



# BELARUS

---

Check against delivery

**United Nations General Assembly**

**72nd Session**

**Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**New York, September 20, 2017**

**Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus,  
H.E. Vladimir Makei**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by extending high appreciation to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for steering our Movement with success and distinction since the last NAM Summit, held on the beautiful island of Margarita in September 2016.

It is indeed a great pleasure to be again among like-minded friends and colleagues and to check where we stand on some matters of interest and concern to all of us.

The current session of the UN General Assembly provides the Non-Aligned Movement with a proper opportunity to implement our strategic documents, especially the Outcome document of the last year's Summit.

Certainly, there are many areas on the UN agenda where we can and must successfully advance our common position, for instance, sustainable development, human rights, organized crime, disarmament.

The topic of unilateral coercive measures also falls, in our firm belief, into the category that deserves priority attention.

The rationale behind our discussion is clear. Indeed, despite international law that prohibits the application of unilateral coercive measures, and in spite of worldwide denunciation of such policies, unilateral coercive measures and sanctions are still being applied. And they are overwhelmingly applied against Non-Aligned countries.

Why do some of the Non-Aligned NAM states deserve such an "honor"?

The answer is absolutely clear for us – because those states take a truly independent stance in their foreign policy. This stance is clearly not to the liking of those accustomed to disregard the interests of others. Therefore, they respond with coercion and sanctions.

What can we do in this situation?

We can do two things.

First, the countries under unilateral coercive measures and sanctions should never give in. Once they do that, they will never regain their freedom of action.

Second, the Non-Aligned Movement should firmly stick with its fellow members in times of trial and distress.

Belarus faced unilateral coercive measures and sanctions for many years. This is why we fully understand and sympathize with countries, like Venezuela, which find themselves in a similar predicament today.

I would like to conclude by urging the Non-Aligned countries to act in unison on this matter.

Thank you for your kind attention.