



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
AT THE CEREMONIAL MEETING TO MARK THE FORMAL HANDOVER OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF THE 77 FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

New York, 18 January 2021

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, we would like to welcome and convey our respect to H.E. Mr. Mamadi Toure, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Living Abroad of the Republic of Guinea on the occasion of the assumption by their country of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 for 2021. Member States of the Movement express their confidence in the ability of Guinea to fulfill this important role and extend their full support to the Chair in carrying out its responsibilities. We look forward to deepening our engagement and partnership in addressing the matters of common interest to the Global South.
3. The Movement wishes to express its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Hugh Hilton Todd, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Non-Aligned Movement recognizes and commends the stewardship and proactive role of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana in Chairing the Group of 77 in 2020.
4. We also would like to welcome the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, and the President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, as well as Chairs of the regional groups and the wider membership that comprise the Group of 77 in this meeting.

Mr. Chair,

5. Partnership and cooperation between the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 have a long history. Both organizations while sharing most of its Member States, also serve one common goal, although with different focuses. The goal is to consider issues of mutual interest and to address challenges that are common to the Global South. The



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establishment of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 in 1994 has most certainly bolstered this cooperation.

6. The strength of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 in defending and promoting our core values and principles is sustained by the solidarity of its Member States. The Non-Aligned Movement remains committed to preserving the unity of purpose and action achieved between our groups.

Mr. Chair,

7. During the XVIII Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in October 2019, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Members States agreed to continue to strengthen the coordination and cooperation, as well as the formulation of common positions and strategies on economic development and social progress issues, as well as issues related to transnational organized crime with the Group of 77 through the Joint Coordinating Committee. The main objective in this regard is to advance the collective concerns and interests of developing countries at the relevant international fora, particularly in the context of the UN reform, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to expand and deepen South-South cooperation.
8. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement look forward to the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 which had been scheduled to take place last year in Kampala, Uganda, but was postponed amid the continued spread of COVID-19. We are confident that this event will serve as yet another opportunity to further strengthen South-South Cooperation between our two forums and to help maintain a coherent, strong and coordinated position among developing countries on matters of mutual interest and concern.
9. Members of the Movement reaffirm once again the importance of strengthening the current institutional mechanisms for South-South Cooperation, regarding it as a complementary tool and *not* a replacement for North-South Cooperation. South-South Cooperation represents a collective endeavor of developing countries, that is based on the principle of solidarity and on the premises, conditions and objectives specific to the historic and political context of developing countries, as well as their needs and expectations for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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Mr. Chair,

10. 2020 was a challenging year, throughout which the global community faced the greatest health crisis in recent history. As of today, there are almost 87 million reported cases and 1.9 million deaths worldwide. The crisis had multifaceted repercussions in health, social, economic and financial spheres, causing disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global commerce and travel, and making a devastating impact on the livelihood of people.
11. The 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. It is the poorest and most vulnerable who were hit the hardest by this pandemic and NAM is gravely concerned that the further impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
12. We believe 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 effects of COVID-19 and recover from this pandemic.
13. NAM stresses the importance of affordable, unhindered and equitable access by all countries to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment, which should constitute an integral part of a coordinated and effective global response to COVID-19. As many vaccines against COVID-19 are being currently studied, we are all looking forward to the successful outcome of clinical trials and hope that safe and effective vaccines will soon be available, as global public goods ensuring their universal distribution at affordable prices for all.

Mr. Chair,

14. In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its principled position regarding the economic development and social progress and reiterates its full commitment to multilateralism, as well as to the purposes and principles of the Group of 77. We look forward to achieving peace, prosperity and equitable world order, including through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.