



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council
47th Session**

**Annual Discussion on Women's Rights
Panel 1: Violence against women and girls with disabilities**

**Joint Statement on behalf of the Member States
of the Non-Aligned Movement and the European Union**

**delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 5 July 2021

Madame President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and the European Union.

Despite significant progress achieved in ensuring women's and girls' rights, there is still much to be done to eliminate gender inequalities and empower women and girls. Violence against women and girls is a serious universal human rights violation, which results in detrimental impacts on their physical and mental health and on society at large.

We remain deeply concerned that women and girls with disabilities are often among those facing increased vulnerability and marginalization in society and are at a great risks of being subjected to violence and discrimination. We recognize the need for national development strategies and efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, the elimination of all forms of violence and the realization of their rights. We call for strengthening inclusive policies to address structural causes and risk factors of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and ensure holistic support services for survivors and victims. In order to achieve gender equality, we need the commitment of all men and boys.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges to mental health, physical activity and wellbeing, especially for persons in vulnerable situations and persons with disabilities. It has also increased the risk of violence and domestic abuse. We are concerned that the impact of the crisis will further reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5.

We highlight the imperative of fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination by all, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities are among the most likely to be affected by extreme poverty. We fully support enhancing the quality of education and the promotion of life-long learning opportunities for persons with disabilities. Increased efforts are required to ensure equal access to all levels of education both online and offline and vocational training for women and girls with disabilities. Building and upgrading education facilities that are disability-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all is crucial.

We must also do more to promote equal opportunities, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. These efforts benefit development at large.

We also reiterate our joint commitment to the UN Conventions on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and call on all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to these Conventions.

We are committed to reducing discrimination and inequalities, fostering respect for the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities and advocating for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls to reach their fullest potential and achieve a maximum of independence, meaningful participation and decent living conditions.

I thank you.