



# **18<sup>th</sup> Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan**

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**FINAL DOCUMENT**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries<sup>1</sup> met under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the city of Baku, on the 05 and 06 April 2018, to address existing, new, and emerging issues of collective concern and interest of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as to review the progress and implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Document adopted during the XVII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in September 2016 in the Island of Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and to prepare for the next NAM Summit Conference, to be held in this same city of Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in 2019. In this regard, they *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the Movement's abiding faith in and strong commitment to its founding principles<sup>2</sup>, ideals and purposes, particularly in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order, as well as to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

2. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation and gratitude to the People and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the excellent organization, hospitality, and hosting of the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku, on 05 and 06 April 2018 and *pledged* their support for this nomination.

3. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the continued relevance, validity, and adherence to all principled positions and decisions of the Movement as contained in the substantive outcome documents of the 17<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit held in the Island of Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 17 and 18 September 2016<sup>3</sup>, and the preceding seventeen Summit Conferences of the Movement<sup>4</sup>, as well as all preceding Ministerial Conferences or Meetings of the Movement, including the XVII NAM Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria, in May 2014. Likewise, they *expressed* their determination to preserve and act in keeping with the Bandung Principles and the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement in the present international juncture, as agreed in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture<sup>5</sup> adopted in the 14<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in Havana, and the Bali Commemorative Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement.

4. The Ministers *acknowledged* the NAM Chair's Report on the Movement's activities covering from the 17<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit held in the Island of Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to date, which showed significant progress in implementing the NAM Plan of Action as stipulated in the Island of Margarita Final Document and the Declaration of Island of Margarita, which contributed positively in the process of strengthening and revitalizing the Non-Aligned Movement.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of NAM Member Countries appears in Annex I.

<sup>2</sup> The ten Founding Principles of NAM appears in Annex II.

<sup>3</sup> The substantive documents adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in the Island of Margarita are: the Island of Margarita Final Document; the Island of Margarita Political Declaration; and the Declaration on Palestine. All these documents can be downloaded from [www.venezuelanam.org](http://www.venezuelanam.org).

<sup>4</sup> The preceding fifteen NAM Summit Conferences were held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961; Cairo, United Arab Republic in 1964; Lusaka, Zambia in 1970; Algiers, Algeria in 1973; Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1976; Havana, Cuba in 1979; New Delhi, India in 1983; Harare, Zimbabwe in 1986; Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1989; Jakarta, Indonesia in 1992; Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in 1995, Durban, South Africa in 1998, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2003, Havana, Cuba in 2006, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in 2009; Tehran, Iran (IR) in 2012; and Island of Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in 2016.

<sup>5</sup> See: Annex III.

## **CHAPTER I: GLOBAL ISSUES**

### **Review of the International Situation**

5. The Ministers *emphasized* that the current global scenario presents great challenges in the areas of peace and security, economic development and social progress, human rights and the rule of law to Non-Aligned Countries. They *affirmed* that many new areas of concern and challenges have emerged, particularly the global financial and economic crisis, which warrant the renewal of commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and the principles of international law. In taking stock of developments at the international level since the XVII Summit of Ministers of the Movement, they *noted with concern* that the collective desire of the Movement to establish a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order remains encumbered by fundamental impediments. These impediments are in the form of, *inter alia*, the severe adverse impact of the global financial and economic crises on the economic growth and development of developing countries which could lead to increasing poverty and deprivation in these countries, the continuing lack of resources and underdevelopment of the majority of the developing world, on the one hand; and in the form of, *inter alia*, the continuing unequal terms of trade and the lack of cooperation from developed countries, as well as the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by some of them and the use of force or the threats of use of force, on the other hand. The rich and powerful countries continue to exercise an inordinate influence in determining the nature and direction of international relations, including economic and trade relations, as well as the rules governing these relations, *under the pretext of "Democracy", "Human Rights" and "Anti-Terrorism"*, many of which are at the expense of developing countries.

6. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the Movement will remain guided in its endeavors by its Founding Principles, the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 14<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in Havana, the Bali Commemorative Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the UN Charter and the international law. To this end, the Movement will continue to uphold the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State or Nation; take effective measures for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace to defend, promote, and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force, including aggressive military exercises against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in their struggle against foreign occupation; achieve international cooperation based on solidarity among peoples and governments in solving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and promote and encourage the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

7. The Ministers *noted* that the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges, including the multiple inter-related and mutually reinforcing current global crises, continue to impede efforts by States to attain greater economic development and social progress, peace and security, and the enjoyment of human rights and the rule of law. Global peace and security continue to elude humankind as a result of, *inter alia*, increasing tendency and deepening by certain States to resort to unilateralism, arbitrariness and unilaterally imposed measures, non-fulfillment of the commitments and obligations assumed under the relevant international legally binding instruments especially on weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons treaties, terrorism, conflicts, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the use of double standards in international relations, the continuing failure and unwillingness

of the majority of the developed countries to fulfill their commitments in the economic and social fields. They *underscored* the need for the international community, in particular NAM Member States, to collectively redress these situations in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

