

Online Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement

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

9 October 2020

Report by the Republic of Azerbaijan on its first year NAM Chairmanship activities

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

As we gradually approach to the end of the first year of our NAM Chairmanship, I would like to highlight some achievements through which Azerbaijan have contributed to the unity and effectiveness of NAM, and elaborate on potential areas for future cooperation within the Movement.

While assuming this significant and responsible capacity, Azerbaijan stated its resolute commitment to the promotion of multilateralism and Bandung Principles.

Thus far, we spared no efforts to promote the very spirit of founding principles and importance of adherence to them. All statements delivered in the course of last year within different international frameworks on behalf of NAM included elements on growing importance of adherence to Bandung Principles.

Unprecedented and unexpected magnitude of challenges caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 was litmus test for effective multilateralism. Gladly, through its timely, united and effective responses in addressing the pandemic our Movement once again demonstrated its continued role and validity in multilateral realm.

In this very challenging times our ability to mobilize and put forward practical solutions received broad international recognition, as such by joining to the Online Summit level Meeting of NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 held on 4 May 2020, the Secretary General of UN, President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Director-General of the WHO, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and High Representative, Vice-President of the European Commission commended Movements exemplary and standout solidarity in face of the crisis.

Consequently, special session of the UN General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic initiated by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM Member States has received overwhelming support of the UN Member States.

As a practical outcome of the Online Summit, the NAM Task Force was established to work out a database to include the basic humanitarian and medical needs of NAM Member States, which later was submitted by Azerbaijani chairmanship to the WHO for possible support and assistance. In our capacity as the Chair of the NAM, Azerbaijan has allocated 5 million USD to

the WHO, especially for those Member States from the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are glad to inform that 25 Member States have benefited from this contribution.

In order to elaborate on health-related challenges caused by COVID-19, the Ministers of Health of NAM Member States held Online Meeting on 20 May 2020, and exchanged views on most pressing health implications of the pandemic.

Excellencies,

Broad range of socio-economic and security implications of COVID-19, in particular disruption of education process, growing number of cyber-crimes due to increased reliance on ICTs and many other related areas might be potential subjects for our consideration.

NAM's united and steadfast response to COVID-19 has become encouraging factor for further strengthening the unity within the Movement. It has demonstrated that despite fragmented approaches among NAM Member States on certain issues of global concern, they are able to mobilize against common enemies. Therefore, we are of the view that we need to explore more on potential other areas for further cementing our unity.

Considering the important role that youth play in current international affairs and as a follow up to the first-ever NAM Youth Summit held on the margins of the Baku Summit, NAM Youth Network can be formed with solid structure and result-oriented vision to enable the youth of NAM to address the development-related challenges in more systematic way and integrate into the youth community in global scale.

In order to raise awareness on NAM activities among the youth population of Azerbaijan, we have organized the first-ever Online Model NAM Simulation Exercise on 16-18 April 2020. We are now planning to hold first-ever Online International Model NAM Simulation Exercise until the end of this year.

Strengthening effectiveness of NAM was among the chairmanship priorities of Azerbaijan. One of the ways to strengthen the effectiveness of our Movement, we believe, is to explore opportunities for interaction with other influential organizations which we share the common interest with. In the first year of Azerbaijani Chairmanship engagement with African Union and European Union have become very promising. Leaders of both organizations have attended Online Summit-level meeting of NAM held on 4 May 2020. Later, member states of both organizations supported the initiative of the President of Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM to convene the special session of the UN General Assembly. NAM and EU have been engaged in cooperation within Human Rights Council on the issues of rights of women.

We took measures to strengthen NAM's existing coordination mechanisms in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Paris and the Hague, bearing in mind the role of the Coordinating Bureau in New York as the focal point for coordination of the Movement. Monthly or periodic Ambassadorial level meetings at all UN Headquarters, where the NAM is operational, have allowed timely reaction to situations that affect the Member States of NAM. During the first year of chairmanship of

Azerbaijan, 20 meetings at Ambassadorial level and more than 30 expert level meetings took place.

Chairmanship was able to coordinate and deliver, on behalf of Member States, 66 statements on wide range of issues within different formats and built consensus on 11 communiqués adopted by the Coordinating Bureau. 5 resolutions in the UN General Assembly and 3 resolutions in the UN Human Rights Council, put forward by NAM Member States were adopted in this period.

In order to increase transparency, we have launched an official website and social network pages of the NAM Chairmanship through which wider public has periodically been informed about the activities of the Movement.

Excellencies,

To accomplish the common goals in front of us, Azerbaijan stands ready to continue cooperation and dialogue with all Member States during our remaining tenure as the Chairmanship of NAM. We count on your support.

Thank you.