



**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
“TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS”**

New York, 21 November 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 of great importance.
2. At the outset, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing, as well as Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, for their presentations.

Mr. President,

3. 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, as shown by arising figures of victims, therefore requiring a concerted national and international response, in order to, among others, fulfill the commitments made when adopting the 2030 Development Agenda.
4. 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.
5. 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



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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.

6. Likewise, the Member States of the Movement note the need for ensuring that persons who have been trafficked, to whom they express 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. Similarly, it is imperative to break any impunity cycle there may exist and to hold accountable those responsible for the commission of such crimes, which, in some circumstances, may amount to either war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Mr. President,

7. As rightly noted in the Concept Note for this Open Debate, human trafficking is both a cause and consequence of conflict and instability, particularly affecting women, children, refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs). This phenomena must be addressed both collectively and comprehensively, including by taking a close look at its root causes and drivers, taking into account its multidimensional nature, 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 human trafficking, 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, including through an enhanced international cooperation.
8. 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 human trafficking is 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. Hence, the importance of decisively and effectively combating transnational organized crime, including human trafficking.
9. 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,



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enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of transnational organized crime, including 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.

10. Moreover, while stressing the importance of the full and effective implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons in the global fight against trafficking in persons, the Member States of the Movement welcome the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held on 27-28 September 2017, in New York, and the Political Declaration adopted at that time.
11. In addition, we seize this opportunity to underline the historic opportunity provided by the 2018 International Conference on Migration, to be held on 10 and 11 December 2018 in Morocco, and express our 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 conflicts, 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. In this regard, it is also important to note that there is no one-size fit all solution to human trafficking; hence, it is necessary to consider instead tailored and nationally owned strategies to prevent and combat



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these illegal practices that infringe upon the enjoyment and realization of the human rights of the victims.

14. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), while rejecting the politicization of the fight against human trafficking and its use as a tool for undermining the political stability of other States, reiterates its concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and 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.