



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING
THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE GLOBAL
EFFORT TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF
MASS DESTRUCTION BY NON-STATE ACTORS”**

New York, 28 June 2017

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 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 best wishes to the Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for a successful month in the conduction of the works of the Council, as well as our appreciation for its efforts in preparing the Concept Note for this session, which would serve as the basis for guiding our discussions today.
3. We would also like to acknowledge the diligence with which the Delegation of Uruguay carried out the works of this body during the month of May.
4. Likewise, we would like to thank H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his briefing

Mr. President,

5. During the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, the Heads of State or Government reiterated their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security, while calling for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.
6. At that time, the Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, while stressing the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous



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efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. In addition, they expressed concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

7. Moreover, in relation to chemical weapons, NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (CWC) note with satisfaction the effective operation of the CWC as the only comprehensive multilateral treaty banning an entire category of WMD, providing for a verification system and promoting the use of chemicals for peaceful purposes. With regard to future priorities, the NAM States Parties to the CWC believe that the main focus should remain the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, with a strong belief that all pillars of the Convention would be treated in a balanced manner
8. Likewise, with regards to biological weapons, NAM States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) consider that the Convention represents an important component of the international legal architecture related to WMD, while recognizing that the lack of a verification system continues to pose a challenge to the effectiveness of the Convention, and urged the party rejecting the resumption of the multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol to reconsider its policy.

Mr. President,

9. 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.
10. Moreover, the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stress that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, while emphasizing that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. This issue is of particular concern to us, taking into account the fact that terrorist groups have used chemical weapons in the past, even in countries that are part of our Movement.
11. To this end, we call upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and urge all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.



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Mr. President,

12. The Member States of the Movement encourage cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities, in line with General Assembly resolution 70/36, with a view to strengthen States' national capacities, as well as to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including to non-State actors and terrorist groups, in fulfillment of relevant obligations within the international legal architecture related to weapons of mass destruction.
13. Moreover, while noting the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), resolution 1673 (2006), resolution 1810 (2008) and resolution 1977 (2011) by the Security Council, we underline the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter and existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and of international Organizations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly. We further caution against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions. In this regard, we stress the importance of the issue of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction to be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, taking into account the views of all Member States.
14. In addition, the Movement congratulates the successful conclusion of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, while underscoring the importance of the convening of such session, as it would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the disarmament process, and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favor of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons.
15. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), staying committed to the cause of prohibiting the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction, reiterates its adherence to the goals and principles set out in resolution 69/27 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, entitled "Prohibition of the Development and Manufacture of New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons: Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

I thank you, Mr. President.