



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



REMARKS
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN,
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT,
AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON
“INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY FOR
PEACE”

New York, 5 May 2021

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to deliver these remarks on behalf of 120 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir for convening this significant event and for his continued efforts and determination to renew and to strengthen the collective commitment to multilateralism.
3. We also acknowledge and welcome valuable participation of the heads of principal organs of the UN, as well as all distinguished briefers and thank them for their remarks.

Mr. President,

4. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the celebration of 24 April as the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, designated through the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/127 initiated by our Movement.
5. Multilateralism has historically been at the very heart of the Non-Aligned Movement and it is from this perspective that the Movement has for long been advocating for the pressing need to promote, defend and strengthen multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process, by strictly adhering to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and to the norms of international law.
6. We stress that especially at this juncture, when multilateralism is experiencing difficulties, this commemorative event will help to reflect on the achievements of the multilateral system, as well as discuss current challenges and ways to ensure an effective and inclusive multilateral system in the post-COVID era.



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Mr. President,

7. During the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in October 2019, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Heads of State and Government of the Movement reaffirmed their confidence that the approach of multilateralism and diplomacy could reinforce the advancement of the three pillars of the United Nations.
8. COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated once again the significance of multilateralism. The Non-Aligned Movement notes with concern that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated existing fundamental impediments, such as impacts of global financial and economic crises, continuing lack of resources and underdevelopment of the majority of the developing world, continuing unequal terms of trade and lack of cooperation, the coercive and unilateral measures, as well as use of force or threats of use of force.
9. The United Nations, and especially its General Assembly, remain the central multilateral forum for addressing urgent global issues. These multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security necessitate the renewal of our collective commitment to the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the Charter of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A true testament to this was overwhelming support by the UN Member States for the initiative to convene the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic put forward by the Non-Aligned Movement.
10. This year marks 66th anniversary of the adoption of the Bandung Declaration that envisaged the promotion of international cooperation for the common prosperity and well-being of all. In this context, we are especially pleased and honored to share as an example of multilateral success the adoption by consensus this March of resolution by the Human Rights Council on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines, initiated by the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President

11. Non-Aligned Movement renews its determination to continue working towards the establishment of a multipolar world, through the strengthening of multilateralism and multilateral diplomacy, and through the United Nations and the multilateral processes, which are most appropriate frameworks to preserve the interests of all countries and to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the challenges that humankind is facing.

I thank you, Mr. President.