



**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 MINISTERIAL OPEN DEBATE  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN CONFLICT  
SITUATIONS: FORCED LABOUR, SLAVERY AND OTHER SIMILAR PRACTICES”**

*New York, 15 March 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. Mrs. Priti Patel, Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom, and to transmit our best wishes to his Delegation for a successful month in conducting the works of the Council, while also acknowledging the diligence with which the Delegation of Ukraine carried out the works of this body throughout the month of February.
3. Likewise, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing, as well as Mr. Kevin Hyland and Mrs. Ilwad Elman for their presentations.

**Mr. President,**

4. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has systematically expressed its concern over the trafficking in persons, considering that this is increasingly becoming a global challenge that affects all countries around the world, therefore requiring a concerted national and international response.
5. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement are particularly concerned about the serious humanitarian emergencies that have been unchained as a result of many factors, including, among others, armed conflicts, poverty, gender inequality, violations of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, both at the national and international levels, injustice and impunity, political instability, democracy breakdown, foreign occupation, terrorism, genocide and ethnic cleansing, which have dragged millions of people to become displaced in their own countries, or to either migrate or seek refuge overseas in a quest for safety, stability, opportunities and development, at the risk of being more vulnerable to be subjected to crimes such as human trafficking.



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6. In this regard, while recognizing that victims of these crimes are particularly exposed to, among others, racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, we reaffirm the Movement's commitment to prevent human rights violations, in consistency with the rule of law and their obligation under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.
7. Likewise, the Member States of the Movement note the need for ensuring that persons who have been trafficked, to whom they expresses their solidarity, are treated as victims of crime, and, in line with domestic legislation, are not penalized or stigmatized for their involvement in any unlawful activities in which they have been compelled to engage.

### **Mr. President,**

8. As rightly noted in the Concept Note for this Open Debate, human trafficking and modern slavery are global crimes, with large number of refugees as victims. These must be addressed both collectively and comprehensively, including by taking a close look at its root causes and drivers, taking into account the multidimensional nature of these phenomena, and considering also that they pose a serious challenge to humanity, in order to adopt a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach, while recognizing also the role and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals subjected to these crimes, and in committing to coordinate their efforts and actively cooperate with one another. This means, to take a preventive rather than a military approach to address such a complex issue.
9. Moreover, as indicated before, these global phenomena have been triggered, among others, due to armed conflicts that serve as breeding ground for terrorism. In this regard, the Movement expresses its concern over the growing links between this scourge and transnational organized crime, taking into account that these criminal activities are being used as means of financing and recruitment for terrorist activities; a situation that has been exacerbated in recent years due to situations of armed conflict in various regions of the world. One of the many examples that could unfortunately be pointed out is the current situation in the Sahel-Saharan region, where the hostage-taking, involving ransom payments, and terrorist acts are a threat to regional security and stability, given, among others, the growing links between illicit trafficking in firearms, illicit drug trafficking, and trafficking in persons.
10. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) urges all States to address this issue through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue, and to, among others, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of



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transnational organized crime, including slavery and trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labor, or sexual or commercial exploitation, violence and sexual abuse, and to bring perpetrators to justice, while stressing the importance of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and inviting States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as to the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Likewise, the Member States of the Movement encourage the international community to consider setting up national and local institutions dedicated to the fight against this scourge.

11. Moreover, while stressing the importance of the full and effective implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, the Member States of the Movement look forward to the upcoming review of the Plan of Action, later this year, considering it a critical moment for analyzing and improving shared international efforts against trafficking in persons, as well as for discussing challenges ahead. Likewise, the Member States of the Movement underline the historic opportunity provided by the 2018 International Conference on Migration, and express their commitment to positively contribute to the negotiation process of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

### **Mr. President,**

12. When discussing the issue at hand, one must also consider the current and unprecedented movement of refugees and migrants. This is an issue that was discussed at length during XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela. At that time, the Heads of State or Government recognized the acute humanitarian emergencies that have resulted from this global and growing phenomenon, and the high number of refugees, mainly due to the conflicts that have been created in their territories, with particular repercussions on women and children.
13. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement underscore the need for all States to address the issue of human trafficking and international migration through a cooperative dialogue on an equal footing, and in this regard, strongly urge the international community to refrain from taking any type of measures that stigmatize certain groups or individuals, including third-country nationals and their families.
14. To conclude, **Mr. President**, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) avails of this opportunity to reiterate its concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and



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Social Council through addressing issues that traditionally fall within the competence of the latter organs. In this regard, and in relation to the issue being discussed at this Open Debate, the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirm the role and authority of the General Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, in line with article 12 of the UN Charter.

I thank you, Mr. President.