeping and peacebuilding in order to attain the overall objective of building and sustaining peace, within the framework of an effective international peace and security architecture.

Madam President,



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5. Preventing the outbreak of conflict is a collective responsibility. But, most important, it is a national responsibility, which could at times benefit from the objective, impartial and supportive assistance that the United Nations could provide, in partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate. Therefore, any of the tools available to the international community and the United Nations for ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security—should be used in good faith – and not as a tool for interfering in the internal affairs of Member States –, including through the use of preventive diplomacy for peace, when relevant, while strictly abiding by the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States, in accordance with the UN Charter.
6. In this regard, we recognize the growing interest in and the provision of mediation, and its use, with the consent of the parties, as a promising and cost-effective tool in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, without prejudice to other means mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter.
7. In this context, the Movement reiterates that other tools, such as sanctions, must not be used “preventively” or under similar pretexts, as these should be considered only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the UN Charter have been exhausted.

Madam President,

8. The Non-Aligned Movement is committed 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, and post-conflict peace building and rehabilitation.
9. In this regard, it is the view of the Member States of the Movement that overcoming conflicts and the achievement of a sustaining peace requires a holistic approach that addresses the structural causes of conflicts, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, in order to fully realize the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights.
10. In addition, and in the context of the comprehensive approach and the objective of a sustaining peace and security, the Non-Aligned Movement emphasizes that, in cases where peacekeeping operations are deployed on the ground, these should be accompanied by a parallel and inclusive peace process that is well planned and carefully



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designed, supported by the consent and adherence of the parties concerned. Therefore, we stress the fact that there must not be a military solution to any conflict, but a political one, as well as the need for the inclusion and involvement of women and youth, who are central in building peaceful and resilient societies.

Madam President,

11. To conclude, the Non Aligned Movement echoes the call of the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, for making 2017 a year for peace; a peace that must be lasting and which is desperately awaited by all those innocent civilians who are caught up in armed conflicts, including in situations of prolonged foreign occupation – many of them affecting Member States of our own Movement – and suffering on a daily basis from the lack of commitment to achieve a political solution, in benefit of the progress and prosperity of their people. Let us join our efforts to make peace and stability a reality around the world.

I thank you, Madam President.