



# Online Mid-term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement

13-14 July 2021

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## POLITICAL DECLARATION

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

13-14 July 2021

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Member States, having met through video conference at the Online Mid-term Ministerial Conference of NAM, under the theme of *“Non-Aligned Movement at the center of multilateral efforts in responding global challenges”* on 13-14 July 2021, undertook a review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the outcomes of the XVIII Summit of the Movement held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 25-26 October 2019, and with a view to making an effective contribution to the solution of the major problems of concern to all NAM Member States and to the entire mankind,

1. *Reiterate* our strong commitment to the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,
2. *Reaffirm* the vision, principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement, articulated in Bandung (1955) and Belgrade (1961), and guided by the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the present international juncture, adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, Cuba, on 16 September 2006, in the efforts to achieve a world of peace, equality, cooperation and well-being for all,
3. *Remain* committed to and promote the faithful observance of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations which is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security,
4. *Reiterate* the full validity of the founding principles of the Movement and recognize the achievements that have marked its historical developments, which ratify that the fight against colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism, all forms of foreign intervention, aggression, foreign occupation, domination or hegemony, as well as the intention of becoming a balancing factor in the international relations, outside of the military alliances of the centers of power, remain concrete expressions of the policy of non-alignment,

5. *Reaffirm* that every State has the duty to refrain in its international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and that such a threat or use of force constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and shall never be employed as a means of settling international issues,
6. *Reaffirm* that all States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, the sovereign equality, political independence and inviolability of international borders of other States, comply with the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs, the abstention from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, recommit to support and promote these principles of international law and to continue opposing any attempt aimed at partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of States,
7. *Reaffirm and underscore* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination,
8. *Reaffirm* our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting international and regional peace, security and stability, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law,
9. *Reiterate* continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. In this regard, the Ministers *call* for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects,
10. *Welcome* the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and *take note* of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January 2021. It is hoped that the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. NAM States Parties to the Treaty are fully committed to its implementation in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons,
11. *Emphasize* that armed conflicts, aggressive expansionist policies, terrorism, separatism, transnational organized crime and extremism coupled with human rights abuses, financial crises and environmental degradation continue to affect millions of people around the world,
12. *Underscore* the need, at the current international circumstances, for strengthened unity within and increased effectiveness of the Non-Aligned Movement, in view of the emerging threats and challenges to international peace, security and sustainable development,

- 13. Acknowledge* that preserving and strengthening the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the Charter of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is fundamental to promoting and supporting the three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, development and human rights,
- 14. Recognize* that no country in the world has fully achieved gender equality and *express* deep concern that progress has been slow and uneven and that major gaps and obstacles remain in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action and *reaffirm* their political will and firm commitment to tackle challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all twelve critical areas of concern,
- 15. Express* concern at the sustained modernization of nuclear weapons, the continuous improvements in existing nuclear weapons, and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS,
- 16. NAM States Parties to the NPT call* on all NWS to promptly implement their long overdue obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the commitments agreed by consensus at the NPT Review Conference without further delay. Furthermore, *they also urge* all NWS to refrain from any action that would run counter to the Treaty’s objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons and the cessation of the nuclear arms race. The States Parties *express* concern that despite the commitment of the NWS and long-standing requests by NNWS to receive such legally binding assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard. It is a matter of more concern that NNWS implicitly or explicitly have been subject to nuclear threats by some nuclear weapon States contrary to their obligations under the UN Charter. They also *call* for the commencement of negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances in accordance with UNGA resolution A/RES/75/75,
- 17. Reiterate* our full support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. As a priority step to this end, we reaffirm the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. We *call* upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfillment of the proposal initiated by Iran in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone. Pending its establishment, we *demand* on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. We *call* for the earliest implementation of relevant IAEA resolutions on “Application of IAEA

Safeguards in the Middle East”. We *express* great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States, and *condemn* Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. In this context, we also *condemn* the statement made by the then Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, related to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel and *urge* the continued consideration of the issue of Israeli nuclear capabilities in the context of the IAEA, including at the General Conference. We are of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbors, and the region. We also *call* for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, they *express* serious concern over the continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one NWS. This development will have potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime,

18. *Welcome* the convening of the First Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction according to the General Assembly Decision 73/546, held from 18 November to 22 November 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and adoption of a Political Declaration and its Final Report. In this regard, we *look forward* to the Second Session of the Conference and continue *to call* upon all States of the region, without exception, to actively participate in this Conference and negotiate in good faith and bring to a conclusion a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of the Zone. We also *stress* that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as other relevant decisions on the subject, adopted within the context of the Review Conferences, remain valid until the objective of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is achieved and that the implementation of decision 73/546 is without prejudice to the validity of aforesaid resolution and decisions and shall not also be construed as their replacement,
19. *Stress* the imperative need for the international community to work in unity and solidarity through a collective policy to overcome global challenges and mitigate its multifaceted impacts, in particular, the COVID-19 crisis, in the spirit of collaboration, not confrontation,
20. *Express* serious concern over the rapid spread of COVID-19, which continues to pose a major challenge to humanity and requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,
21. *Recognize* the unprecedented effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people,

