

NON ALIGNED COUNTRIES *

Nicosia Declaration

1. On 10 September 1988, the Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned countries, meeting in Nicosia, approved the following Declaration:

2. The Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries is taking place at a turning point in the history of the Movement. Convened at a time of positive developments on many fronts with far-reaching consequences and repercussions it acquires particular significance for the future course of the Movement.

3. Today the historic role and contribution of the Movement to the promotion of peace, stability and development is universally recognized. Its vigour and vitality is reflected not only in its continuous growth, but also in the respect it commands in the entire international community. The strength of its principles, unity and solidarity has projected the Movement forcefully in the world arena with its many challenges and demands.

4. The rapprochement between the United States of America and the Soviet Union and the progress achieved in disarmament negotiations, which resulted in the entry into force of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate and Shorter Range Missiles, as well as their continuing dialogue has greatly improved the international climate. However, serious problems and conflicts still exist and threaten to jeopardize the progress made. International relations are still characterized by the use of force, intervention, interference and the application of coercive measures. This is particularly evident in such cases as South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, the racist regime's aggression against the Front-line States, the imposition of the hateful *apartheid* regime, Israel's continued illegal occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories and pressures and threats in Central America, particularly against Nicaragua.

5. The prevailing climate not only vindicates the policy of Non-Alignment, but most importantly underlines the need to analyse and assess the evolving situation in order to formulate an appropriate strategy consonant with its objectives and principles. The Non-Aligned Movement, with more than a quarter of a century behind it, well established in the conscience of mankind and with a policy which has proved its value, is resolved to continue influencing international relations in the years to come. The Movement is ready to contribute actively and constructively to the ongoing efforts for solving regional and global problems, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the objectives and principles of non-alignment, so as to ensure respect for the right to self-determination of peoples and enhance the struggle against all forms of subjugation, foreign occupation and domination and of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. The Movement is also determined to maintain and accelerate the historic momentum generated, thus imparting it a greater degree of permanence than in the past.

6. The Non-Aligned countries have always held that the responsibility for the future of mankind cannot be left to a limited number of countries, however great and powerful they may be. If the current *détente* is to lead to a lasting global peace, it has to

become wider in scope, content and participation. The emerging trend can be effectively strengthened by the enlargement of the scope of the negotiations and the participation of an increasing range of actors at the international and regional levels.

7. As a global, independent and active force in international relations, the Movement has to endeavour to transform the ongoing efforts into a lasting and comprehensive process benefiting all countries and peoples of the world. More than ever before the Non-Aligned objective of real democratization of international relations should be achieved through the broadest possible participation.

8. The Movement's responsiveness to the new challenges requires not only adjustment to present international realities but also the taking of initiatives in an innovative spirit and the use of creative and result-oriented methods. Utilization of the political, economic and ideological diversity and universality of the Movement can enhance the emerging positive trends in world affairs and thus contribute to the solution of long-standing regional and international problems.

9. It is gratifying to note that recent initiatives by the United Nations have demonstrated its important role in contributing towards finding solutions to long-standing international problems. The Non-Aligned Movement has consistently supported multilateralism, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, and has striven to enhance the efficacy and effectiveness of the Organisation. The Movement remains resolute in its commitment to seek a solution to the present financial crisis faced by the United Nations.

10. The Non-Aligned countries have all along recognized that disarmament is closely linked to international peace and security and the very survival of humanity. They, therefore, were the first to start an organized campaign to halt the arms race, reduce tension between the super Powers, seek the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means and promote general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Today, more than ever before, disarmament, particularly in its nuclear dimension, remains a high priority of the Non-Aligned Movement. In order to achieve the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world the international community has to adopt and implement a time-bound programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The Non-Aligned Movement has to utilize all international forums and mobilize public opinion to that end.

11. While there is amelioration in the international political field, the global economic situation and outlook remain uncertain. In an increasingly interdependent world, international peace and stability can only be built on economically sound and just foundations. The international economy is undergoing fundamental changes and is facing challenges of unprecedented dimensions. New poles of economic power are emerging in the developed world. The integration processes in terms of markets, capital flows and technology have been immensely strengthened. The scientific, and technological developments are transforming radically the traditional concepts of comparative advantages,

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phases and models of development and offering new possibilities to humanity for its material well-being.

12. Regrettably this progress is profiting only a small part of the world. Most developing countries still suffer from the burden of underdevelopment, mass poverty, indebtedness and inequitable conditions for participation in international trade. The socio-economic conditions in the least developed countries are indeed precarious.

13. The external debt crisis, sharp decline in the commodity prices, deterioration in terms of trade, high interest rates, protectionist measures and other trade barriers, raised by the developed countries and the reverse flow of financial resources from developing to developed countries are the principal factors accounting for the present economic crisis facing developing countries.

14. These factors threaten to accentuate the polarisation between the North and the South. It is not possible to sustain a world divided between the haves and have-nots. Such situation is inherently unstable and bound to give rise to human suffering, despair, violence and social and political instability. The present world economic structure based on self-perpetuating inequalities should be transformed through cooperative action on the basis of equity and justice. Efforts should continue to establish a New International Economic Order which has not lost any of its validity.

15. The Non-Aligned countries are aware that in view of their complexity and gravity, development problems can only be solved through complementary domestic and international action. This should, above all, be geared towards stimulating growth and liberating developing countries from the shackles of indebtedness. The Non-Aligned countries stand ready, through their constructive participation in all international forums to contribute to the solution of global problems which would respond not only to their own development needs, but also to the interests of the developed countries and the international community as a whole. They express their readiness to engage in a dialogue directed towards the search for effective and practical solutions in the crucial and interrelated areas of debt, money finance, and trade. Management of the world economy and ecology must be on a universal basis, with the participation of countries at different stages of development and having different socio-economic systems.

16. The Non-Aligned countries recognize that a reinforced and broadened cooperation among them will help in stimulating their economic growth, achieving collective self-reliance and enhancing their countervailing power in international negotiations. In this

context, they attach particular importance to the implementation of the Action Programme of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries on South-South Cooperation held in Pyongyang to consolidating the gains made in the agreement reached in Belgrade on the General System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) and to undertaking negotiations to expand and strengthen GSTP. There is also an urgent need for continuing their effort to harmonize their position in international forums, particularly on the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations.

17. The Movement should also pursue a policy of respecting and ensuring the rights of the individual and of peoples, which would enable the full utilization of their creative potential and the establishment of democratic and equitable relations in the world.

18. In the current circumstances and in view of the growing interdependence of nations, the Non-Aligned will intensify the dialogue with all groupings and key factors in international relations and will actively participate in the search for a solution to all outstanding international problems. The Movement is determined to face the challenges of peace, security, disarmament and development and bring about the necessary reforms and adjustments required for this purpose.

Decision on the Establishment of Ministerial Committee

Current complex and fast-moving developments in the world situation have made it imperative for the Movement to respond adequately and effectively to them, to intensify its activities in selected areas, to strengthen its capacity to initiate effective and timely action and to participate in the process of seeking solutions to contemporary problems. The time has, therefore, come for the Movement to critically examine, *inter alia*, the preparation and organization of its meetings, the content and format of its documentation, forms and methods of action, as well as the effectiveness of its instrumentalities.

The Ministers have, therefore, decided to establish a Ministerial Committee, consisting of Foreign Ministers from the countries represented on the Bureau of the Nicosia Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries and those which have served as Chairman of the Movement. The Committee will be chaired by the Foreign Minister of Cyprus and shall submit its report to the 9th Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries.