



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council  
48<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for the realization of human rights**

**Statement  
delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva  
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**Geneva, 28 September 2021**

Madame Vice-President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. NAM is deeply concerned about the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights around the world and stresses the importance of human rights in shaping the response to the pandemic in terms of both the public health emergency and the broader impact on people's lives and livelihoods. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and aggravated vulnerabilities and inequalities in both developing and developed countries, and also among them, deepening poverty and exclusion and pushing the most vulnerable even further behind.
3. NAM believes that considering the challenges faced by the developing countries during the times of current crisis, necessary fiscal space should be provided to developing countries through debt relief, and appropriate measures for financing and debt sustainability.
4. We emphasize a key role played by the Movement in mobilizing and strengthening global efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic and recall the establishment of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 and its Summit-level Meeting, the Database of medical and humanitarian needs of NAM Member States in response to COVID-19 as well as the Special Session of the UN General Assembly dedicated to COVID-19 convened upon the initiative of NAM.
5. We stress the urgent need to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to facilitate the development of robust health systems and universal health coverage.
6. NAM expresses its serious concern over the disparity in distribution of vaccines against COVID-19 between developing and developed countries which prevents the entire

international community to achieve the elimination of the pandemic as soon as possible and hampers progress in the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. We note that since the beginning of vaccination more than 90% of all vaccines administered have been concentrated in high-income countries and some middle-income countries, while low-income countries are still lagging behind in gaining access to the COVID-19 vaccines supply compared to high-income countries. We call for equitable, affordable and fair access, availability and distribution of vaccines, between developing and developed countries.

8. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the resolution entitled “Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” by this Council in its 46<sup>th</sup> session upon the initiative of Ecuador and Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM by consensus.

9. NAM recognizes that a successful global response to the pandemic must be built on concrete actions that ensure universal access to effective COVID-19 medicines, diagnostics and vaccines. It is necessary that the development and use of health technologies needed to combat COVID-19 continues to be encouraged.

10. In conclusion, NAM recognizes that it is through a coordinated and concerted global response based on unity, multilateral cooperation, solidarity and respect for human rights that the international community can craft strategies to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and recover from the pandemic. It is necessary to set aside all political ideologies and discrimination for the sake of all humankind.

Thank you.