



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth Session**

**Annual discussion on rights of the child
and the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Statement
delivered by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva
First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

1 March 2021

Madam President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

NAM reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination, and underlines the importance of leaving no one behind, based on the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

NAM is deeply concerned about the adverse effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has on well-being of children, particularly, in the vulnerable situations, including their access to education, food, safety and health.

NAM stresses the need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of halting and reversing the global threat posed by pandemic through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

NAM recognizes that the effects of the pandemic will have consequences on development gains, hampering progress in the achievement of the SDGs and ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights of the child, particularly in developing and least developed countries.

Madam President,

The pandemic has exposed and aggravated vulnerabilities and inequalities in both developing and developed countries, and also among them, deepening poverty and exclusion and pushing the most vulnerable even further behind. It is the poorest and most vulnerable, including children, who were hit the hardest by this pandemic and NAM is gravely concerned that the further impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

NAM recognizes that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stresses the need to address the persistent and significant disparities between developed and developing countries and inequalities between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban populations.

NAM recalls that every child has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and in this regard, stresses the importance of affordable, unhindered and equitable access by all countries to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment, which should constitute an integral part of a coordinated and effective global response to COVID-19.

Madam President,

NAM reaffirms the need for the international community, in particular developed countries, to assist developing countries efforts to fully implement all internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs. In this regard, NAM stresses the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in mitigating effects of COVID-19 and dealing with its repercussions, including on children, and welcomes the convening of the 31st Special Session of the General Assembly dedicated to COVID-19 at the level of Heads of States and Governments which took place on 3-4 December last year at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of NAM.

In conclusion, NAM reaffirms its commitment to leave no one behind and to fully respect, promote and protect the rights of all children.

Thank you.