22. *Recognize* also that the poorest and most vulnerable have been and continue to be the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis has reversed hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,
23. *Express* deep concern on the ongoing challenges of uneven access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, and the difficulties that the majority of countries face in accessing and supplying these to their populations,
24. *Emphasize* that in the face of this type of global emergency, the spirit of solidarity must be at the center of our efforts and a high level of ethical and humanist commitment is required, where solidarity and selfless cooperation prevail in order to provide the peoples in need with medicines, medical equipment and supplies, food, exchange of expertise and good practices,
25. *Recognize* the importance of maintaining the continued functioning of the health system and strengthening of primary health care in all relevant aspects necessary for an effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing epidemics, including by ensuring the continuation of uninterrupted vaccination programmes, with the view to achieving universal health coverage, and *note* with concern the disparity in distribution of safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable COVID-19 vaccines between high-income and low- and middle income countries, which prevents the entire international community to achieve the complete elimination of the pandemic as soon as possible,
26. *Deeply concerned* about the low availability of COVID-19 vaccines in low- and middle-income countries. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of countries which have donated COVID-19 vaccines, and actively encourage further sharing of vaccines doses from all countries in a position to do so, without politicization to low- and middle-income countries and other countries in need, particularly through COVAX, including on the basis of the WHO allocation framework, for fair access and equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccines health products,
27. *Note with appreciation* the central role played by NAM in mobilizing global efforts, in the spirit of multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity, to address the pandemic and its negative consequences through its several successful initiatives,
28. *Recall* in this regard the Online Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 held on 4 May 2020 through video-conference and welcome with appreciation the establishment and efforts of the NAM Task Force in compiling the database of the basic humanitarian and medical needs and requirements of the NAM Member States in their fight against COVID-19,
29. *Welcome* the convening of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on 3-4 December 2020 upon the initiative of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the NAM Member States, supported by a majority of the UN Member States,

30. *Welcome* the adoption of UN Human Rights Council resolution entitled “Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” put forward by NAM Member States at the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Council and *welcome* the ongoing discussions at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the emergency temporary waiver from certain provisions of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, where effective, to ensure the access to COVID-19 vaccines production technology and enhance, equitable distribution of vaccines,
31. *Welcome* the organization of the first-ever International NAM Model Simulation Exercise initiated by Azerbaijani chairmanship on 1-5 March 2021 and *reiterate* our support to 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,
32. *Reaffirm* NAM’s principled position and firm commitment in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestation and, in this connection, *reiterate* the obligation of all Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists, deny terrorists safe haven, freedom of operations, movement and recruitment, and also to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and also calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure, before granting asylum, that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts, and further call upon all Member States to strengthen cooperation to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters,
33. *Reaffirm* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, *inter alia*, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy,
34. *Reiterate* the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by stemming recruitment of members of terrorist groups, and to criminalize the willful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, in order to carry out a terrorist act, and *express* concern over the misuse of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, including virtual assets, mobile payment systems and crowdfunding, and other forms of terrorism financing,

35. *Call* upon Member States to take appropriate measures to address the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, and *recognize* with deep concern the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of religious and other communities in various parts of the world,
36. *Resolve* to undertake all necessary measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism,
37. *Consider* with gravest concern the latest developments and the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and, in this regard, while reaffirming our commitment to upholding the positions concerning Palestine, endorse the Political Declaration adopted by the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine at its extraordinary meeting on 22 June 2021
38. *Commend* the important role played by Egypt, to stabilize the ceasefire which began on May 21 between the two parties, opening the Rafah crossing border to provide the urgently needed assistance to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and pledging \$500 Million for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip in coordination with Palestinian Authority,
39. *Deplore* all breaches of international law and provocations in the City of Jerusalem, including home demolitions and the expulsion and forced displacement of Palestinian families, and *stress* that such actions, including all Israeli settlement activities and annexation measures, constitute flagrant violations of international law, have no legal validity and must be immediately and completely halted, as repeatedly determined and demanded by the United Nations Security Council. The Ministers also *called* on Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the sanctity of the holy sites in Jerusalem and the historic and legal status quo at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif,
40. *Call* for urgent measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population, in accordance with international law. Ministers *call* for full respect of the recently agreed ceasefire and an end to the repeated breaches by Israel, the occupying Power, including military airstrikes against the Gaza Strip and illegal actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We *stress* the need for urgent humanitarian assistance to alleviate the dire socio-economic conditions in Gaza and *reiterate* the call for full lifting of the Israeli blockade. We *call* for an end to Israel's systematic aggression, human rights violations, policy of apartheid and violence against the Palestinian people, stressing that respect for international law is fundamental for promoting peaceful and stable conditions, including for fostering the resumption of meaningful political dialogue and credible negotiations to bring an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, realize the

inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence, and achieve a just and comprehensive solution,