8. The Ministers *underlined* that globalization continues to present opportunities, challenges and risks to the future and viability of developing countries and that the process of globalization and trade liberalization has produced uneven benefits among and within States while the global economy has been characterized by slow and lopsided growth and instability. Furthermore, it has made the developing countries more vulnerable to the adverse impact of the financial and economic crises, climate change, recurrent food crisis and energy prices volatility. In its present form, globalization perpetuates or even increases the marginalization of developing countries. Therefore, globalization must be transformed into a positive force for change for all peoples, benefiting all nations and contributing to the prosperity and empowerment of developing countries not their continued impoverishment and dependence on the developed world, reaffirming also that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. The international community must strengthen international cooperation and avoid inward-looking policies and protectionism, so as to promote an inclusive world economy and generate greater positive effects of globalization. They *underscored* that is needed a reform and strengthening of the international financial system and enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level. In addition, greater efforts must be made to generate a global strategy to prioritize and mainstream the development dimension into global processes, and in the relevant multilateral institutions, in order to enable developing countries to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and trade liberalization, including through the creation of an enabling external economic environment for development that be inclusive and mutually beneficial, which requires greater coherence between the international trading, monetary and financial systems that should be universal, open, equitable, non-coercive, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory.

9. The Ministers *underscored* the need for the UN system to seriously address the introduction of new institutional arrangements to bring coherence and coordination to the distinct sets of rules applying to various areas of economic activity. The UN system should address the inter-linkage between economic globalization and sustainable development, in particular by identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, including the importance of international cooperation, finance, technology and capacity-building to supporting national efforts, in line with national priorities and respecting each country's policy space.

10. The revolution in information and communication technologies continues to change the world rapidly and in a fundamental way, thus creating a vast and widening digital divide between the developed and developing countries. This digital divide which has been taking new dimensions, including a growing gap in broadband connectivity between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies, and access to broadband and Internet, which must be bridged if developing countries are to benefit from the globalization process and of the enormous potentials of ICTs as important tools for economic, social and political development. The new technological innovations must be made more easily available to developing countries in their efforts to modernize and revitalize their economies in pursuit of their developmental goals and well-being of their populations, including through the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, as well as the transfer of technology on preferential and concessional terms, all of which are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development. In this context, the achievement of these goals requires an enabling international environment and the honoring of commitments and pledges made by States, in particular the developed countries. In addition, the Movement underscores the need to prevent all discriminatory practices and policies that hinder access by developing countries to the benefits of

information and communication technologies and to networks established in developed countries.

11. The future will present as many challenges and opportunities as the past and the Movement must continue to *remain* strong, cohesive and resilient in order to address them and preserve the historic legacy of the Movement. The continued relevance and validity of the Movement will depend, in large measure, on the unity and solidarity of each of its Member Countries as well as their ability to influence these changes positively. In this regard, the process of the revitalization and strengthening of the Movement must continue to be proactive, advanced and consolidated.

12. The Ministers *recalled* the decision of the Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held in Algiers in July 1999, calling for the restoration of constitutional legality in States whose governments had come to power through unconstitutional means, as well as the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in 2000 in Lomé, and in this context, *encouraged* the Non-Aligned Countries to continue to uphold the democratic ideals consistent with the Founding Principles of the Movement.

13. The Ministers *welcomed* the designation by the UN General Assembly of April 22 as the International Day of Mother Earth, and recognized that the Earth and its ecosystems are home to humanity. They *undertook* to raise awareness about this issue. The Ministers also *welcomed* the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature to commemorate the International Mother Earth Day; the event discussed different economic approaches in the context of sustainable development to further a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and the Earth, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/214 and 68/216.

#### **Non-Aligned Movement: Role and Methods of Work**

14. Recognizing the aspirations of their peoples, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's irrevocable political and moral commitment, and determination to and full respect for the Bandung Principles and those adopted at the Havana Summit in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the NAM in the Present International Juncture, the Bali Commemorative Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the UN Charter as well as for their preservation and promotion, with a view to further consolidate and enhance the Movement's role and position as the principal political platform representing the developing world in multilateral forums, in particular the United Nations. In this context, they *stressed* that achieving the principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement hinges upon the unity, solidarity and cohesion among its membership, firmly rooted on mutual respect, respect for diversity and tolerance.

15. The Ministers *recognized* that solidarity, the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, is a broad concept encompassing the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformative objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples.

16. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, which reflects the institutional positions of the Movement vis-à-vis on various international issues, and the documents adopted by the previous NAM Summits and Ministerial Conferences, due consideration should be given to maximizing the ability of the Movement to deal with the current rapidly evolving global situations, crises and challenges.

17. The Ministers *determined* that if any Member of the Movement suffers harm, whether this is economic, political or military in nature, or in terms of its security, as well as from the politicization of human rights, or if a Member suffers harm as a result of the imposition of unilateral sanctions or embargos, the Movement should express its solidarity with the affected

country through the provision of *political*, moral, material and other forms of assistance. To this end, the Ministers *will continue* to review the Movement's existing mechanisms and explore new mechanisms for rendering such assistance, if necessary.

18. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the Movement has been playing a key active, effective and central role over the years, on issues of concern and vital importance to its members, such as decolonization, apartheid, the situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine, the maintenance of international peace and security, and disarmament. After over half a century of its existence, and having undergone many challenges and vicissitudes, it is timely and appropriate to sustain and further consolidate the process of strengthening and revitalizing the Movement and continue to undertake actions that allow the Movement to effectively and efficiently address the main current challenges facing its Member Countries, as well as to forge a common vision of the future. In the context of existing and new threats and challenges, it is imperative for the Movement to continue to promote multilateralism, especially by strengthening the central role of the United Nations, including in Global Governance, defending the interests of developing countries and preventing their marginalization.

19. In rededicating the Movement to its principles, ideals and purposes, and consistent with the aforementioned principled positions, which should be defended, preserved and promoted through greater efforts by the Movement and the existing mechanisms and arrangements of the Movement, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

*19.1. Continue* making progress in the process of revitalizing and strengthening the Movement with a view to achieving the purposes outlined in both the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture and the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in Havana and the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, as well as the Bali Commemorative Declaration, which will enable the Movement to deal effectively with the challenges looming ahead. *Consolidate* the proactive approach in the working dynamic of the Movement, maintaining and increasing our capacity to bring forth on behalf of the NAM concrete proposals in the debates and presentation of resolutions and other initiatives at the various United Nations organs and other international fora where NAM is represented.

*19.2. Disseminate* the outcome documents of the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement as official documents of the United Nations system, as appropriate;

*19.3 Enhance* the status and role of NAM as an anti-war peace-loving force and *oppose* any attempt to maintain aggressive military bloc and all forms of aggression, interference, subordination and inequality; and *make* a concerted effort to launch a counteraction against acts of aggression and war;

*19.4. Expand* the Movement's scope wherever its members consider it more appropriate within the UN agencies or at other relevant international organizations or bodies, in accordance to the relevant decisions by the NAM Summits and/or Ministerial Conferences;

*19.5. Continue* to maintain, strengthen, and manifest the unity and solidarity among the membership of the Movement, particularly with those Non-Aligned Countries whose peoples are living under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation, or living in poverty or suffering ill-health, or victims of natural disasters, as well as those experiencing external threats of use of force, acts of aggression or unilateral coercive measures, including sanctions;

*19.6. Sustain* the process of reviewing, analyzing and strengthening the positions of the Movement on international issues, with a view to *further ensuring* the adherence to

and promotion of its Founding Principles and the principles adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> NAM Summit and those referred to in the Bali Commemorative Declaration, and *further consolidate* the common denominators among its membership;

19.7. *Continue* to review the role of the Movement in the context of current realities and *improve*, as appropriate, its structure and methods of work, including through strengthening existing mechanisms and arrangements<sup>6</sup>, creating new ones, as appropriate, and utilizing them to the fullest, convening regular meetings of such mechanisms and arrangements, generating a more focused and concise documentation, strengthening the role of the Chair as spokesperson of the Movement, working towards establishing a back-up mechanism to assist the Chair, through taking full advantage of and maximum benefit from the Movement's existing mechanisms and arrangements with the aim to continue promoting a more coordinated, effective and efficient Movement capable of responding in a timely manner to international developments affecting it and its Member Countries;

19.8. *Request* the Coordinating Bureau to consider, as appropriate, all proposals on enhancing the role and methods of work of the Movement;

19.9. *Emphasize* the need for NAM Documents to be concise, non-repetitive and succinct, highlighting issues of particular importance or urgency in line with the Cartagena Document on Methodology, and *instruct* their delegations to the UN to start a streamlining process through an open-ended Working Group, established by the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non Aligned Movement by January 2019, to review NAM documents with a view to presenting a streamlined NAM final document to the mid-term NAM Ministerial Conference to be held in 2021;

19.10. *Continue* to support the important and active role of the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York and its Working Groups and Caucuses, whose work is highly recognized and appreciated, as well as to maintain the current mechanism of the NAM Troika to assist the work of the Chair in order to enable the Movement to speak with one voice and to respond in a timely manner to international developments, and to promote the sharing of experiences and brainstorming on particular issues of interest to the Movement by the NAM Troika and the Former Chairs of the Movement. The activities and deliberations of the NAM Troika and/or the Former Chairs of the Movement shall continue to be reported to the Coordinating Bureau;

19.11. *Improve* the coordination of the work of the existing mechanisms of the Movement in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, Paris and The Hague in the work of the relevant UN organs and agencies, upon identifying their respective priority areas of concern and competence, bearing in mind the position of the Coordinating Bureau in New York as the focal point for coordination of the Movement and should continue to act as such;

19.12. *Expand and reinforce* the ability and capacity of the Movement for initiative, representation and negotiation as well as its ethical, political and moral strength and influence;

19.13. *Continue* to strengthen the coordination and cooperation as well as the formulation of common positions and strategies on economic development and social progress issues with the Group of 77 and China (G-77) through the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM (JCC)<sup>7</sup> to advance the collective concerns and interests

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<sup>6</sup> The existing mechanisms and arrangements include: the Former Chair Countries and Troika (at the Summit, Ministerial and Ambassadorial levels); the Committee on Palestine (at the Ministerial and Ambassadorial level); the Coordinating Bureau in New York and its subsidiary bodies (Working Groups on Disarmament, Human Rights, Legal Matters, Peacekeeping Operations, Reform of the UN and GA Revitalization, Reform of the Security Council, and Information); the NAM Chapters in Geneva, the Hague, Vienna and UNESCO (Paris), Nairobi; and the NAM Caucuses in the Security Council and in the Peace Building Commission.

