



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Mid-term Ministerial Conference (online)

“Non-Aligned Movement at the center of multilateral efforts in responding to global challenges”

13-14 July 2021

Report by the Republic of Azerbaijan on activities during the first-half of its NAM Chairmanship

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Almost twenty one months have passed since the Republic of Azerbaijan have taken over the NAM Chairmanship and I would like to summarize the activities carried out during this period by highlighting some of our common successes that we have achieved together.

Azerbaijani Chairmanship spared no efforts to promote the very spirit of founding principles of the Movement and importance of adherence to them. All statements delivered on behalf of NAM in the course of last twenty one months included elements on growing importance of adherence to Bandung Principles.

Since the beginning of our Chairmanship, we have been giving special attention to strengthening Movement's coordination in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Paris and The Hague, bearing in mind the central role of the Coordinating Bureau in New York. Periodic ambassadorial-level meetings at all UN Headquarters, where the NAM is operational, took place allowing the Movement to timely react to situations affecting its Member States.

With the successful coordination of the Chairmanship, more than one hundred statements were agreed and delivered on behalf of the Movement on wide range of issues within different international formats. Consensus was achieved over 14 communiqués adopted by the Coordinating Bureau. One summit-level and three ministerial-level declarations were adopted within NAM over the first-half term of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship. 21 resolutions in the UN General Assembly and 6 resolutions in the UN Human Rights Council, put forward by NAM Member States, were adopted.

The official website and social network accounts of the Chairmanship reflects more detailed information about the above-listed activities.



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Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Unfortunately, the first-half period of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship coincided with the global-scale pandemic of COVID-19. However, our Movement has managed to transform challenges into cooperation opportunities by carrying out important valuable initiatives. Through its timely, united and effective responses to the growing challenges, NAM once again demonstrated its continued relevance 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 WHO, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and High Representative, Vice-President of the European Commission commended Movement's exemplary and standout solidarity in the face of the crisis.

Subsequently, 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. The Special Session was convened on 10 July 2020 and continued with the high-level segment held from 3 to 4 December 2020.

As a practical outcome of the Online Summit-level Meeting of NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 held on 4 May 2020, the NAM Task Force was established to work out a database on basic humanitarian and medical needs of NAM Member States, which later was submitted by Azerbaijani Chairmanship to WHO for possible support and assistance.

In its capacity as the Chair of NAM, Azerbaijan has allocated 5 million US dollars to the World Health Organization for its use in support of NAM Member States. We are glad to inform that 25 NAM Member States have benefited from this contribution.

During the past twenty one months, the following ministerial-level meetings were held within the Movement. Ministers of health of NAM Member States met two times – first on 20 May 2020 as a follow-up to the 4 May 2020 Summit-level meeting and the second on 27 May 2021 on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly 74th regular session. Ministers of labor met on 4 June 2021 to discuss area-specific issues of interest for their countries. Meeting of foreign ministers of NAM Member States was held on 9 October 2020, where the ministers adopted a Political Declaration, as well as a Special Declaration on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. An extraordinary meeting of the Ministerial Committee of NAM on Palestine was held on 22 June 2021, which concluded with the adoption of a Political Declaration.



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All above-mentioned events were held in a virtual format due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

During the past period, another specific dimension of activities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship was to raise initiatives on the issue of equal and affordable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines among all nations. On 5 March 2021, the Coordinating Bureau of NAM adopted a Communique on affordable, timely, equitable and universal access by all countries to COVID-19 vaccines. Moreover, during the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, together with Ecuador, Azerbaijani Chairmanship tabled a resolution entitled “*Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease pandemic*” and the resolution was adopted by consensus on 22 March 2021.

Azerbaijani Chairmanship has also been seeking for new possible formats of interactions between the Movement and the other international actors. As a result, for the first time in the history of NAM, joint statements with the European Union have been agreed and delivered in several occasions, including the joint statement on women rights and gender equality in the framework of the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Azerbaijani Chairmanship has spent consistent efforts to promote the practice of demonstrating support to nominations of NAM Member States to various positions at the international organizations. Azerbaijan plans to continue this tradition during the remaining period of its Chairmanship.

Among other Chairmanship activities, Azerbaijan has also revitalized the coordination mechanism of NAM Member States within UNESCO by organizing regular ambassadorial meetings, special events and establishment of database of nominations of NAM Member States to the elected positions at UNESCO.

Recognizing the important role of youth in the current international affairs, another focus area during the first-half term of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship was youth empowerment. During the ministerial-level meeting on 9 October 2020, we informed you about the national-level NAM Model simulation exercise that was held from 16 to 18 April 2020. We gladly report that as a follow-up to the national-level simulation event, the first-ever international NAM Model simulation exercise was held from 1 to 5 March 2021 in a virtual format. 60 young people from 39 NAM Members States representing 4 continents participated at the event and provided valuable input.

The Azerbaijani Chairmanship continues to work on the establishment of a NAM Youth Network which will enable the youth representatives of NAM Member States to exchange ideas, visions and perspectives on current challenges that they face in ensuring sustainable progress and how these difficulties could be overcome through concerted and adequate responses of their States



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Azerbaijani Chairmanship has also attached particular importance to the development efforts of the NAM Member States. Upon the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we have provided scholarship opportunities for students from NAM Member States to study undergraduate, graduate and other degree programs in more than twenty colleges and universities of the country. 68 students from 64 NAM Member States have been awarded with this scholarship during the period of the report.

Excellencies,

Honorable colleagues,

The Azerbaijani Chairmanship stands ready to continue cooperation and dialogue with all Member States during the remaining tenure to successfully accomplish our common goals. We count on your support in this important endeavor.

Thank you.