



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



**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR RAFAL RAMIREZ, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, DURING
THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE PROTECTION OF
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS**

New York, 13 February 2017

Mr. 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. Mr. Pavlo Klimkin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 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 Sweden carried out the works of this body during the month of January.

Mr. President,

3. 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 reaffirmed that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and reiterated that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, as they constitute flagrant violations of international law.
4. Moreover, they reaffirmed that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures, including through, among others, the profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy.
5. It is for those reasons that the Non-Aligned Movement expresses its gratitude to the Delegation of Ukraine for convening today's Open Debate on a matter to which it attaches particular importance, as well as for their efforts in preparing the Concept Note for this session, which would serve as the basis for guiding our discussions today.

Mr. President,



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6. The most recent terrorist attacks, particularly those committed by ISIL (Da'esh), show that the vulnerability to this scourge and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is now of a global nature. There are over 30,000 individuals, including women and youth, from over 100 countries from all regions of the world, who have joined this terrorist organization, as expressed by the Monitoring Group of the Security Council Committee concerning ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida in their most recent reports.
7. In this order, it should be noted that the destruction of physical and economic infrastructures of States, including those of a critical nature, have always been of particular interest to terrorist groups, given the impact and chaos that attacks against them generate in societies, including the possible disruption of the delivery of basic services. In this regard, it is also worth mentioning the state of terror that such attacks create in the general public, as well as the maximization of publicity at a global level. Therefore, considering that we live in an inter-connected world, the attacks against this type of infrastructures could be used as a platform for these groups that profit from terror.
8. In the area of civil aviation, for example, much progress has been made, particularly after the fateful attacks of 9/11. The international community recognized then the need to improve and strengthen civil aviation safety regulations. Nonetheless, attacks such as the one against Flight 9268 of the Russian airline Metrojet over a year ago, or against the airports in Brussels and Istanbul, among many other examples, remind us that there is still much to be done.

Mr. President,

9. The protection of critical infrastructure plays a significant role in the intricate framework of the fight against terrorism and its prevention, which should be incorporated, in a comprehensive manner, in the national plans for countering and preventing this scourge, as appropriate. Therefore, the strengthening of international and regional cooperation, including by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge and the establishment of relevant partnerships, will be of great importance, as well as the improvement of the resilience of the international community to these threats, in order to minimize both the loss of human lives and of services which are basics for our societies.
10. In this regard, Member States of the Movement are of the view that the fight against terrorism must take place in accordance with existing international and regional instruments in this field, including the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, while respecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in consistency with the rule of law and their obligations under international law.



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11. Likewise, the facilitation of technical assistance, upon request, for capacity-building and the development of appropriate infrastructures, mechanisms and processes, including through the exchange of information, the sharing of best practices, and the identification of areas of vulnerability and which could be susceptible to improvements, will be decisive in the fight against terrorism. In this regard, the support and resources that UNCCT could provide to Member States, upon their request, and in accordance with its mandate, would be of great assistance in their efforts to counter and prevent terrorism, as well as the expertise that could be facilitated, for example, by the Working Group of CTITF on the Protection of Critical Infrastructures.

12. To conclude, **Mr. President**, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates once again its full commitment to the fight against terrorism. In this regard, we highlight the importance of assuming such endeavor in a frank, determined and coordinated manner, including through the full and balanced implementation of the relevant resolutions of the UN and of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS), while noting also that the adoption of a future Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism, under the auspices of the United Nations, will strengthen multilateral cooperation in this field.

I thank you, Mr. President.