<sup>7</sup> The JCC of the G-77 and NAM was established in 1994 with the primary objective to enhance collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts

of developing countries at the relevant international fora particularly in the context of UN reform, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in expanding and deepening South-South cooperation. Such coordination must be guided by the Terms of Reference, adopted between both fora in 1994. In this regard, they *looked forward* to furthering the engagements and partnership between the G-77 and China and NAM, through their respective Chairs, with a view to enhancing the coordination among both groupings when addressing matters of common interest to the Global South;

19.14. *Resolved* to make use of the current international endeavor to advance NAM principles in all international conferences, during both the preparation processes and the implementation of their outcomes. In this regard, they *recalled* the joint statement by the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement at the High-Level Segment of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development held in New York, on 23 September 2016, in which they *reiterated* their unequivocal commitment to the right to development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19.15. *Promote* coordination and cooperation between the G-77 and the NAM, wherever possible at all relevant multilateral fora to address issues of common concern to both groupings subject to their respective competencies;

19.16. *Expedite* its decision-making and improve its working Methods, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement<sup>8</sup> and the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in Havana, through determined and timely action in order to contribute more effectively in the multilateral process. In this regard, they *decided* to mandate the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau to assess and review, where applicable, and in consultation with Member States of the Movement, the working methods of the Non-Aligned Movement, and *looked forward* to the consideration of the draft document on the “Recommended Guidelines for Enhancing the Implementation of the Working Methods and Practice of the Movement, particularly within its Coordinating Bureau” circulated by the Chair of the CoB-NAM on 23 June 2017, which in no way would modify, update or replace the Methodology agreed upon in Cartagena (1996) or Havana (2006), while recognizing that adherence to said working document has thus far contributed to enhancing the Movement’s role and stature as a leading global force, and to this end, stressing the importance of continuous adherence;

19.17. *Be more proactive* in addressing international developments which could adversely impact on the Movement and its Member Countries;

19.18. *Encourage* the interaction of the Ministers responsible for portfolios of relevance to the Movement, such as food production and agriculture, energy, culture, education, health, human resources, environment, information and communications, industry, science and technology, social progress, women and children, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of the Movement and increasing the cooperation among its Member Countries in these areas;

19.19. *Expand and deepen* its interaction and cooperation with parliamentarians, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector of Non-Aligned Countries on the recognition that they can perform a constructive role towards the attainment of the principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement; and

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and provide greater efficiency in the attainment of the common goals of the developing countries, as well as to harmonies and coordinate the activities of both groupings in the economic and social fields within the context of South-South and North-South cooperation.

<sup>8</sup> The Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement was adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Methodology, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 14 to 16 May 1996. Subsequently, it was endorsed by the Ministers of the Movement during their XII Summit, held in Durban, South Africa from 29 August to 3 September 1998.

19.20. *Support*, as a further manifestation of solidarity of the Movement, the candidatures of Non-Aligned countries vis-à-vis non-Member countries, where appropriate, to the United Nations organs and bodies, including the Security Council and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, and to other bodies of international and specialized agencies, *bearing in mind* the ensuing obligation of such Countries whose candidatures are successful owing to such support, to defend, preserve and promote the concerns and interests of the Movement in those organs and bodies, without prejudice to their sovereign rights. The Ministers *also agreed* to consider working towards ensuring adequate representation of NAM in all international fora;

19.21. The Ministers *welcomed* the nomination of Baku, the capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the World Expo 2025 and *wished* every success to Azerbaijan in its campaign for the World EXPO 2025 in Baku as the only member of NAM.

19.22. *Promote* actions so that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development meaningfully broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries while addressing issues of reform of the institutions related to the global economic governance;

19.23. The Ministers *recalled* the decision on modalities related to the institutional memory of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted by the XVII NAM Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in May 2014, and *encouraged* all Member States to actively participate in the consultations to be undertaken by Algeria within the CoB, in order to establish a comprehensive website providing detailed and reliable information on the principles, purposes and activities of the Movement;

19.24. The Ministers *thanked* Algeria, in its capacity as the host of the first Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 and China held in October 1967, for convening, for the first time, a meeting at Ministerial level, on 30 May 2014, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77 and China.

20. The Ministers *recalled* the organization of the High-Level NAM Conference dedicated to enhancing global dialogue in the name of peace, security and human development, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in December 2015.

21. The Ministers *warmly welcomed* the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in 2019, and *requested* NAM Members to actively participate in that Summit;

### **International Law**

22. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the continued relevance and validity of the Movement's principled positions concerning international law, as follows:

22.1. The Ministers *reemphasized* that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles and rules of international law are indispensable in preserving and promoting peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, and human rights for all. In this context, UN Member States, including those of the Security Council, should renew their commitment to respect, defend, preserve, and promote the UN Charter and international law, with the aim of making further progress to achieving full respect for international law;

22.2. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* at and *rejected* the unilateral exercise by certain countries of extra-territorial criminal and civil jurisdiction of national courts not emanating from international treaties and other rights and/or obligations arising from international law, including international humanitarian law. In this regard, they *are*

*deeply concerned* on the enactment of politically motivated domestic laws directed against other States, and *stressed* the negative impact of such measures on the rule of international law as well as on international relations, and *called for* the immediate cessation of all such measures;

22.3. The Ministers *underlined* that the strict observance of the principles of international law and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is of the utmost importance for the maintenance of international peace and security, and *reaffirmed* that NAM Member States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and inviolability of international borders of Member States; and *committed* to support and promote these principles of international law. Accordingly, NAM Member States *shall refrain* from any action against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of any State or inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

