



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**110<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference (ILC-ILO)**

**Statement  
by H.E. Mr. Sahil Babayev,  
Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of  
Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**Geneva, 6 June 2022**

Mr. President,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Excellences,

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

At the outset, we congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as the President of the 110<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference. We are confident that under your able stewardship the session will lead to a successful conclusion.

Mr. President,

NAM appreciates the efforts by the ILO, its Director-General and tripartite constituency that have enabled the institutional integrity and business continuity of the work of the Organization during the COVID-19 pandemic and recognizes the valuable work by the Office aimed at analysing the impact of the pandemic to the world of work, providing extensive policy advice and advocating a human-centred recovery from the pandemic.

The pandemic has devastated the world of work including through increased unemployment and inactivity, losses in labour income, increase in informality and in gaps of access to social protection, new challenges to worker's rights, health and safety. At the same time, it has accelerated changes in the world of work by creating employment opportunities and adding new dynamics through the application of IT innovations which have provided more flexible terms and income for workers, especially women, youth and people with disabilities.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, NAM has played a key role in mobilizing and strengthening global efforts to address the impact of the pandemic through successful global initiatives 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 on equitable and universal access to COVID-19 vaccines by the Human Rights Council and General Assembly as well as the launching of the Database of medical and humanitarian needs of NAM Member States in response to COVID-19.

The disparity in distribution of COVID-19 vaccines between developing and developed countries remains to be a matter of serious concern for the Movement. While recognizing that situation with global vaccination in the world has improved compared to what it was a year ago, nevertheless, we reiterate our call for equitable, fair and universal access to, availability and distribution of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics necessary to ensure effective response to the pandemic between developing and developed countries. NAM welcomes the contribution made to the COVAX facility by the Global South, keeping with the principles of South-South cooperation and the role of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Minister of Health of Ethiopia as Co-Chairs of the COVAX AMC Group that is working to ensure COVID-19 vaccine distribution for the protection of the most vulnerable in all countries.

NAM does believe that it is through a coordinated global response based on multilateral cooperation and solidarity, the globe can craft strategies to recover from the pandemic. In this regard, we welcome the initiatives for an inclusive recovery from the pandemic, including the initiative by the 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.

We reiterate the Centenary Declaration's call for a human-centred approach for inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery from the disproportionate impact of the pandemic. Accelerating its implementation must become a top priority of public policy, enterprise practice and international cooperation shaped and supported by social dialogue. The Movement also reaffirms the Global Call to Action for a Human-centred Recovery unanimously adopted at this Conference last year which commits countries to work for economic and social recovery from the crisis, calls for policies that prioritize the creation of decent work for all and address inequalities as well as outlines a comprehensive agenda to promote quality employment and economic development, universal social protection and social dialogue. We call upon the ILO to support its member states in the design and implementation of recovery strategies that leave no one behind.

Mr. President,

The Movement urges the Director-General to continue promoting the acceptance of 1986 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution. We also appreciate the efforts by the Office to strengthen the ILO Supervisory System. Balance in the list of individual cases in terms of four regions and different conventions must be a guiding principle in the case selection before the Committee on the Application of Standards.

NAM recognizes the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goal 8 which promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, the protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers.

The Movement also reiterates that unilateral coercive measures seriously jeopardize all human rights, including the right to development and the right to work. NAM opposes and condemns these unilateral coercive measures or laws and their continued application and requests states applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

Mr. President,

NAM welcomes the Report of the ILO Director-General on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories and expresses its deepest concern over the violation of human rights perpetrated by the occupying power. The Movement condemns the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan and expresses its support for

achieving lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international law and relevant UN resolutions.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we extend our sincere appreciation to the outgoing Director-General Mr. Guy Ryder for his excellent leadership, guidance and extraordinary contribution to the ILO over the past decade.

We also congratulate Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo of Togo on his election as the ILO Director-General and look forward to working with him to address the multiple challenges faced by the world of work, build on the common belief in social justice for decent work, stability and development while upholding the ILO's core values. We are proud that the representative of the NAM Member State will lead this important UN agency in the years to come.

I thank you.