



BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. JORGE ARREAZA
MINISTER OF PEOPLE'S POWER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)**

***“Upholding the UN Charter and the Purposes and Principles of the Non-
Aligned Movement (NAM): Towards a Culture of Peace”***

NEW YORK, 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Her Excellency Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs,

Esteemed Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

Distinguished Heads of Delegation,

Dear brothers and sisters,

1. On behalf of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, and the Bolivarian People and Government of Venezuela, I have the honor to convey my warm greetings to the brothers and sisters of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) accompanying us today in this Ministerial Meeting to address such an important issue for the international community, and particularly for the developing countries, as it is the imperative need to uphold the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the purposes and principles of our Movement, since these constitute the most adequate instrument to consolidate a Culture of Peace.
2. This year, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, leading figure in the liberation of the brotherly Republic of South Africa, tireless advocate for democracy, human rights, social justice, the most vulnerable sectors, the fight against poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the right to self-determination, solidarity, and international cooperation. *Madiba*, who presided over our Movement between 1998 and 1999, and whose legacy always reminds us the importance of advancing towards a genuine Culture of Peace, said in 1993 that “the considerations of justice and respect for international law should guide the relations between nations”. We fully agree with the words of the giant of Mother Africa: the international law is the only shield that we, the countries of the South, have to defend ourselves against the attacks of the major Powers.

Esteemed brothers and sisters,

3. All members of the international community, without exception, committed, when signing the Charter of the United States, to fully and effectively respect its provisions. The purposes and principles contained in the founding Charter of this Organization, which constitutes the very first multilateral and international

legal agreement that expressively and definitely prohibits war as an instrument of foreign policy, are the pillars on which the international law stands and this, in turn, governs the relations among independent and sovereign States.

4. Therefore, the sovereignty, equality of States, non-interference, the right to self-determination, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence are fundamental and important principles in the international relations for the peaceful coexistence among nations; thus, these need to be fully respected by the international community.
5. Against the backdrop of the multiple and complex challenges we face nowadays; the new threats to international peace and security; the current international situation, particularly the growing trend of some States of resorting to unilateralism; we believe the time has come to intensify our efforts in order to protect and fulfill the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, as well as the norms of international law. We must join our voices to reaffirm their full validity and to promote, preserve, and strengthen multilateralism as the most inclusive framework to address, together, on the basis of international law, issues that, in an increasingly globalized world, concern and affect us all. It is the only way to achieve our common goal of establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order.
6. In this context, the purposes of our Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) have also regained importance and relevance; the same principles bequeathed by Sukarno, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Nkrumah, Nehru, Tito, the founding fathers of our Movement after holding the historic Afro-Asian Conference of Bandung in 1955. For all these reasons, we must continue advancing our efforts towards the effective revitalization of our Movement, whose positions, purposes, and principles in favor of strengthening its role as an anti-war peace-loving force, including its use as a "Front in favor of World Peace", and in favor of the respect for the right to life, human rights, and the inalienable right of the peoples to self-determination, are still in full force today. We must always bear in mind our important role as an actor in the international arena and that, thanks to our motto of "united in the face of adversity", on the basis of mutual respect, tolerance and solidarity, we can certainly say that we are also the main political platform representing the developing world in multilateral fora, particularly in the framework of the United Nations.

Esteemed brothers and sisters,

7. As it is reflected in the Concept Note for this Ministerial Meeting, the evolution of the international juncture in the recent times has changed the nature of conflicts. At present, there is no need for a military confrontation since there are new ways of waging war against sovereign countries. Anything can be used as a weapon by the aggressor. In other words, it is the exploitation of the economy, the finances, the technology, and the internal affairs of each nation. Each new war tactic has a negative impact on the stability of our nations, taking into account that these tactics, without exception, undermine the sovereignty of our States and blatantly violate the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.
8. Our country knows this situation well. Since the very arrival of President Hugo Chávez Frías in 1999, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been the target of a systematic campaign of aggression carried out by the Government of the United States of America: namely, a coup d'Etat, oil sabotage, politically-motivated violence, unilateral coercive measures, economic war, threats of military intervention, and so on. These are actions outside the law, contrary to the provisions established in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. In addition to the aforementioned, the major media corporations have undertaken efforts to attempt to manipulate the Venezuelan reality, misleading the international public opinion with slanderous narratives on our country, institutions, and the Government currently led by President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who is subject to criminalization and de-legitimization attempts. It is nothing more than the resentment of those who say and assert that Latin American is nowadays their backyard; the resentment against the heroic Venezuelan people that, as a worthy heir of our Liberator Simón Bolívar, decided to own their destiny; freely and sovereignly deciding to have a political, economic, and social model, by virtue of their right to self-determination, defined by the protagonist participation of the people's power.
10. We see today how transnational media companies, supported by the governments of a small group of countries, intend to fabricate a conflict in our