22.4. The Ministers *called upon* States to respect applicable rules of international law with respect to immunities of official representatives of States as well as jurisdictional immunities of States and, in this regard, *recalled* the decisions of the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the circulation of Arrest Warrant of 14 February 2002<sup>9</sup> and the case concerning the jurisdictional immunities of the State of 03 February 2012<sup>10</sup>;

22.5. Realizing that an abusive exercise of Universal Jurisdiction can have negative effects on international relations, the Ministers *called upon* States to refrain from such abuse, and also *recognized* the need for further consideration at the United Nations of the agenda item entitled "Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction", and *took note*, in this regard, of the establishment of the Working Group in the Sixth Committee, in accordance with resolution 69/124, to continue to undertake a thorough discussion aimed at identifying the scope and application of Universal Jurisdiction and to consider establishing a mechanism to monitor such application and to prevent its abuse in the future;

22.6. The Ministers *underlined* the obligation of all States to ensure the security and safety of the members and premises of diplomatic and consular missions as well as their inviolability in accordance with international law, the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as well as relevant UN General Assembly resolutions;

22.7. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade. They *called for* the immediate elimination of such measures and *urged* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to fully comply with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation, and accordingly, refrain from promulgating and application of such unilateral economic and trade measures against other States;

22.8. The Ministers *stressed* the need to elaborate the rule of law concept through inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process and *reaffirmed* that respect for the rule of law is essential to maintain international peace and security as well as to achieve socioeconomic development; at the same time, they *reiterated* that it is indispensable to maintain the balance in developing the national and international dimensions of the rule of law;

22.9. The Ministers *reiterated* that the rule of law at the international level requires

<sup>9</sup> ICJ Case of Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of Congo v. Belgium)

<sup>10</sup> Judgment issued in the case Jurisdictional Immunities of the State (Germany v. Italy; Greece intervening)

greater attention by the United Nations. The Charter of the United Nations and the principles enshrined therein provide normative guidance as to the basis of the rule of law at the international level. All United Nations bodies and structures, including the treaty bodies, must strictly comply with their mandates given by their Member States.

22.10. The Ministers *rejected* the illegal practice of the United States in defying international law by allowing and facilitating private plaintiffs to bring civil action before U.S. courts against sovereign States, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, leading to the awards of default judgments against them and their national institutions. They *objected* to US defiance to international law through the unilateral waiving of the sovereign immunity of States and their institutions in total contravention of the international and treaty obligations of the United States and under a spurious legal ground that the international community does not recognize. They also *called upon* the United States of America to respect the principle of State immunity and *reiterated* that failing to do so would have adverse implications, including uncertainty and chaos in international relations and the undermining of the rule of law at the international level, and would constitute an international wrongful act, which entails international responsibility.

23. Recognizing the serious danger and threats posed by the actions and measures which seek to undermine international law and international legal instruments, the Ministers, consistent with and guided by the Movement's principled positions thereof, *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

23.1. *Identify and pursue* measures that may contribute towards achieving a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order based on the UN Charter and international law;

23.2. *Conduct external relations* based on the ideals, principles and purposes of the Movement, the UN Charter and international law, as well as the "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, in accordance with the Charter of the UN", the "Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and the "Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations";

23.3. *Firmly oppose* the unilateral evaluation and certification of the conduct of States as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned Countries and other countries, in particular developing countries;

23.4. *Refrain* from recognizing, adopting or implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries – threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment – and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States;<sup>11</sup> and in this regard, *oppose and condemn* these measures or laws and their continued application, *persevere* with efforts to effectively reverse them and *urge* other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other UN organs; *request* States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately;

23.5. *Welcome* the convening, on 20 September 2017, in New York, in the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, of a Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the "Promulgation and Implementation of Unilateral Coercive Measures, in violation of International Law and the Human Rights of

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<sup>11</sup> These include the "Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations" adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

the Peoples subjected to them”, as well as the Political Declaration unanimously adopted at that time;

23.6. *Support*, in accordance with international law, the claim of affected States, including the targeted States, to compensation for the damage incurred as a consequence of the implementation of extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws;

23.7. *Oppose*, while reiterating the utmost importance of preserving the delicate balance of rights and obligations of States as stipulated in the various international legally binding instruments to which they are party, the actions by a certain group of States to unilaterally reinterpret, redefine, redraft or apply selectively the provisions of these instruments to conform with their own views and interests and which might affect the rights of their States Parties as defined therein; and in this context, *work* towards ensuring that the integrity of these instruments is preserved by their States Parties;

23.8. *Oppose* all attempts to introduce new concepts of international law aimed at internationalizing of certain elements contained in the so-called extra- territorial laws of certain States through multilateral agreements;

23.9. *Endeavor* to generate further progress to achieve full respect for international law and, in this regard, *commend* the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Statute of the ICJ, in particular articles 33 and 94 of the Charter;

23.10. *Urge* the Security Council to make greater use of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant norms of international law and on controversial issues; *further urge* the Council to use the ICJ as a source of interpreting relevant international law, and *also urge* the Council to consider that its decisions be reviewed by the ICJ, bearing in mind the need to ensure their adherence to the UN Charter, and international law;

23.11. *Invite* also the General Assembly, the other organs of the United Nations and the duly authorized specialized agencies, to request advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities;

23.12. The Ministers *continued to call* on Israel, the occupying Power, to fully respect the 9 July 2004 ICJ advisory opinion entitled "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", and *calls upon* all States and the United Nations to respect and ensure respect of the provisions therein, for the realization of the end of the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the independence of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital;

23.13. The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) shall *continue to preserve* the integrity of the Statute and *ensure* that the ICC remains impartial and fully independent of political organs of the UN, which should not instruct nor impede the functions of the ICC, *bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute;

23.14. The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *call upon* those States, which have not yet done so, to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC while taking into account their sovereign positions;

23.15. The Ministers *expressed concern* about the abuse of certain provisions of the Rome Statute by the Security Council, including its practice to purport to selectively limit the jurisdiction of the ICC when referring matters to the ICC and *noted* that the

practice amounts to an abuse of the powers of the Security Council to refer matters to the ICC.

