



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**STATEMENT  
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement  
at the resumed session of the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly**

**delivered by Mr. Vugar Hajiyev, Counsellor of the  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN office and other  
International Organizations in Geneva**

**Geneva, 9 November 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

While expressing their serious concern over the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases in different countries, NAM Member States reiterate their support to the World Health Organization (WHO) and to the leadership of Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The NAM recognizes the critical role and guidance the WHO continues to provide in order to ensure the effective response of the international community to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to remain the greatest contemporary human crisis and health emergency.

Throughout these unprecedented times of COVID-19, NAM Member States have and continue to demonstrate their strong commitment to combating COVID-19 through the effective, timely and united response to the pandemic.

Upon the initiative of the Azerbaijani NAM Chairmanship, the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 was set up and in May 2020 the Online Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group was held. The Summit established the NAM Task Force with the task to work out the database of the basic humanitarian and medical needs and requirements of the NAM Member States in their fight against COVID-19, which was then presented to donor countries and international organizations for the provision of feasible assistance. During the Summit, the President of Azerbaijan also announced donation of 5 million USD to the WHO to support the most affected NAM

Member States. To discuss health related challenges posed by the COVID-19, the online Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 was organized on 20 May 2020. One of the most significant contributions of the NAM Member States to the global fight against COVID-19 - the thirty-first special session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, initiated by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the NAM Member States and supported by the majority of the UN Member States, will be held on 3-4<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The commitment of the NAM Member States to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030 remains unchanged. In the Final Document adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on 25-26 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage and the adoption of a political declaration, aimed at scaling up the global effort to leave no one behind and building a healthier world for all.

NAM Member States reaffirm the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, held in New York on 27 September 2018. NAM Member States underscore the need for concerted action and a coordinated response at the national, regional and global levels in order to adequately address the developmental and other challenges posed by noncommunicable diseases.

Mr. Chairman,

The NAM Member States express their concern about global threats posed by health emergencies and underscore the need to enhance cooperation at all levels to confront and combat these scourges, and to ensure health security and address the social, economic and environmental determinants of health that affect the ability to access health services and public health necessities.

In this regard, we reaffirm that essential goods, such as food and medicines, should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. The NAM calls for declaring COVID-19 related vaccines as global public good. We reiterate the need for accelerated efforts for unhindered, equal, equitable and affordable access and provision of COVID-19 related diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines to everyone, everywhere.

The NAM Member States also recognize the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, to improve health systems resilience, preparedness and response to health emergencies, to support health promotion and progressive realization of Universal Health Coverage.

In line with the principle of health for all, the NAM Member States call upon the WHO to strengthen their support to governments in their efforts to effectively respond to COVID-19 by providing unhindered assistance in an inclusive and sustained manner during and after the pandemic. In this context, helping the most vulnerable people, including people under foreign occupation including detainees, should enjoy special attention in line with respecting dignity and leaving no one behind.

We express our strong condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the Movement, that are applied in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, further express our support, in accordance with international law, to the States affected by such measures, and urge the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of such measures, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to ensure the effectiveness of national responses to COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup>

In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its readiness to continue collaborating with WHO in ensuring that the fundamental human right – the right to health – is ensured for everyone and that no one is left behind.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru disassociate themselves from this paragraph.