



**STATEMENT BY THE CUBAN DELEGATION TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. New York, September 26, 2018.**

Esteemed Jorge Arreaza, Foreign Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and President of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Distinguished representatives of member and observer countries of the Non-Aligned Movement.

This meeting is being held in a very complex international juncture. The attempts of hegemonic domination continue to be part of the everyday agenda of those who intend to standardize the world by imposing their models, patterns and values, in an open challenge to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and International Law.

We are all witnesses of the coercion and blackmail exercised against members of our Movement, including the country that currently holds the presidency, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which has been victim of unceasing attacks against its sovereignty and its legitimate right to self-determination.

Cuba strongly condemns the attempt perpetrated against the life of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela last August 4 in Caracas, a maneuver aimed at overthrowing the Bolivarian Revolution. We reiterate our full and unshakable solidarity with Venezuela and our unreserved support to President Nicolás Maduro Moros and the civic and military union of the Bolivarian and Chavista people.

We likewise condemn the interventionist actions and the attempts to destabilize the Republic of Nicaragua with the purpose of overthrowing the legitimate government of that country. We reiterate Cuba's unwavering solidarity with the people and the government of Nicaragua and the Sandinista National Liberation Front, which are struggling against pro-coup attempts, violence, terrorism and foreign interference; and we support the repeated appeals in favor of peace and dialogue issued by the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation.

The imperialist offensive against Venezuela and Nicaragua, orchestrated by the most powerful country on Earth, contravenes the precepts contained in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Havana in January of 2014, which reaffirmed the commitment to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and International Law; the peaceful solution of controversies and full respect for the inalienable right of

every State to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system as an essential condition for ensuring peaceful coexistence among nations.

Mr. President:

The present juncture and the big challenges facing our peoples demand a united and strong Non-Aligned Movement that participates in the most important debates of the international agenda, as the main mechanism of political coordination of our nations.

Only by means of international cooperation and the strengthening of multilateralism, strictly abiding by the principles of International Law, could we advance our priority interests, guided by the founding purposes and principles agreed in Bandung and reaffirmed at the Fourteenth Summit held in Havana in 2006.

We are 120 non-aligned States, and when we act in a concerted way our strength can not be ignored.

To Cuba, Non-Alignment means, first and foremost, to struggle for peace, justice and equity; to radically modify the International Economic Order imposed by the big powers. It means to struggle against the sequels of colonialism, neocolonialism, foreign occupation and domination.

As non-aligned countries, we can not remain inactive in the face of the unilateral actions and the use or threat of use of force against the countries of the South. The unequivocal rejection of such situations is the very essence of Non-Alignment, as it is also the defense of the principles of sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Mr. President:

Cuba, which has been a victim of a strict economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States for 60 years now, strongly opposes the implementation of unilateral coercive measures against any country. Such actions are incompatible with International Law and have a devastating effect on the population of the country subjected to those sanctions.

While Cuba strengthens its cooperative relations with the rest of the world, the US Government strengthens its anti-Cuban policy and tightens the blockade against our country, including its extraterritorial implementation.

Cuba has repeatedly expressed its disposition to have a dialogue with the US Government and maintain a civilized coexistence between both countries, but we will never make any concessions with regards to our sovereignty. We call for an end to the blockade without pre-conditions and demand the return of the territory illegally occupied by the US naval Base in Guantánamo and the ceasing of subversive and interventionist programs against Cuba.

Mr. President:

On October 31 this year, Cuba will once again present to the UN General Assembly the draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba". The government and the people of Cuba are deeply grateful for the traditional support given by all the countries of this Movement in this battle against the blockade.

Mr. President:

On behalf of our people, I reiterate Cuba's unwavering commitment to struggle, together with the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, for a world of peace in which the right of all peoples to sovereignty, justice and full development is respected.

We uphold the same determination expressed by the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, in this same venue back in 1979 when he said, and I quote: "We want a peace that benefits equally the big and small, the powerful and weak, that covers all regions of the world and reaches all".

Thank you, very much