23.16. The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *recalled* the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, which was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 31 May to 11 June 2010, at which States parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Rome Statute and adopted amendments to the Statute to define the crime of aggression and to establish conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction with respect to that crime;

23.17. The Non-Aligned States *continued to underscore* the necessity of the independence of the ICC, in accordance with its judicial nature. They *stated* that the Security Council's responsibilities under the Charter of the UN should not limit the role of the Court as a judicial body. The Court should be empowered to pronounce on acts of aggression independently.

23.18. The Non-Aligned State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *oppose* all actions, in particular through the Security Council, aimed at establishing a process to grant immunity to the staff members of UN peacekeeping operations, which violate the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the ICC and damage the credibility and independence of the ICC;

23.19. *Call upon* the Non-Aligned States Parties to the relevant treaties to work collectively to increase and enhance their representation and coordination in the bodies established through those treaties, and *support* the candidatures of their experts effectively as a further manifestation of solidarity among them;

23.20. The Ministers *recalled* the historic significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in 1982, as one of the most comprehensive legal instruments negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations, and *emphasized* its importance for its States Parties as the primary instrument which, *inter alia*, confers rights on coastal States for the exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living marine resources within national jurisdiction, as well as *establishes* a framework for access by other States to these resources; and *defines* the rights and responsibilities of States in their use of the world's oceans, including their general obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment. They also *recalled* the importance of the designation by the Convention of the seabed, subsoil and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind, as well as the establishment of the International Seabed Authority, to organize, control and administer all activities of the State parties in the area on behalf of the international community and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Convention;

23.21. The Ministers of State Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) *reaffirmed* their shared commitment to maintaining and promoting international and regional peace, security and stability, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law;

23.22. The Ministers *took note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: "Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction" and the recommendations contained therein. They *welcomed* the decision of the General Assembly to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the preparatory committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under

the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. They also *recognized* that neither the participation in the negotiations nor their outcome may affect the legal status of non-parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments, or the legal status of parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments;

23.23. The Ministers *recalled* the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/312 of 06 July 2017 in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted by the High-Level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 05 to 09 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 08 June, and in this regard, *affirmed* the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

### **Promotion and Preservation of Multilateralism**

24. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the promotion and preservation of multilateralism and the multilateral process, as follows:

24.1. The Movement *reaffirmed* that the United Nations, its Charter, and the international law remain indispensable tools and central in the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation. While acknowledging its limitations, the UN, which represents a well-founded international legitimacy and through its multilateralism, remains the central multilateral forum for addressing the pressing global issues and challenges presently being confronted by all States. The responsibility for managing and achieving worldwide economic development and social progress as well as responding to threats to international peace and security must be shared among all States and exercised multilaterally through the UN, which must play the central role thereof;

24.2. *Remained seized of and active in* further deliberations in the UN General Assembly on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, in accordance with paragraphs 138,139 and 140 of the 2005 Summit Outcome Document, *bearing in mind* the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as respect for fundamental human rights. Note has been taken of the presentation by the Secretary-General of the Report titled, and “Fulfilling Our Collective Responsibility: International Assistance and the Responsibility to Protect”, contained in document A/68/947.

24.3. The Movement also *reaffirmed* the commitment to discuss and define human security in the UN General Assembly, in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Charter and taking into consideration the common understanding of the notion of the human security in General Assembly resolution 66/290. The Movement *stressed* that the national ownership, leadership and capacity building are essential elements in the consideration of this issue. The Movement also *affirmed* that particular attention should be given to peoples under foreign occupation to ensure their unhindered accessibility to humanitarian assistance and that the occupying powers fulfill their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law. The Ministers *took note* of the presentation of the Secretary-General on Human Security (A/68/685) as follow up to General Assembly resolution 66/290;

24.4. The Movement *reiterated* its strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the UN Charter and international law, and *further reiterated* its commitment to promoting, preserving and strengthening multilateralism and the multilateral decision making process through the UN, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law, with the aim of creating a just and equitable world order and global democratic governance;

24.5. The Ministers *underlined* the critical role of the host countries of the United Nations Headquarters and Offices in preserving multilateralism and facilitating multilateral diplomacy and inter-governmental norm making processes, and *called upon* all States which host the United Nations Headquarters and Offices to facilitate, in accordance with their obligation under the related Headquarters Agreements, the presence of the representatives of the Member States in the relevant meetings of the United Nations;

24.6. The Ministers *expressed* their serious concern about the denial of or the delay in the issuance of entry visas to the representatives of any NAM Member States by the host country of the United Nations Headquarters, and *reiterated* that political considerations shall not interfere with the provision of facilities required under the Headquarters Agreement for the Member States to participate in the United Nations activities.

