



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-seventh Session
Panel discussion on the human rights of older persons
in the context of climate change**

**Statement
delivered Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, First Secretary of the Permanent
Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

Geneva, 30 June 2021

Thank you, Madame President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The NAM reaffirms that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our times, threatening not only the development prospects of developing and least developed countries and their achievement of sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies. Its increased adverse impacts are severely undermining their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

The NAM reaffirms that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remains the central multilateral framework for cooperative action to address climate change. The NAM also stresses that the international response to climate change must fully respect the principles, provisions and ultimate objective of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Madame President,

While the implications of climate change affect individuals and communities all around the world, its adverse effects are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations.

Older persons, including older women and older persons with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change, which seriously affects their access to food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health-care services and

medicines, social protection, education and training, adequate housing, transportation and access to decent work.

Climate change also puts added pressure on the environment that may in turn exacerbate disease emergence and increase the impact of pandemics, including the spread of diseases, thereby increasing the risk of exposure of the most vulnerable segments of society, inter alia, older persons, especially older persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, to the combined negative effects and consequences of these phenomena, and put added strain on health systems, particularly those of developing economies.

The NAM expresses concern that developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, lacking the resources to implement their adaptation plans and programmes of action and effective adaptation strategies, may suffer from higher exposure to extreme weather events in both rural and urban areas.

The NAM expresses further concern that a prolonged economic downturn following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic will adversely impact the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the ability of countries, especially developing countries, to adequately respond to the adverse impacts of climate change, emphasizing that, in the response to the crisis, countries should keep the Sustainable Development Goals and climate commitments in focus, taking note of the “United in Science 2020” report compiled by the World Meteorological Organization, and emphasizing the importance of countries keeping their commitments to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The NAM calls for urgent global action to address the climate change in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Paris Agreement in accordance with their national capabilities and circumstances as well as the level of support they are receiving, emphasizing the importance of implementing the commitments undertaken under the Convention on mitigation, adaptation and the provision and the mobilization of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing and least developed countries taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing and least developed countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

In conclusion, the NAM stresses that the adverse impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development should continue to receive due attention in the Human Rights Council’s work. The NAM encourages relevant special procedure mandate holders to continue to consider the issue of climate change and human rights including the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, particularly the rights of older persons, within their respective mandates.

I thank you.