



Online Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on the margins of the General Debates of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

POLITICAL DECLARATION

“Bandung+65: More Relevant, United and Effective NAM against Emerging Global Challenges, including COVID-19”

29 September 2020

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), having met through video conference at the Online Ministerial Meeting of the NAM on the margins of the General Debates of the 75th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, under the theme of “Bandung+65: More Relevant, United and Effective NAM against Emerging Global Challenges, including COVID-19” on 29 September 2020, with a view to take stock of the achievements of NAM obtained since the adoption of Bandung Principles in promoting strict adherence to the norms and principles of international law,

1. *Reiterate* strong commitment and full adherence to the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,
2. *Reaffirm* the vision, principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement, articulated in Bandung (1955) and Belgrade (1961), and guided by the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the present international juncture, adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, Cuba, on 16 September 2006, in the efforts to achieve a world of peace, equality, cooperation and well-being for all,
3. *Recall* the 65th Anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference of 1955 that resulted in the promulgation of the Bandung Principles and laid the grounds for the establishment of the Movement, and *reaffirm* the Movement’s irrevocable political and moral commitment and determination to and full respect for the Bandung Principles, which today remain as relevant as in 1955,
4. *Reaffirming* that every State has the duty to refrain in its international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and that such a threat or use of force constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and shall never be employed as a means of settling international issues,
5. *Reiterate* the full validity of the founding principles of the Movement and recognize the achievements that have marked its historical developments, which ratify that the fight

against colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism, all forms of foreign intervention, aggression, foreign occupation, domination or hegemony, as well as the intention of becoming a balancing factor in the international relations, outside of the military alliances of the centers of power, remain concrete expressions of the policy of non-alignment,

6. *Remain* committed to and promote the faithful observance of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations which is of the greatest importance of the maintenance of international peace and security,
7. *Reaffirm* that all States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, the sovereign equality, political independence and inviolability of international borders of other States, comply with the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs, the abstention from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, recommit to support and promote these principles of international law and to continue opposing any attempt aimed at partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of States,
8. *Reaffirm and underscore* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination,
9. *Stress* that a just, lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects must remain a priority on the Movement's agenda and remains also a permanent responsibility of the United Nations until it is satisfactorily resolved in all aspects in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions,
10. *Condemn* all measures taken by Israel, the Occupying power, to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the Occupied Syrian Golan, and demand once again that Israel should abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and to withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973),
11. *Note with concern* that the collective desire of the Movement to establish a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order remains encumbered by fundamental impediments, which are in the form of, *inter alia*, the severe adverse impact of the global financial and economic crises, the continuing lack of resources and underdevelopment of the majority of the developing world, continuing unequal terms of trade and the lack of cooperation from developed countries, as well as the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by some of them and the use of force or the threats of use of force, further exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic,
12. *Express* strong condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the Movement, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of non-intervention, self-determination and independence of States. In this respect, reiterate determination to denounce, and demand the repeal of, such measures, which affect human rights and prevent the full economic and social development of the peoples subjected to them,

13. *Emphasize* that armed conflicts, aggressive expansionist policies, terrorism, separatism, transnational organized crime and extremism coupled with human rights abuses, financial crises and environmental degradation continue to affect millions of people around the world,
14. *Affirm* that many new areas of concern, threats and challenges have emerged, which warrant the renewal of commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN and the principles of international law,
15. *Reiterate* strong concern at the growing resort by certain States to unilateralism and, in this regard, further reiterate full support to the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the Charter of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is fundamental to promoting and supporting the three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, sustainable development and human rights,
16. *Underscore* the importance, at the current international circumstances, for strengthened unity and solidarity within and increased effectiveness of the Non-Aligned Movement, in view of the emerging threats and challenges to international peace, security and sustainable development,
17. *Declare* that the effective implementation of the documents of the NAM Summits and Ministerial Meetings requires the highest commitment and determination of all NAM Member States to decisively address the challenges posed in the areas of peace, economic and social development, human rights and international cooperation, and for which we will make joint efforts to achieve the desired objectives,
18. *Reaffirm* that peacekeeping is the flagship activity of the United Nations and represents a true symbol for the promotion of international peace and security, while noting the increasingly volatile context in which peacekeepers operate due to the emergence of new transnational challenges and threats, Further recall the Secretary-General' Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments, and the ongoing efforts to translate these collective commitments into actions, and the valuable contribution of the “Cairo Roadmap” to that end,
19. *Recognize* the importance of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and reaffirm the primary responsibility of national governments, their leadership and ownership in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities and, in this regard, emphasized that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society were taken into account,
20. *Commit to coordinate* further Member States' positions in order to advance the interests of the developing world, build a fair, inclusive, transparent and effective system of global governance, based on justice and equitable participation of all countries, and address present challenges and risks stemming from global security threats, armed conflicts, environmental hazards, climate change, contagious diseases, extreme poverty, among others,
21. *Reaffirm* NAM's principled position and firm commitment in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestation and, in this connection, to reiterate the obligation of all Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist

acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists, deny terrorists safe haven, freedom of operations, movement and recruitment, and also to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and also calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure, before granting asylum, that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts, and further call upon all Member States to strengthen cooperation to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters,

22. *Express* serious concern over the rapid spread of COVID-19, which poses a major challenge to humanity and requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,
23. *Recognize* the unprecedented effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people,
24. *Deeply* concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial system, is having a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to health care, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations and in countries in special situations and those countries most affected, and is making the prospect of achieving sustainable development more difficult, including eradication of poverty in all its form and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,
25. *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,
26. *Underscore* that unhindered and equitable access by all countries to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment, in an affordable manner is an integral to a coordinated and effective global response to COVID-19,
27. *Express* concern about rising adverse effect of climate change in the economic recovery period after COVID-19 and necessity of enhancing climate finance by developed countries according to their commitment to finance climate actions in developing countries and transferring technology and providing technical support for these countries,
28. *Welcome* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 74/306 of 11 September, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” and recognize the importance of its implementation,
29. *Express* deep concern about the rise in discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism and xenophobia related to the pandemic, and calls upon Member States, and all relevant actors, to promote inclusion and unity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

30. *Commend* effective, timely and united response by NAM in supporting its Member States in the fight against COVID-19, through responsible leadership and coordinated cooperation,
31. *Express* that NAM is ready to help promote and ensure global access to medicines, vaccines, treatments, medical equipment and other vital needs to mitigate COVID-19,
32. *Recall* the Online Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 held on 4 May 2020 through video-conference and welcome with appreciation the establishment and efforts of the NAM Task Force in compiling the database of the basic humanitarian and medical needs and requirements of the NAM Member States in their fight against COVID-19,
33. *Take note* of the Online Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19, organized on 20 May 2020, to discuss health related challenges posed by the COVID-19, and stand ready to consider further specialized meetings to discuss social and economic implications posed by the spread of the pandemic,
34. *Welcome* the convening of 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, supported by a majority of the UN Member States,
35. *Express hope* that the ongoing consultations on the modalities for the organization of the special session, which has the collective ownership of and is supported by all NAM Member States, be concluded in due course towards a successful outcome of the special session, considering the urgency of the situation,
36. *Express gratitude* to the Republic of Azerbaijan, incumbent Chairmanship of NAM, for organizing Online NAM Ministerial Meeting in such challenging time, to mark the 65th Anniversary of the founding principles of NAM.