

**President Fidel Castro,  
Your Majesties and Royal Highnesses,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our warmest greetings to President Castro for assuming the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement. I thank you, Mr. President, for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements for this 14<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit – the second in Havana. The first Havana Summit was a landmark for Pakistan. It was here in 1979 that Pakistan became a full member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President, we hold you in high esteem for your longstanding contribution to promote the principles and objectives of our Movement. We are confident that under your dynamic leadership the NAM shall actively promote its ideals and advance the interests of its Member States.

On behalf of the people of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I extend to you and the people of Cuba our deep gratitude for your prompt and generous assistance in responding to the tragic earthquake in Pakistan last year. We can never forget the care and relief provided to hundreds of thousands of earthquake victims by Cuban doctors and paramedics working in inhospitable terrain and under extreme weather conditions.

I also take this opportunity to pay our tributes to Malaysia's leadership of NAM in the last three years.

The world has transformed dramatically since the First Havana Summit. Yet, the relevance and importance of the NAM and its principles for peace, cooperation and progress remain unchanged. NAM must continue to play a powerful role for equality and justice in international relations.

A major challenge facing the international community, is to build international peace and security on the basis of equity and principles rather than use of force and intervention.

The recent aggression against Lebanon is illustrative of the recourse to the logic of force rather than a resort to international norms and principles of the UN Charter. The Security Council's belated action has stopped the outrage that inflicted massive loss of life and destruction. It is important now that the ceasefire holds and Israel vacates Lebanese territory. The international community must also focus on reconstruction in Lebanon and solving the root cause of all tension – the Palestinian dispute.

The tragedy of Palestine is the core of the conflict in the Middle East. Until Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory is ended and a viable Palestinian State established, there can be no durable peace in the Middle East. Israel should engage with the Palestinian leadership to revive the peace process for a two-state solution.

Iraq is another festering sore in the Middle East. The Iraqi people should be assisted by the international community and by its neighbours to restore peace and security, overcome the pervasive violence, rebuild its institutions and economy, ensure its unity and territorial integrity and thus facilitate the early withdrawal of foreign forces from that country.

A stable and peaceful Afghanistan is vital for the peace and progress of the region. The Bonn process has brought about positive change in the country. Nevertheless, Afghanistan still confronts complex challenges in ensuring security and building its institutions and economy. The international

community must remain engaged in Afghanistan to fulfill its commitments for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The growing confrontation over Iran's nuclear programme threatens further instability in our region. Pakistan believes that a diplomatic resolution of this crisis is possible and must be pursued with determination ensuring respect for legitimate rights and international obligations.

Pakistan is making sincere efforts to promote peace and cooperation in South Asia. Three years of the peace process with India have led to confidence-building and improved environment. We are determined to pursue the process for resolving all outstanding issues with India including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. A historic opportunity exists that must be seized by the leadership of the two countries to bring to a close the chapter of tension and conflict in our region. It is of paramount importance that we devote all our energies to address the major challenges of our region by ensuring poverty alleviation, universal education, better health and higher standard of living for our people.

Mr. Chairman,

In its pursuit for global peace, the NAM should focus on promoting just and equitable solutions to the major international conflicts and disputes. The establishment of a mechanism for conflict-resolution, especially among NAM members is now more essential than ever before. Our internal discord continues to debilitate NAM's ability to play an effective role on the international stage.

NAM's contribution is also essential in building a new international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation. The NAM must reject discrimination and double standards. The NAM must uphold the principle of equal security for all states. We must renew efforts to promote universal nuclear disarmament under verified international control. In this context, we believe that an international conference be convened to evolve a new international consensus for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The NAM should also promote a comprehensive strategy to combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. This requires a two-pronged approach: first, combating terrorists frontally, including through active international cooperation, and second, addressing and resolving the underlying causes of terrorism and extremism which include: political disputes and conflicts; economic and social injustices; and poverty, hunger and despair in large parts of the world. Our strategy must clearly oppose the sinister tendencies to associate terrorism with Islam and discrimination against Muslims, which are giving rise to an ominous alienation between the West and the world of Islam.

The NAM must cohesively defend the principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. Democracy and human rights should be promoted by each country in accordance with its own political and cultural values and historical context. These cannot be imposed externally through pressure or coercion, much less military intervention

Mr. Chairman,

The challenge of development continues to be formidable for all developing and NAM countries. Efforts have so far failed to make even modest progress towards introducing equity in international trade through the Doha Round. The NAM must press for enlargement and implementation of the trade and development agenda. The NAM countries could also help each other directly, through

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regional economic integration and specific schemes for South-South Cooperation. A robust South-South cooperation is possible as many NAM members have achieved significant economic growth and play an increasingly influential role in international relations.

A concerted endeavour is also required to introduce equity in the international financial system. Today, global liquidity continues to be highly unevenly distributed – with over 80% available to the industrialized countries. Global investment is concentrated mostly in the developed world and a handful of emerging markets. Debt continues to drain resources from the poorest countries, especially in Africa. The NAM should call for a negotiating “Round” to address these problems in the global financial and monetary system.

There are series of other global issues, which require a unified effort by the NAM:

- generation of employment for a growing population;
- the problem of migration, including the freer flow of labour from the developing to the developed countries;
- restraints on the flow of technology, especially advanced technology, to developing countries;
- the growing shortage of water;
- the rising costs and possible scarcity of energy;
- access to nuclear power generation under IAEA safeguards;
- the continued external exploitation of natural resources, especially in Africa; and
- environmental degradation.

The solution to these challenges can only be achieved through cooperative multilateralism and concrete actions.

The UN is the apex organization for cooperative multilateralism. It should be strengthened and revitalized to serve its central role. For this objective, the reform process must enjoy the support and consensus of the UN membership, including Security Council. NAM must maintain its unity and pro-active role in the reform process and resist any endeavours that run counter to the very ethos of NAM.

I am confident that this Summit will address all these priority issues and will be an important landmark in the history of the Movement.

I thank you.

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