



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
(PREPCOM1) FOR THE 2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

Vienna, 02 May 2017

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, I extend my congratulations on your assumption as the Chairperson of this important first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties of the Treaty. Allow me to also congratulate other Bureau Members on their election.
2. We extend our confidence in your chairmanship to ably steward the work of the session in a result-oriented and meaningful manner, and we assure you of our constructive participation.
3. I would also like to thank Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria, President of the 2015 Review Conference, for her opening remarks and for her tireless efforts in the previous process.

Mr. Chairman,

4. There are high expectations from the international community on this beginning of the 2020 review cycle of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This preparatory committee session is an opportunity for us to achieve tangible outcomes, in particular on the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
5. We must all work together, gather political will, and do our utmost to achieve a successful review process that would strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner which would safeguard the world from a potential devastation by nuclear weapons, but also would contribute to economic development and prosperity for our nations.

Mr. Chairman



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6. The realization of a world free of nuclear weapons is the Non Aligned States' Parties' highest priority. The Group remains extremely concerned with the threat to humanity posed by the existence of nuclear weapons, and believes that their total elimination is the absolute guarantee against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.
7. The Movement reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations.
8. Recalling the commitment made by some NWS, under action 4 of the 2010 action plan, the Group stresses that reductions in deployment and operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. The Group reaffirms the importance of the application by Nuclear Weapons States of the principles of transparency, irreversibility, and international verifiability, in all measures related to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and undertaking.
9. Full compliance of the NWS with their nuclear disarmament undertakings is imperative, and will enhance confidence in the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Each article of the Treaty is binding on all States Parties at all times and in all circumstances.
10. The Group reiterates with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS.
11. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, it is the legitimate right of all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to receive effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances. We express our dissatisfaction over the lack of required political will and efforts by the nuclear-weapon-States to fully address this legitimate interest, and *express* concern that despite long standing requests by NNWS to receive such legally binding universal assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard.
12. The Group therefore reaffirms the urgent need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to effectively assure all non-nuclear weapons states parties of the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances as a matter of high priority.



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13. The Group calls for reaffirmation by the Conference that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity and a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairman,

14. Our Group believes that disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects are mutually reinforcing and are essential for strengthening international peace and security. Pursuing non-proliferation alone while ignoring nuclear disarmament obligations is both counterproductive and unsustainable. The Group stresses the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament.
15. The Group emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.
16. We are also on the firm belief that non-proliferation policies should not undermine the inalienable rights of States to acquire, have access to, import or export nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
17. We reaffirm the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes without discrimination, and to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
18. The Group believes that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty.
19. The Group is of the view that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for verification of compliance with the obligations under the respective safeguard agreements of the Member States.
20. We are confident in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and strongly reject any politically motivated attempts to politicize the Agency's work, including its technical cooperation programme, in violation of its Statute, as well as any pressure or interference in the Agency's activities that could jeopardize its efficiency and credibility.



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21. We underline the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty and call upon all nonparties to the Treaty to accede to the Treaty, as non-nuclear-weapon States, and place all their nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. All States Parties should make every effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty and refrain from taking any actions that could negatively affect prospects for the universality of the Treaty.
22. Strict observance of and adherence to IAEA comprehensive safeguards and to the Treaty are conditions for any cooperation in the nuclear area with States not parties to the Treaty. All States parties to the Treaty shall refrain from the transfer of nuclear technology and materials to States not party to the Treaty unless these conditions are met.

Mr. Chairman,

23. At the Non Aligned Movement Summit on Margarita Island, Venezuela, September 2016, the Heads of State or Government reiterated their full support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
24. The Group reiterates their serious concern over the two decades' delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, and urges the cosponsors of the Resolution to take all necessary measures to fully implement it without any further delay.
25. We are determined to continue pursuing, as a matter of high priority, the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and strongly support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The 1995 Resolution on the Middle East constitutes an integral and essential part of the package of decisions reached that enabled the indefinite extension of the Treaty without a vote in 1995. This resolution remains valid until its objectives are achieved.
26. NAM State Parties to the NPT reiterate their profound disappointment that the 2010 action plan on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction has not been implemented. This runs contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution, which constitutes the original terms of reference of establishing this zone. It also violates the collective agreement reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
27. Recalling the opposition expressed at the concluding session of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the Group expresses their disappointment that as the result of such opposition, consensus on new measures regarding the process to establish a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction was not



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achieved. This could undermine efforts towards strengthening NPT regime as a whole. We reemphasize the special responsibility of the co-sponsor States of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in implementation of that resolution. The Group is concerned that the persistent lack of implementation of the 1995 Resolution, contrary to the decisions made at the relevant NPT Review Conferences undermine the effectiveness and credibility of the NPT and disrupts the delicate balance between its three pillars, taking into account that the indefinite extension of the Treaty agreed at the 1995 Review Conference inextricably linked to the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East does not entail the right to indefinitely possess nuclear weapons.

28. NAM strongly supports the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. As a priority step to this end, they reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East. Pending its establishment, NAM demands that Israel, the only state in the region that has not joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, renounce any possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. NAM expresses great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States, and condemns Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. The Movement also calls for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel.

Mr. Chairman,

29. Our Group underscores the importance of renewed political will by all States parties to achieve a successful conclusion of the 2020 review process and stands ready to engage constructively with other partners towards this objective.
30. We are of the view that the 2010 NPT action plan represents an outcome that the 2015 NPT Review Process regrettably did not build upon to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty, especially in nuclear disarmament, and in achieving its universality. We are determined at the start of the 2020 NPT Review Process to continue our collective efforts in pursuing the realization of NAM priorities in the NPT review process, in particular to begin negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention as called for by the UNGA Resolution 71/71.
31. The Group stands ready to engage constructively with other partners towards this objective. Let us discharge our respective responsibilities effectively and work determinedly to bring about a more peaceful and secure future for everyone.