



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council
49th Session**

**Half-day panel discussion on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal
access for all countries to vaccines in response
to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic**

Statement

**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, 10 March 2022

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. NAM warmly welcomes this panel discussion convened in accordance with the Human Rights Council resolution 46/14 initiated by Ecuador and Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement last March.
3. NAM is deeply concerned about the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights worldwide 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 pandemic has exposed and aggravated vulnerabilities and inequalities in both developing and developed countries, deepening poverty and exclusion and pushing people in the most vulnerable situation even further behind.
4. We highlight the fundamental role the UN system plays in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and in providing support to states. We particularly acknowledge the crucial leading role played by the World Health Organization.
5. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, NAM has played a key role in mobilizing and strengthening global efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic through a number of successful undertakings such as the convocation of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2020 and adoption of resolutions entitled "Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic" by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in March and December last year as well as the launching of the Database of medical and humanitarian needs of NAM Member States in response to COVID-19

6. 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.

7. COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response, yet a low availability of COVID-19 vaccines in low and middle income countries proves that there is still much to be done in this respect. The disparity in distribution of COVID-19 vaccines between developing and developed countries prevents the entire international community from achieving the elimination of the pandemic as soon as possible and hampers progress in the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. NAM welcomes the efforts of the countries which have donated COVID-19 vaccines and actively encourage further sharing of vaccines doses from all countries in a position to do so to low and middle income countries and other countries in need. In this context, we appreciate and support the works of COVAX Facility and the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, including the COVAX Advance Market Commitment Engagement as well as other initiatives to ensure affordable, equitable, universal and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for all.

9. 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.

10. We reiterate 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.

11. In conclusion, it is our conviction 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 the COVID-19 pandemic and recover from the pandemic.

12. NAM will come up with new result-oriented initiatives on addressing post-COVID-19 recovery needs. In this regard, NAM welcomes the initiative by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan in his capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement to convene the next Summit-level meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 on post-pandemic global recovery.

Thank you.