



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council
48th Session**

**General debate on item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

**Statement
delivered by 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, 24 September 2021

Madame President,

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

NAM attaches significant importance to the promotion and protection of human rights and commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

NAM reaffirms that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

We also reaffirm that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized, non-selective and dialogue-based approach, in a fair and equal manner, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country.

In this regard, we reiterate the Movement's dismay and unequivocal condemnation of gross and systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and situations that constitute serious obstacles to their full enjoyment.

Madame President,

NAM stresses the need to preserve the positive developments achieved since the establishment of the Human Rights Council in the context of its work, including its institutional building package.

The Movement emphasizes the role of the Council for consideration of human rights situations in all UN Member States through the Universal Periodic Review based on cooperation and constructive dialogue.

In this regard, the Movement expresses its deep concern over the proliferation of the practice of selective adoption of country-specific resolutions in the Council, which is a tool that exploits human rights for political purposes and breaches the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in addressing human rights issues which undermine cooperation as the essential principle to effectively promote and protect all universally recognized human rights for all.

We encourage the Council in the discussion on human rights to give adequate attention to the issues of poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, climate change, digital divide, instability, foreign occupation and illegal settlements, damage to the cultural heritage of countries in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation and those affected by terrorist acts that engender social and economic exclusion and violation of human dignity and human rights, which cannot be divorced from any meaningful discussion relating to human rights.

In this context, NAM recognizes that States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons in situations of terrorism and armed conflict, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as to ensure respect, protection, fulfilment and restoration of their human rights. To that end, we stress the importance of cooperation among States in a good faith to provide these solutions.

The NAM also recognizes the importance of post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration efforts to sustain peace, foster economic development and promote cooperation, and in this regard highlights 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.

NAM stresses the importance of affordable, unhindered and equitable access by all countries to vaccines, medicines and medical equipment which should constitute an integral part of the global response to COVID-19 based on multilateral cooperation, solidarity and respect for human rights. It is through a coordinated and concerted global response based unity, multilateral cooperation, solidarity and respect for human rights that the international community can craft strategies to mitigate effects of COVID-19 and recover from the pandemic.

In conclusion, the Movement calls upon all Members States of the Council to promote international cooperation and constructive dialogue and prevent the occurrence of practices of double standards, selectivity and political manipulation.

I thank you.