



**STATEMENT BY DR NALEDI PANDOR  
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> SUMMIT OF  
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**17 JANUARY 2024**

**Excellencies,**

We congratulate Uganda for hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We support the five focus areas and priorities of your Chairship.

We thank Azerbaijan for the sterling way they led the Movement during the past three years.

This 19<sup>th</sup> Summit comes at a time when the world is faced with multiple and complex challenges. The persistence of conflicts in parts of the world, including our continent Africa, sets back development and the respect for human rights.

The Summit is therefore an occasion to reflect on our past achievements and to chart a role for our movement to contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.

South Africa believes that the Bandung Principles, on which our movement was founded, are still relevant. These include the respect for the Charter of the United Nations; respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States; and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

These principles have also guided my country's approach to peacemaking and peacebuilding, in our region and beyond.

## **Excellencies,**

It is South Africa's strong view that we cannot achieve a peaceful and prosperous world without reforming the system of global governance to make it relevant to the world of today. As the Non-Aligned Movement we should continue to advocate for a system of global governance that is fair, equitable, and has the capacity to respond to the needs of all countries – a system that is not just a tool for the most powerful countries of the world.

This includes reforming the United Nations Security Council which has the unique mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security. The United Nations Security Council should be expanded with urgency to include countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

A reformed system of global governance and a strengthened multilateralism will also allow us to address other major challenges, such as the scourge of terrorism which today affects all parts of the world. South Africa condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

In addressing regional and international security we should also be resolute in standing for the independence of the people of Western Sahara. We should oppose unilateral coercive measures that make it difficult for some of our members to meet their development objectives. We should guard against the selective application of international law. There should be universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Human rights should not be used as a mere instrument of foreign policy by the most powerful States.

We applaud Uganda for identifying the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as one of the five priorities of its Chairship of the NAM. At the halfway mark before 2030 as the international community we have made limited progress, with only 12 percent of the Goals on course to be achieved. Collective determination is therefore needed among all States to cooperate to achieve this ambitious development agenda. All States should fulfil their obligations, in particular the developed countries who have historically made special undertakings in this regard.

## **Excellencies,**

In the case of Palestine, we are witnessing a genocide of unprecedented proportions. It is for this reason that South Africa has referred the situation in Palestine to the International Court of Justice where we seek provisional measures, including ordering Israel to stop its military campaign in Gaza. This also echoes calls by many governments and peoples all over the world for an immediate comprehensive ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access for the people of Gaza.

South Africa urges the international community to support with concrete measures the establishment of a two-State solution, with Palestine and Israel living side by side in peace and security, based on the 1967 borders.

**In conclusion**, the billions of people that we represent here today, especially the youth, expect us to project a unified voice and act together in the advancement and defence of the collective interests of the Global South. Whatever we do within NAM and at the UN, should always guarantee them peace, security, prosperity, and development. They expect our cooperation and solidarity to result in positive change that improves their material conditions.

We should also continue to forge partnerships based on mutual respect with those outside our Movement as part of our commitment to build a better world.

**I thank you.**