24.7. The Ministers *called upon* all countries hosting United Nations and other international meetings to abide by their obligations to issue, without discrimination and undue delay, entry visas to member country delegations in accordance with the Host Country Agreements.

24.8. The Ministers further *called upon* the sixty-ninth United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution establishing a Committee of the United Nations Organization on Relations with the Host Country in Geneva in order to facilitate and enhance structured dialogue with the authorities of the host government.

24.9. The Ministers *expressed* their serious concern about the arbitrary movement restrictions imposed to the diplomatic officials of some missions of NAM Member States by the Host Country of the United Nations Headquarters. Such restrictions constitute flagrant violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Headquarter Agreements and the international law. In this regard, the Ministers *opposed* these restrictions and their continued application and *urged* the Host Country to take without delay all necessary measures to remove them.

24.10. The Ministers *stated* that international trade is a vital tool to provide long-term sustainable growth. Due to the global financial and economic crisis, the decline in trade has had a severe impact on developing countries through the fall in exports and loss of export revenues, trade barriers and trade distorting subsidies in developed countries, restricted access to trade finance and reduced investment in production diversification and in the promotion of exports remain a matter of concern. In order to fully harness the potential of trade, it is important to uphold a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for developing countries.

25. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the role of South-South cooperation, as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South Cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism as a continuing process, vital to confronting threats and challenges facing developing countries in advancing economic development and social progress, promoting and preserving peace and security, and promoting and protecting all human rights, in particular the right to development, and the rule of law.

26. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

26.1. *Promote* and *work* towards creating a multi-polar world through the strengthening of multilateralism through the UN and the multilateral processes, which are indispensable in promoting and preserving the interests of Non-Aligned Countries;

26.2. *Initiate* further vigorous transparent and inclusive initiatives to achieve the realization of multilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights for all and the rule of law, including through enhancing the Movement's unity, solidarity and cohesiveness on issues of collective concern and interests, with the aim of shaping the multilateral agenda to embrace development as a fundamental priority, which should take into account the need for developing and developed countries and international institutions to intensify partnerships and coordinate their efforts and resources to effectively address all imbalances in the global agenda;

26.3. *Strengthen* the articulation of the NAM's agreed positions and its relevant agreements in the UN Security Council, through the NAM Coordinating Bureau and the NAM Caucus in the Security Council, in accordance with the Movement's principles. In this context, the Ministers *encouraged* participation, whenever appropriate, by NAM Observers who are members of the Council in the meetings of the NAM Caucus in the Council and exchange of views, whenever appropriate, with like-minded non-NAM Members on issues of common concern;

26.4. *Work* towards achieving a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system, stressing the value of multilateralism to achieve a balanced, development oriented and successful conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations, according to its mandate; and *urge* all States to fulfill their commitments to shape globalization as a positive force and that its benefits are shared evenly by all;

26.5. *Strengthen* the comparative advantages of existing multilateral arrangements and institutions without compromising the principle of equitable geographical representation and equal partnerships, and *promote* the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of Non-Aligned Countries in international decision making;

26.6. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the United Nations is the only global body with universal membership and unquestioned legitimacy and is, therefore, well positioned to address global economic governance with the objective of reaching sustainable development. The role of the UN in global economic governance should thus be strengthened. For the United Nations to fulfill its role in global economic governance, the political will of all Member States to commit to the UN processes and to multilateralism and its underlying values is critical. Member States must commit to working in solidarity on coordinated and comprehensive global responses to global economic governance issues and to undertaking actions aimed at strengthening the role of the UN Development System in responding to global crises and their impact on development. For this, the UN must also be equipped with the necessary resources and capabilities to effectively and quickly address global challenges;

26.7. *Stress* the importance for the international financial institutions to take concrete steps to democratize their work, including increasing the participation of developing countries and mobilize financial resources for growth and sustainable development of developing countries. Moreover, it is critically important that the financial sector is transparent, accountable and properly regulated so that the financial flows can be mobilized to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

26.8. *Oppose* unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States which can lead to the erosion and violation of the UN Charter, international law and human rights, the use and threat of use of force, and pressure and coercive measures as a means to achieving their national policy objectives; and

26.9. *Strengthen* South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, including through enhancing the capacities of relevant institutions and mechanisms, as indispensable means to promote and preserve multilateralism and the multilateral process;

26.10. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision of the High Level Committee of the General Assembly on South-South Cooperation (HLC) in 2012 to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), hosted by the UNDP, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis and *called*, in this regard, for the full implementation of the paragraph 78 of QCPR. In this context, the UNOSSC is in the best position to oversee the implementation of South-South cooperation, especially through the ongoing implementation of an inter-agency coordination mechanism under the UN Development Group, and further requested the up-scaling of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) with additional human, financial and budgetary resources, as stated in General Assembly Resolution 69/239.

**Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, and Non-Use or Threat of Use of Force**

27. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the Movement's principled positions concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, and non-use or threat of use of force, as follows:

27.1. It is incumbent upon all States to defend, preserve and promote the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of international law, in particular peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use or threat of use of force.

