

**Committee:** Special Political and Decolonization

**Issue:** Questioning the effectiveness and goals of the Non-Aligned Movement

**Student Officer:** Fonie Mitsopoulou

**Position:** Co-chair

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Fonie Mitsopoulou, and I am in my second year of the IGCSE course at the St Catherine's British School. I am looking forward to acting as a student officer in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA1) at the first ACGMUN conference. I have attended seven conferences prior to this one, yet this remains one of my favorite committees.

I hope that everyone enjoys the controversial topics and defined yet different policies within the committee as much as I do. It is necessary for every delegate to be aware of their countries policies and involvement in topics such as this, however I will also be present as the expert chair on this topic in case there are any questions or any confusion. A topic like this one, which may provide solutions to many issues that affect us today, is extremely interesting and it is important that we learn about it.

This study guide should set the foundation of your knowledge of the topic, and guide you towards the areas you should research. I strongly encourage you to individually delve deeper into the topic, as it is quite complicated and multifaceted, and I expect every delegate to have a different approach to the question at hand, hence the formation of resolutions that are thorough and all-encompassing at the conference. I hope that you do not let yourselves get intimidated by the topic. If there is any confusion regarding this topic, I may also be contacted at [foniemits@gmail.com](mailto:foniemits@gmail.com), or through other means.

Fonie Mitsopoulou

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is an organization of states that seeks to not be aligned with any major power bloc and get involved with the plays for hegemony of the big powers. It campaigns against imperialism and neo-colonialism mainly, and advocates for neutrality in global matters, especially those involving the world powers. Its conception a result of the Cold War, it was formed in order to allow for countries to not be involved in the conflict, and to this day it provides a platform upon which mainly African, Asian



# 1: The "founding fathers" of the NAM

and South American countries may discuss issues relevant to them. It consists of 120 members and 17 observer states, most of which are developing countries, and make up two thirds of the UN members as well as 55% of the world population. It was formed largely on the initiative of the Heads of State and Government, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia, as pictured in figure 1.1, which are now considered the founding fathers of the movement.

However, the effectiveness and relevance of the NAM today is being questioned, as the geopolitical state of the world had been altered beyond what it was at the time of its formation. The role of a movement that calls for peace along with isolation from the world's powers in an era where international cooperation is hailed as the only solution to global tension may need to be reconsidered.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Imperialism

Imperialism is the policy of expanding a countries territory by acquiring other countries as colonies, benefiting from these economically and occupying it with settlers. This is also called expansionism and colonialism.

### Effectiveness

The extent to which the aims and objectives are achieved and target problems are solved. This is whether or not something is successful in producing a desired result, and to what degree this is the case.

### **Great power**

In the context of international relations and geopolitics, being a power means a country is politically and economically dominant. Examples of great powers are; Russia, the United States of America, China, France, and the United Kingdom. These countries are so politically prominent that they are permanently in the Security Council of the UN so they are always able to influence the decision making.

### **Alignment**

To be aligned is to give support to an organization, cause, or country. It suggests that the policies of these countries are the same or similar as to be aligned is also to be in a straight line. This is because when countries are aligned, this means their policies are similar, or will have to become similar, since a result of alignment with a country may mean changing a certain policy so as to show support to this country.

### **Non-proliferation**

Preventing the amount of countries that own nuclear weapons or decreasing the nuclear weapons of these countries.

### **Lobbying**

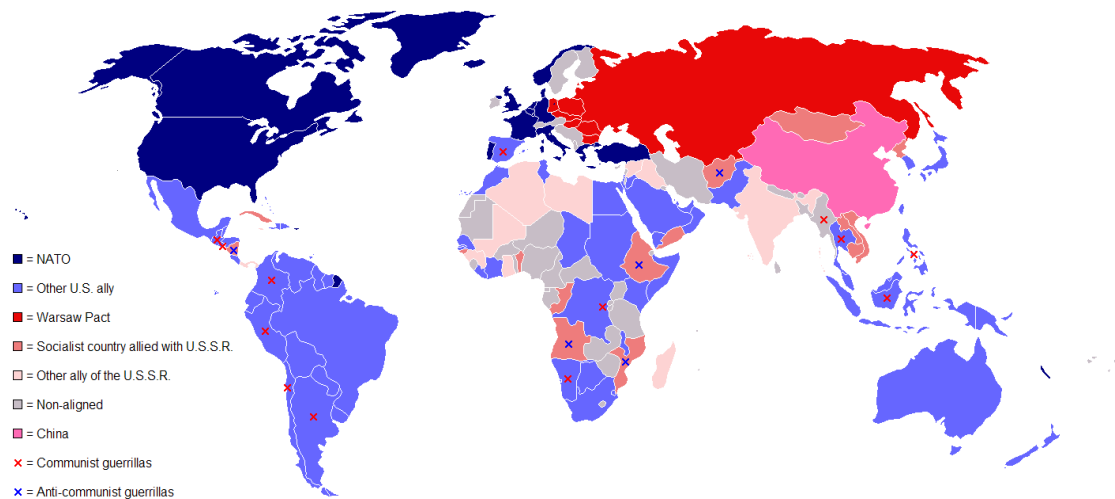
The act of trying to influence the policies and decisions which are taken of those in a position to act on or change the issue in question.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **The Cold War**