region from an non-existing migrants, refugees or humanitarian crisis, which, if existed, would be the result of the economic, trade, and financial blockade our country has been *de facto* submitted by the US regime. We are called to, as it is stressed in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, “preserve the future generations from the scourge of war”. Our duty is and will always be to foster peace, preserve the status of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, as it was proclaimed by the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2014.

11. However, the conflict that is intended to be fabricated is nothing but an excuse to promote an alleged “humanitarian intervention” in Venezuela, supported by the so-called notion of “responsibility to protect”, in order to transgress our sovereignty, violating the constitutional order and peace in our nation. They intend to undermine the capacities for action of our State to impose the notion of a “failed State”; which means, that we are unable to ensure the welfare and security of our own people. Therefore, it is rather incredible that the same agents of aggression pretend to present themselves as the saviors of our country. Our brothers of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, among so many others, know first-hand the alleged “humanitarian” nature of the diverse US administrations, which real goal is always to advance their particular national agenda and grim policy of change of regime that so much pain and suffering have caused the humanity. Is it that they want to repeat in our region a crisis like the one in the Mediterranean resulting from its warmongering and interfering adventures? It is time to become aware of the consequences and implications for regional and international peace and security.
12. Nonetheless, despite the adversities, the campaign of aggressions and the hostilities against our country, Venezuela at this time is decided, more than ever before, to reach its full economic and social development. We are a country of hope, filled with peaceful and hard-working people; proud Venezuelans that treasure their sovereignty and independence. And, although we are aware that the road ahead is not an easy one, we know that our only option is to win, always in the framework of the democratic mechanisms established in our National Constitution, through political dialogue, without interference, on the basis of mutual respect.
13. In this regard, it is worth noting that a little over a month ago, President Nicolás Maduro Moros announced a series of measures, within the framework of the

Economic Recovery, Growth, and Prosperity Program, with which we expect to overcome the current challenges in that area and achieve, in a reasonable time, that our people find in their homeland the opportunities to build a decent future. We know that with your support and understanding, on the basis of solidarity and international cooperation, we will achieve, as the Father of our Homeland said in his famous address of Angostura (1819) “greatest sum of happiness possible, the greatest sum of social security and political stability to our people”.

Esteemed brothers and sisters,

14. This is an auspicious occasion to, precisely, reaffirm that solidarity, the ultimate expression of respect, friendship and peace among States and cornerstone of our Movement, is a broad concept that comprises the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformational objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, which ultimate goal is to reach the full economic and social development of the peoples. Hence, on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its Constitutional President, Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, cannot stop thanking the expressions of solidarity received by our country in the face of the imperial aggression of the United States of America, including its illegal unilateral sanctions and the recent failed attempt against our Head of State. We are certain that against these aggressions, the principles and actions of the Movement will be strengthened and empowered for the defense of the right of the peoples to freely define their political, economic, social, and cultural model.

15. In light of the foregoing, we call on sparing no efforts to promote a Culture of Peace based on the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs, the right to self-determination of the peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, conflict prevention, the promotion of non-violence, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the realization of all human rights, including the right to development; in brief, the strict adherence to the principles that should govern the international relations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Additionally, this, as a whole, will ease the path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals established therein.

16. To conclude, from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, we renew our unwavering political and moral commitment to defend the foundational Charter of this Organizations and the norms of international law, as well as to respect, preserve and carry out our international relations at all times in accordance with the Principles of Bandung, which fully align with the Bolivarian Diplomacy of Peace, while we commit ourselves to actively and constructively participate at once to undertake the necessary negotiations to reach a consensus that leads us to the very timely establishment of an “International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”, in line with the provisions under the Political Declarations that we will unanimously adopt today during this Ministerial Meeting.

Thank you, esteemed brothers and sisters.