



**CHAIR OF  
THE COORDINATING BUREAU  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



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New York, 21 February 2017

**H.E. Mr. Petr V. Iliichev**

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
First Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
New York.-

**Distinguished Mr. Iliichev,**

It is with great sadness that I address Your Excellency, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to convey hereby our heartfelt sentiments of sympathy and our deepest condolences over the shocking news on the passing away of our beloved colleague His Excellency Mr. Vitaly I. Churkin, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

The Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will remember Ambassador Churkin as an outstanding and passionate diplomat, who was well known and respected among the diplomatic corps for his dedication and utmost professionalism; as a vocal defender and promoter of multilateralism, and as a person fully committed with the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter; but, most importantly, as an extraordinary human being and a true friend to many.

Let our prayers, thoughts, and sincere words of support be extensive to Mrs. Irina Churkina and the whole family, to his friends and loved ones, as well as to the People and Government of the Russian Federation, at this time of grief and sorrow.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**SAMUEL MONCADA**

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela  
Ambassador, Special Presidential Envoy for Non-Aligned Movement Affairs