During the Second World War, the communist Soviet Union (USSR) and the staunchly capitalist United States of America were able to cooperate towards a common goal, however soon after the war ended in 1945, the Cold War began. The USSR sought to spread communism throughout the world, something clear through their expansionist policies and “comintern” (communist international) organizations founded by USSR leaders, with the sole dedicated aim of spreading communism worldwide. The US had long feared communism, having taken extreme measures since the 1920’s, during the “Red Scare”, to avoid it taking root in the US, a country that largely operated on capitalist ideals and Republican leaders with “Laissez-faire” policies (minimal government intervention in the private sector). The Cold War was not a war in the sense that there was direct battle, as both powers were too powerful to strike the other in risk of the retaliation, however several proxy wars were fought.

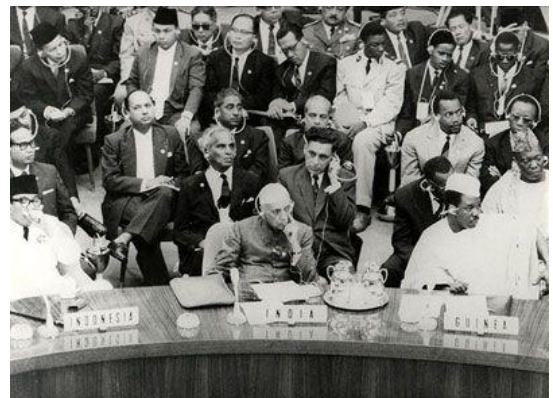
The Cold War began when President Truman introduced the “Truman Doctrine” with the aim of aiding nations threatened by Soviet expansionism, and ended in the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Thus was formed the western bloc around the US, which were allied in NATO, and the eastern bloc around the USSR with the Warsaw Pact, as shown in figure 1.2. However there were several countries that could not benefit from this war, as they were pursuing the economic and social development of their own countries at the time. In order to not have to align themselves in this wide-reaching and all-encompassing war, the NAM was formed.



#2: The alliances during the Cold War

### Bandung conference and the NAM aims

In 1955, the Asian-African Conference was held in Bandung, Indonesia, as shown in figure 1.3, to discuss the role of developing countries in the Cold War, the promotion of Afro-Asian countries cooperation on an economic level, and decolonization, as well as the reduction of these countries’ dependency on Europe and the US. Many of these countries had recently become independent, and sought to form relations and to secure their countries against external threats. During the conference, the “Ten Principles of Bandung” were established, these being:



# 3: The Bandung Conference

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small.

4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.<sup>1</sup>

These were considered requirements for membership in the NAM. After this conference, Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito brought about the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in September 1961, which would take place every three years, a different head of state responsible for its organization each time.

### Current significance

The NAM can potentially deal with pressing current issues that align with their goals and the problems faced by the countries involved, such as by:

- Defending the right to self-determination, such as in the Israeli occupation of Palestine's West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Syria's Golan Heights, and especially that of the US occupation of Puerto-Rico.
- Campaigning for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in the Middle-East, notably in Iran and North Korea (both members of the NAM) as well as Israel.
- Encountering the issue of terrorism which is prominent in many member states, as groups such as ISIS and Boko-Haram wreak havoc in the Middle-East and Africa, respectively.



#4: The official logo of the NAM

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<sup>1</sup> "The Ten Principles of Bandung." *China daily*. N.p., 23 Apr. 2005. Web.

