



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



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. RAFAEL RAMÍREZ, AMBASSADOR,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF  
VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED  
MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE OF THE UN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PEACE FOR ALL**

*New York, 24 January 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). Allow us also to express, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 61<sup>o</sup> Session of the General Assembly, for convening this High Level Dialogue on a topic that encompasses two key issues for our Movement and the international community as a whole: Sustaining Peace and the 2030 Development Agenda.

**Mr. President,**

2. During the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, the Heads of State or Government reiterated that they will work towards the full implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda, including towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind, remembering that the Agenda is based on people and that it is universal, inter-linked, integrated and transformative.
3. In this regard, we should recall that the 2030 Development Agenda seeks, among others, to strengthen universal peace. Considering that we currently live in a world that faces multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security, the Member States of the Movement believe that these need to be resolutely addressed through multilateralism, within the framework of international law.
4. It is for that reason that the Non-Aligned Movement recognizes the importance of existing synergies between the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustaining Peace, considering that it would be difficult to conceive a more just, equitable and inclusive world if there were no peace. We must be clear: there can be no development without peace, and no peace without development. Hence, 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.



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



**Mr. President,**

5. 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, in partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate.
6. 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.

**Mr. President,**

7. 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, national reconciliation, and post-conflict peace building, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.
8. In this regard, it is the view of the Member States of the Movement that overcoming conflicts and sustaining peace require a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of conflicts, and which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner across the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights.
9. And it is precisely because 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 included in the 2030 Development Agenda and are core elements of a comprehensive approach for sustaining peace.



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



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10. To conclude, while reiterating that peace and sustainable development goes hand in hand, the Non-Aligned Movement emphasizes 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.

I thank you, Mr. President.