

the organisation and the divergence of agendas and allegiances present the ongoing potential for fragmentation.

While agreement on basic principles has been smooth, taking definitive action vis-à-vis particular international issues has been rare, with the movement preferring to assert its criticism or support rather than pass hard-line resolutions. The movement continues to see a role for itself, as in its view, the world's poorest nations remain exploited and marginalised, no longer by opposing superpowers, but rather in a uni-polar world, and it is Western hegemony and neo-colonialism that the movement has really re-aligned itself against. It opposes foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs, and aggressive unilateral measures, but it has also shifted to focus on the socio-economic challenges facing member states, especially the inequalities manifested by globalisation and the implications of neo-liberal policies. **The Non-Aligned Movement has identified economic underdevelopment, poverty, and social injustices as growing threats to peace and security.**

Recent activities and positions of NAM:

Summits

13th Summit: 13th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 24-25 February 2003.**

14th Summit: The 14th Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Havana, **Cuba, from 11-16 September 2006.**

15th Summit: On **15 July 2009**, NAM concluded its 15th summit meeting at an Egyptian Red Sea Resort in **Sharm el-Sheikh.**

16th Summit: from **26-31 August 2012**, the 16th Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in **Tehran, Iran.** During the conference, the Heads of State or Government discussed a variety of issues, The Final Document contained positions on global, regional and sub-regional and development, social and human rights issues.

17th Summit: On 17 September **2016**, **Venezuela** hosted the 17th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. Attendance at the summit has dwindled in recent years; **thirty-five heads of state attended in 2012 and only ten attended in 2016.** Discussions covered Palestine, the U.S.-Cuba relationship, and Venezuela's political climate.

18th Summit: Proposed to take place in Azerbaijan in 2019

Positions:

Criticism of US policy

In recent years the organization has criticized US foreign policy. **The US invasion of Iraq and the War on Terrorism**, its attempts to stifle Iran and North Korea's nuclear plans, and its other actions have been denounced as human rights violations and attempts to run roughshod over the sovereignty of smaller nations. The movement's leaders have also criticized the American control over the United Nations and other international structures.

Self-determination of Puerto Rico

Since 1961, the group have supported the discussion of the case of Puerto Rico's self-determination before the United Nations.

Self-determination of Western Sahara

Since 1973, the group have supported the discussion of the case of Western Sahara's self-determination before the United Nations. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirmed in its meeting at (Sharm El Sheikh 2009) the support to the Self-determination of the Sahrawi people by