- Aiding the development of the countries involved and improving relations so as to increase cooperation and encourage trade deals. The movement has already expressed its unhappiness with the current situation, convinced that the international community has not created conditions that allow for development in Asia and Africa. In the 1970s and 80s the NAM tried to encourage commercial trade between developed and developing countries through the New International Economic Order (NIEO).
- Informing the world of the issues the NAM tries to combat and raising awareness by encouraging member states to do so, as well as through the NAM News Network.
- Increasing the effectiveness of other organizations, as the NAM currently operates through these. There is already an organ of the NAM targeting the effectiveness of the UN Security Council, and in the 17<sup>th</sup> Summit a resolution was created which called for it to be made more democratic and representative.
- Its involvement in the UN and in issues which are dealt with in the UN. Currently, 4/5 UN peacekeepers come from NAM countries, and the NAM has several organs that work towards making the UN more effective or protecting the interests of the NAM in the UN.
- Solving disputes and conflicts of NAM member states, as the NAM can act as a platform upon which discourse may take place. This is one of the Bandung Principles as well.
- Dealing with situations such as the Arab Spring (revolutions and uprisings in Arab states), and the Syrian civil war; all issues which affect NAM countries.
- Involving itself with environmental issues. Several developing nations undergo industrialization in order to develop, however as these countries may not necessarily have the funds to employ environmentally-friendly methods, this may largely cost the environment. The NAM can try encourage countries to strengthen environmental laws, as it consists of many developing countries.

However, presently, the NAM faces issues tackling problems like those mentioned above due to several factors, some of those being;

### **Structure and role of the NAM**

The NAM does not have a body to carry out lobbying, and thus while the issues are discussed in the summits, there is no action that can be taken, as there is in the UN, for example. *If* and when the NAM comes to a conclusion on the stance the countries will take on the topic and how they will proceed, the member states are encouraged to promote these from within other organizations, such as the African Union or the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). This is seen through the existence of an organ of the NAM named the Non-Aligned Security Council Caucus. This consists of NAM countries in the UN Security Council at the time which



meet to adopt a position on the issues discuss so that they can better represent the interests of the NAM countries through the Security Council.

Moreover, the fact that the conditions under which it was created and its aims were established are vastly different to those today means the NAM has no clear role in this day. As many countries in the NAM are in fact allied with powers, such as Iran, (which is allied with Russia), shows that it is difficult to adhere to the terms of the NAM today as they were dictated in the 1950s. The role of the NAM post-Cold War is unclear, as the economy in the countries in the NAM is aided by the G-77 (the trade deal of developing countries), and political issues are dealt with by the UN. This means that the NAM needs to re-establish itself with a new, defined purpose.

### Issues with the countries involved

Firstly, the large number of countries spanning over a great distance and the varying interests makes it difficult for any sort of conclusion to be reached. Even on issues that are not very controversial, such as child exploitation, the NAM does not have an official position.

Secondly, many of the members are involved in conflict, such as Cambodia in which there is a civil war, or even in the Soviet invasion of

Afghanistan, where the countries were split in their support, many even supporting the USSR despite the core principles of the NAM. This indicates for many that the NAM is not successful as a platform upon which disputes can be resolved.

Thirdly, the fact that certain members are extremely powerful within the movement, despite it being a linear movement in which technically every country has an equal influence. This means that other countries often do the bidding of countries such as Iran or North Korea, that are considered great threats to world peace- which the movement seeks to advocate for- and the actions of which may often go against the principles of the movement. This undermines the movement, and often prevents it from reaching effective and ethical solutions.

Also, there is a heavy focus on the Middle-East, the 17<sup>th</sup> summit resolutions; mainly combating global Islamophobia, the conflict in Palestine, and the condemnation of US sanctions against Iran. This means the issues of Asian and South American countries may not be discussed as much.



#5: Heads of the Government in the NAM summit in Iran

Last but not least, many member states are heavily dependent on the US, thus it is difficult for the NAM to exist as a movement of countries that are not aligned to major powers.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### India

The NAM is based on the five pillars of Sino-Indian relations called “Panchsheel” or “the five restraints”. The first prime minister of India after British occupation, Jawaharlal Nehru, was largely responsible for the creation of the NAM, as one of the “founding fathers”. In the summit that took place in Iran, India sent a delegation of 250 people, indicating support and enthusiasm for the event, as shown in figure 1.6. However it may seem as though India is straying from the NAM. Naraendra Modi; the current Indian Prime Minister being less pro-Palestinian than most in the movement, and the fact that the relations between the US and India are becoming stronger, as is the case with most countries in the NAM, despite the NAM’s- and largely India’s- campaigning against the powers. India is part of the Community of Democracies, where it cooperates with several imperial powers. Yet the NAM remains symbolically significant to India, a country that was long under occupation, and India and the NAM remain closely linked for many.



# 6: An Indian delegate to the NAM summit

### Iran

Iran is a prominent member of the NAM, holding the presidency for three years (as is the case for every country holding the presidency) and thus hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> summit in Tehran in 2012, as shown in figure 1.5 and figure 1.7. The main focus of this summit was nuclear weapons, in which Iran made the case for its noble intentions regarding nuclear research. As a result, it gained the support of several countries within the NAM, which would support Iran’s claims that it is within its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the International Atomic Energy Agency. The resolutions created condemned US sanctions



# 7: The official emblem of the 17th NAM summit



against Iran, and despite the fact that the US asked the other countries not to attend the summit as it took place in Iran, there was still an extremely large turnout.

