



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda items 15 and 83

### Culture of peace

#### The rule of law at the national and international levels

### **Letter dated 30 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you in reference to the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement that was held in New York on 26 September 2019, on the sidelines of the high-level segment of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, on the theme “Upholding the principles of sovereignty and political independence as a means to maintain international peace and security and foster friendly relations and cooperation among States”.

In this regard, I am pleased to transmit herewith a copy of the political declaration unanimously adopted at that time (see annex), while respectfully requesting, on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Movement, your good offices to circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15 and 83.

*(Signed)* Samuel **Moncada**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations  
and Special Presidential Envoy for Non-Aligned Movement Affairs



**Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Political declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the theme “Upholding the principles of sovereignty and political independence as a means to maintain international peace and security and foster friendly relations and cooperation among States”**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), gathered on 26 September 2019, on the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, undertook a review of the state of the international situation, particularly on the importance of upholding the principles of sovereignty and political independence with a view to ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security and fostering the development of friendly relations and cooperation among States, and decided:

1. To renew their unwavering commitment to the United Nations, its founding Charter and the purposes and principles enshrined therein, as well as to international law, all of which remain indispensable tools and central in the maintenance of international peace and security and in the strengthening of international cooperation.
2. To renew their commitment to the provisions of the “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the UN”, the “Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security”, and the “Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations”.
3. To uphold the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal and/or external affairs of any State or Nation; to take effective measures for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace; to defend, promote, and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; to refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force, including aggressive military exercises against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; to develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in their struggle against foreign occupation; to achieve international cooperation based on solidarity among peoples and governments in solving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and to promote and encourage, in accordance with international commitments and domestic law, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.
4. To underline that the strict observance of the principles of international law and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is of the utmost importance for the maintenance of international peace and security, and to reaffirm that NAM Member States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and inviolability of international borders of Member States; and remain committed to support and promote these principles of international law. Accordingly, they reaffirm their determination to refrain from any action against the territorial integrity, sovereignty

and political independence of any State or inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. To emphasize that the principles of sovereignty and political independence are practiced within the United Nations through the full exercise of the rights and privileges of its Member States and, in this regard, to express their determination to defend the rights and privileges of Member States of the United Nations and to work hand in hand to avoid, mindful of the importance of this question, setting precedents that may undermine their full exercise in any way.

6. To reiterate their commitment to promoting, preserving and strengthening multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process through the UN, by strictly adhering themselves to its Charter and to international law, bearing in mind that the current challenges faced by the international community need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through an inclusive multilateralism.

7. To acknowledge that the United Nations is comprised of the rich diversity of political, economic, social and cultural systems of our humanity, which shall be embraced and respected, while stressing their opposition to all attempts of imposition on any State of particular models or systems, as well as their commitment to promoting dialogue and tolerance.

8. To promote a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter, and full realization of all human rights, including the right to development.

9. To reiterate their opposition to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States, which can lead to the erosion and violation of the UN Charter, international law and human rights, as well as to the use and threat of use of force, pressure and coercive measures, as a means to achieving their national policy objectives, mindful of the negative impact of such measures on the rule of law at the international level, as well as on international relations.

10. To refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries – threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment – and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems.

11. To continue to maintain, strengthen, and manifest the unity and solidarity among the membership of the Movement, particularly with those Non-Aligned Countries whose peoples are living under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation, or living in poverty or suffering ill-health, are victims of natural disasters, or are experiencing violations of international law, including, among others, external threats of use of force, acts of aggression or unilateral coercive measures, through the provision of political, moral, material and other forms of assistance.

New York, 26 September 2019