



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



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON BEHALF  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TO COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE  
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

*New York, 26 September 2022*

**Mr. President,**

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 120 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement at this high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
2. At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, for convening this meeting, and to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, for his participation.

**Mr. President,**

3. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, designated through United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32. The Movement considers the annual observance of this International Day as an effective means of drawing the attention of the international public to the unacceptable dangers of nuclear weapons, the concomitant necessity for their total elimination and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development, as well as for international peace and security.
4. Nuclear disarmament has been and remains the highest priority for the Movement. We reiterate our concern over the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use.
5. In this regard, we emphasize that the convening of the United Nations High-level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions, would provide an important opportunity to review progress made in nuclear disarmament and to further promote this noble objective.

**Mr. President,**

6. 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 stressed that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to



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strengthening international peace and security. They also stressed the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to the efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament.

### **Mr. President,**

7. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use or threat of use, as well as their proliferation persists. Any use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and, considering the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any such use, the only and absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.
8. The slow progress towards nuclear disarmament and the Nuclear-Weapon States' lack of progress towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations and commitments, remain issues of deep concern to the Non-Aligned Movement. We reaffirm the need for the Nuclear-Weapon States that bear the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, to take urgent and concrete actions aimed at achieving this goal.
9. In this conjunction, the NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation (NPT) would like to emphasize the continued validity of its principled position and calls for the full implementation of all commitments and the unequivocal undertakings assumed by Nuclear Weapon States at the 1995, 2000, and 2010 NPT Review Conferences to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament.
10. NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation (NPT) reiterates the urgent need for accountability of Nuclear Weapon States for their disarmament obligations under the NPT through benchmarks, concrete, measurable, and timebound actions on nuclear disarmament with established deadlines, and reporting their implementation of these obligations to the NPT Review Conference until the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons is achieved, in a structured manner that allows Non-Nuclear Weapon States to engage constructively on their reports. These reports must be accurate, up-to-date, complete, and contain comparable information including inter alia the number, type, and status of nuclear warheads, the number and types of delivery vehicles, the amount of fissile material produced for military purposes, and measures taken to reduce the role and significance of nuclear weapons.
11. The Non-Aligned Movement further reiterates with concern, that qualitative and quantitative improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some Nuclear Weapons States, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the Nuclear Weapon States. The Movement stresses once again that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate also the commitments undertaken by the Nuclear



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Weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and at the NPT Review Conference.

### **Mr. President,**

12. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach towards nuclear disarmament. The international community cannot continue to defer the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. There is an urgent need to make concrete and systematic progress towards this end.
13. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the convening of the First and Second Sessions 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, which were held in 2019 and 2021 respectively at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the adoption of a Political Declaration (2019), Rules of Procedure, and establishing informal Working Committee, and a Final Report (2021). Member States of the Movement look forward to the Third 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. The Movement also stresses 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 NPT 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.
14. At the same time, the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT continue to express deep concern over the long delay in the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference calling for establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and strongly urge the UN Secretary-General and the three co-sponsors of this resolution to fully implement it, without further delay, considering that the indefinite extension of the NPT is inextricably linked to the implementation of this resolution. Pending its establishment, The States parties to the NPT demands that Israel, the only non-party to the NPT in the region renounce any possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.
15. At the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference Non-aligned States Parties to NPT have extended constructive engagement through statements, proposals and Working Papers. However, upon the conclusions of the Review Conference, the States Parties expressed their disappointment over the failure of the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference to produce a consensual outcome document. The States Parties consider the final document of the Review Conference to be of



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utmost importance, in contributing to the promotion of the full and effective implementation of the NPT. Therefore, the States Parties have expressed their commitment to engaging in future discussions and negotiations in a constructive, transparent and inclusive manner, involving all States Parties, to achieve consensus.

### **Mr. President,**

16. As a staunch proponent of multilateral diplomacy, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterate its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Movement takes note of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January 2021, and the convening of its First Meeting of States Parties in Vienna, Austria on June 21-23, 2022, which concluded with the adoption of a declaration and an action plan. 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.
17. The Member States of the Movement reaffirm the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and call for the urgent commencement of negotiations therein on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. We further call for urgent compliance with legal obligations and the fulfillment of commitments undertaken with regard to nuclear disarmament.

### **Mr. President**

18. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the UN meetings and activities for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September, and we appreciate the participation of all delegations in this important event. We strongly encourage Member States, the UN system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities.

I thank you, Mr. President.