### **United States of America**

The NAM today is strongly opposed to the west, and mainly the US, as views towards Russia have softened what with countries like Russia's ally; Iran, being so important and active in the NAM. However, the role of Iran in the organization also means that the US is often condemned by the NAM, and this affects the relations of the US with other countries in the movement. The US was recently condemned in by the NAM not only for its pressure on Iran to not have nuclear weapons- something the US does not do with Israel, which the NAM has not failed to point out- but also because the US gave 2 billion in Iranian frozen assets to the victims of a bombing which has been attributed to Iran, despite Iran's denial. The NAM has also been trying to liberate Puerto Rico from US occupation for a long time, something the NAM is very intent on. The US has been heavily criticizing the NAM since the 1980's for the fact that there are members of the NAM that are very active and representative of the movement, which are what the US considers "rogue states". These include North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Cuba and Libya.

### **BLOCS EXPECTED**

There will be three different policies and attitudes towards the NAM that will align nations within the committee. These will be:

1. Countries such as the US and Israel that do not benefit from the NAM's existence, strongly support international cooperation, or are affected negatively by the fortification of these nations or the bonds between them. This will be countries that do not belong in the NAM, have imperialistic tendencies, or benefit from cheaply outsourcing to these countries.
2. Countries that strongly support the NAM's current structure and abilities, which benefit from the NAM as it is now, perhaps as a result of its flaws, such as Iran. These countries stand by the idea that the achievements of the NAM to this point are great, and that no changes need necessarily be made.
3. Countries within the NAM that support the revitalization of the NAM. These countries stand with the concept of the NAM, but also agree that the goals and methods with which it functions may need to be adapted to today's conditions.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
18-24 April 1955	Asian African conference in Bandung Indonesia.
1947	Cold War between Russia and US begins.
September 1961	The NAM is officially founded in Belgrade, Serbia.
1961	The NAM begins supporting the liberation of Puerto Rico in the UN.
1991	The fall of the USSR and the end of the Cold War.
1-6 September 1992	10 <sup>th</sup> summit in Jakarta, Indonesia. First summit after the Cold War, where there is an attempt to redefine the movement as its initial reason to exist has come to an end.
2003	US invasion of Iraq, which is condemned by the NAM.
2003	Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Continuing the Revitalization of the Non-Aligned Movement is created.
2005	Creation of the NAM News Network (NNN). This was created as a news network that is not prejudicial to developing countries.
5-6 September 2011	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NAM in Belgrade
26-31 August 2012	16 <sup>th</sup> summit in Tehran, Iran.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

In 2003, the 13<sup>th</sup> NAM summit took place in Malaysia, as the movement began to lose momentum and had not had a meeting in five rather than three years, and there had rather recently been the end of the Cold War, so it was unclear how the NAM would proceed. There, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Continuing the Revitalization of the Non-Aligned Movement was created, which called for the NAM to become more important and active in issues, and even addressed globalization, which threatens the principles of the NAM, especially that of non-alignment. It called for several measures to be “implemented”, such as the regular meeting of the NAM countries.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The effectiveness can be established when comparing the achievements of the NAM to its aims and goals. However when questioning the goals, the solutions reached will depend on the policy of each country. The possible solutions will vary depending on what each country wants from the NAM; how each country envisions it and the form the NAM must take in order to benefit the country in question. Possible ways the topic can be dealt with are:

- **Not supporting the goals of the NAM**

Under this, there can be the establishment of the fact that the NAM nowadays is not only ineffective, but has been rendered obsolete as a result of its outdated approach to foreign relations. It may be suggested that the NAM does not continue, or that countries withdraw from it, and the necessary functions it currently serves may be allocated to other organizations and bodies, such as the UN, and the G-77. Countries may be encouraged to form relations with major countries as well.

- **Supporting improvement of the NAM**

This may happen if the way the NAM deals with issues are made more effective, which can be done by dealing with the issues that prevent the NAM from being effective. This may be achieved through allowing countries that may be unethical to escape condemnation and continue to act in this manner, and perhaps by introducing a means through which the NAM can implement certain resolutions, or to have an increased influence to allow it to become more effective. The role of an international platform upon which issues may be discussed may be assumed to a larger extent by the NAM, as countries may be encouraged to resolve disputes there, and the NAM can be altered to allow for this. Perhaps countries may be encouraged to cooperate with other countries, be they powers, to allow for more trade, aid, and development. The chair of the NAM can promote the activities of the NAM more, so as to increase influence.

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