



**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 OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS: THEIR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE
OVERARCHING GOAL OF SUSTAINING PEACE”**

New York, 29 August 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 matter to which we attach great importance, taking into account the fact that 88% of peacekeeping personnel deployed in the field comes from Non-Aligned countries.
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 Arab Republic of Egypt 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.
3. We would also like to acknowledge the diligence with which the Delegation of the People’s Republic of China carried out the works of this body during the month of July.
4. Likewise, we would like to thank H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Senior Advisor at the International Peace Institute, and Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, former Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, for their much valuable briefings.

Mr. President,

5. 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



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prevention and resolution, confidence building, national reconciliation, and post-conflict peace building, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.

6. In this regard, we stress that, in the context of the comprehensive approach and the objective of a lasting peace and security, the implementation of all mandated tasks to peacekeeping operations should be supported and accompanied 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 the consent and adherence of the parties concerned.
7. In this vein, it is worth mentioning Security Council Resolution 2086 (2013), which was welcomed by the Non-Aligned Movement, and which has a particular focus on multidimensional peacekeeping, as an important contribution to the pursuance of a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to multidimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

8. 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 stressed that United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (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. They further stressed that due consideration should be given by the United Nations (UN) to the manner in which those efforts can be carried out from the early stage of UN engagement in post-conflict situations and continue without interruption after the departure of UNPKOs, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security, as well as sustainable development. In this context, they stressed the need to improve synergies between the activities of peacekeeping and peacebuilding to attain the overall objective of sustaining peace.
9. Our position is of great relevance taking into account that, in most cases, among the structural causes of conflicts, we can find, among others, poverty, hunger, inequalities – including those related to gender – violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, injustice, lack of jobs and access to education, poor accountability, and mismanagement of natural resources, all of which are core elements of a comprehensive approach for precisely sustaining peace.
10. At that same 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. They emphasized that



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respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, 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, is essential for the success of peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

11. Preserving, promoting, achieving and maintaining international peace and security should remain a key priority in the agenda of the United Nations, which is why the international community must not spare efforts in the fields of conflict prevention and sustaining peace.
12. Therefore, preventing the outbreak, continuation or recurrence 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, upon request, and in partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate.
13. Moreover, while recognizing that there are various tools available to the international community and the United Nations for ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security, including preventive diplomacy, the Non-Aligned Movement stresses the importance of using such tools in good faith, and not as a tool for interfering in the internal affairs of Member States, while strictly abiding by the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States, in accordance with the UN Charter.
14. Likewise, we emphasize the need for the inclusion and involvement of all segments of society in peace processes, including women and youth, who can play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacekeeping and peace-building efforts and in building peaceful and resilient societies.

Mr. President,

15. 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 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.



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16. 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 Special Committee on UN Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), which is the only UN forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and refers to the observations and recommendations arrived through consensus at this year's report on the potential contribution of peacekeeping operations to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In this regard, we recognize the need for further sensitizing military and civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions about the evolving policy discussions and approaches on this field. The Movement also stresses the need for a structural and predictable 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 for sustaining peace.
17. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement looks forward to the Secretary General's report on "Sustaining Peace" with specific recommendations on, *inter alia*, how peacekeeping operations can better serve the comprehensive approach of sustaining peace, including during transitions. The Movement wishes to see creative and forward-looking recommendations, particularly on increased, sustainable and predictable resources for sustaining peace, including through enhancing the efficiency of peacekeeping operations, as it is critical that peacekeeping missions are equipped with adequate resources and expertise in order for them to deliver, as part of the broad-based framework for sustaining peace, in response to the shifting realities on the ground.

I thank you, Mr. President.