41. *Call* for the full respect for the historical and legal status quo at the holy sites, including Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and for the Hashemite historical custodianship exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, over the Christian and Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and for the protection of the sanctity of the holy sites,
42. *Emphasize* that the Jordanian Administration of Jerusalem's Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs has the exclusive authority on Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and its mandate extended to all affairs relating to the unimpeded administration Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, including maintenance, restoration, and regulating access,
43. *Commend* the efforts of the leadership of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and African Union, including Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, President Erdogan of Turkey, President Rohani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa in supporting and advocating the Palestinian cause, promoting the Palestinian people's efforts to end foreign occupation and fulfilling their aspirations to achieve the independence of their state,
44. *Commend* the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco as Chair of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and *welcome* the "Call for Al Quds/Jerusalem" signed in Rabat, on March 30th 2019, by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis to stress the important role that Al Quds/Jerusalem plays as a city of tolerance and mutual respect among the people of the three monotheistic religions and stressed the need to preserve its specificities and its features as a city of peaceful coexistence,
45. *Stress* that a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, based on internationally-endorsed parameters enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions, in all its aspects must remain a priority on the Movement's agenda and remains also a permanent responsibility of the United Nations until it is satisfactorily resolved in all aspects in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions,
46. *Condemn* all measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and demand once again that Israel should abide by the United Nations Security Council resolutions 497 (1981), and to withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 July 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973),
47. *Note* with concern that the collective desire of the Movement to establish a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order remains encumbered by fundamental impediments, which are in the form of, *inter alia*, the severe adverse



impact of the global financial and economic crises, the continuing lack of resources and underdevelopment of the majority of the developing world, continuing unequal terms of trade and the lack of cooperation from developed countries, as well as the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by some of them and the use of force or the threats of use of force, further exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic,

48. *Express* strong condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the Movement, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of non-intervention, self-determination and independence of States. In this respect, *reiterate* determination to denounce, and demand the repeal of, such measures, which affect human rights and prevent the full economic and social development of the peoples subjected to them,
49. *Note* that the world today is composed of States with diverse political, economic, social and cultural systems and religions determined by their history, traditions, values and cultural diversity, whose stability can be guaranteed by the universal recognition of their right to freely determine their own approach towards progressive development. In this context, they *emphasized* that respect for the diversity of such systems and approaches is a core value which relations and cooperation among States in an increasingly globalizing world should be based on, with the aim of contributing to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order, and an environment conducive to exchanging human experiences. They *underscored* that the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace globally, in particular through the full implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action and the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace could contribute towards that end,
50. *Declare* that the effective implementation of the documents of the NAM Summits and Ministerial Meetings requires the highest commitment and determination of all NAM Member States to decisively address the challenges posed in the areas of peace, economic and social development, human rights and international cooperation, and for which we will make joint efforts to achieve the desired objectives,
51. *Reaffirm* that peacekeeping is the flagship activity of the United Nations and represents a true symbol for the promotion of international peace and security, while noting the increasingly volatile context in which peacekeepers operate due to the emergence of new transnational challenges and threats, including COVID-19, further recall the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments, and the ongoing efforts to translate these collective commitments into actions, and the valuable contribution of the "Cairo Roadmap" to that end,

52. *Recognize* the importance of a greater representation of women in peacekeeping and therefore *take note* of the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2538 (2020) to bolster the participation of women peacekeepers, understanding the key role of women in international peace and security, and sustaining peace,
53. *Recognize* the importance of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and reaffirm the primary responsibility of national governments, their leadership and ownership in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities and, in this regard, emphasized that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society were taken into account; and further acknowledge the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in mobilizing support for nationally identified priorities in conflict affected countries,
54. *Recognize further* the importance of post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration efforts in the NAM Member States to sustain peace, foster economic development and promote cooperation, and in this regard highlight the importance of effective mine action in and the role of international assistance to NAM Member States most affected by the contamination of mines and other unexploded devices,
55. *Express* deep concern about the rise in discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism and xenophobia related to the pandemic, and calls upon Member States, and all relevant actors, to promote inclusion and unity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,
56. *Express* concern about rising adverse effect of climate change in the economic recovery period after COVID-19 and necessity of enhancing climate finance by developed countries according to their commitment to finance climate actions in developing countries and transferring technology and providing technical support for these countries,
57. *Recall* the agreement to expedite the Movement's decision-making and improve its working Methods, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement and the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, through determined and timely action in order to contribute more effectively in the multilateral process, as well as reflecting on lesson-learned from the COVID-19 pandemic situation,
58. *Welcome* the offer of the Republic of Uganda to host the XIX Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in late 2023,
59. *Welcome* the admission of the Russian Federation as observer state to the Non-Aligned Movement upon the relevant recommendation by the NAM Coordinating Bureau dated 21 December 2020, within the framework of opening the movement to contribution of other actors in the international arena and adhering to the principles and purposes of the Movement,

**60.** *Express gratitude* to the Republic of Azerbaijan, incumbent Chairmanship of NAM, for effectively steering the work of the Non-Aligned Movement in a challenging period for all Member States and for its commitment and readiness to continue the NAM chairmanship until the Republic of Uganda takes it over, in late 2023, and welcome in this regard, the mid-term NAM chairmanship report presented by the Republic of Azerbaijan.