27.2. The Ministers *reiterated* the basic principle of the UN Charter that all States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN. The Movement *stressed* that the UN Charter contains sufficient provisions regarding the use of force to maintain and preserve international peace and security, and that achieving this goal by the Security Council should be strictly done in full conformity with the relevant Charter provisions. Resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not pose a threat to international peace and security must be avoided and in this regard, the Council should fully utilize the relevant Charter provisions, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII. In addition, and consistent with the practice of the UN and international law as pronounced by the ICJ, the Article 51 of the UN Charter is restrictive and should not be re-written or re-interpreted.

27.3. The Ministers *expressed* their serious concern and complete dismay at the victimization of innocent civilians in instances where force has been employed or sanctions have been imposed, including those authorized by the Security Council. In the spirit of the UN Charter, they *called on* all States to advance the principle of the non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes as a means to achieving collective security rather than the threat of force or use of force, bearing in mind "that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest" as stipulated in the UN Charter.

27.4. The Ministers *recalled* that the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes is a landmark declaration, building upon the UN Charter, in

particular its Article 33, and that it was negotiated on the initiative of NAM member countries.

27.5. The Ministers *highlighted* the importance of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and in this regard, the Ministers *emphasized* the NAM proposal on the Pacific settlement of disputes and its impact on the maintenance of peace, presented before the Committee in February 2015 and *encouraged* the constructive engagement of the Member States in this matter.

28. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

28.1. *Call upon* the international community to renew its commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as the means envisaged in the UN Charter for the pacific settlement of dispute and non-resort to the threat or use of force;

28.2. *Promote* and *preserve* dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which would contribute towards peace and security, *taking into account* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and the Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations<sup>12</sup>;

28.3. *Strengthen* the role of the Movement in peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence building, and post-conflict peacebuilding and rehabilitation in or between Non-Aligned Countries, in particular through seriously identifying concrete measures to expedite the creation of a NAM mechanism in this regard, whose terms of reference must be in conformity with its Founding Principles, the UN Charter and international law. Any such mechanism should be based on the consent of the States concerned;

28.4. *Oppose* and condemn labeling of NAM countries and peoples by certain States through use of pejorative terms as well as systematic vilification of other States' political and social systems, their traditions and culture, to exert political pressure;

28.5. *Express* their gravest concern at the anti-ethical intention to totally destroy a sovereign Member State of the Movement, with rhetoric expressions such as "fire and fury" or "totally destroy" beyond the boundary of threats of regime-change or overturn of social system, and, in this regard, to reject and categorically condemn this as a flagrant infringement of the UN Charter and international law;

28.6. *Oppose* and *condemn* any categorization of countries as good or evil based on unilateral and unjustified criteria, and the adoption of the doctrine of pre-emptive attack, including attack by nuclear weapons by certain States, which is inconsistent with international law, in particular the international legally-binding instruments concerning nuclear disarmament; and *further oppose and condemn* all military actions including aggressive joint military exercises, or deployment of nuclear strategic assets, or use of force or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Non-Aligned Countries which constitute acts of aggression and blatant violations of the principles of the UN Charter, including non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

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<sup>12</sup> These include the "Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations" adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, General Assembly Resolution 2734 (XXV) of 16 December 1970 and General Assembly Resolution 42/22 of 18 November 1987.

28.7. *Promote*, in ensuring international peace and security, the diversity of approaches to development and progress consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law as a core value of the Non- Aligned Countries.

28.8. *Recognize* the growing interest in and the provision of mediation and its use as a promising and cost-effective tool in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, without prejudice to other means mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter, including the use of arbitration and the roles and functions of the International Court of Justice.

28.9. The Ministers *referred* to the Resolution A/RES/68/303 of the General Assembly which is encouraged Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations, to increase the awareness on the importance of mediation, as appropriate, though, *inter alia*, the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops, and in this regard *took note of* regional initiatives to strengthen mediation in their regions.

**Culture of Peace, Dialogue among Civilizations, Religions and Cultures, and Cultural Diversity**

29. The Ministers *noted* that the world today is composed of States with diverse political, economic, social and cultural systems and religions determined by their history, traditions, values and cultural diversity, whose stability can be guaranteed by the universal recognition of their right to freely determine their own approach towards progressive development. In this context, they *emphasized* that respect for the diversity of such systems and approaches is a core value which relations and cooperation among States in an increasingly globalizing world should be based on, with the aim of contributing to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order, and an environment conducive to exchanging human experiences. They *underscored* that the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace globally, in particular through the full implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action and the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace could contribute towards that end.

30. The Ministers *welcomed* the Global Forums of the UN Alliance of Civilizations that were held consecutively since 2008, and appreciated its efforts for strengthening international partnerships and generate ideas aimed at building trust and cooperation among diverse actors and stakeholders in the promotion of dialogue among civilizations while also *stressing* the need to maintain the intergovernmental status of the UN and all its related entities, and the role of sovereign States as basic guidelines for the mandate of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC). They *further recalled* the outcomes of the Seventh Global Forum of the UNAOC held on 26-27 April 2016 in Baku, Azerbaijan and the active participation of UN Member States, international organizations and civil society in the Global Forum, and *welcomed* the activities carried out by UNAOC in 2017 to promote dialogue on issues related to migrants, refugees and the role of youth, among others.

31. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the resolution A/RES/72/137 and the efforts made by the UN and its Member States on the Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as presented by Bangladesh at the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA Session. They further *welcomed* General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/71/275 on International Day of Neutrality and A/RES/72/136 on Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding, Cooperation for Peace, as presented by Pakistan and the Philippines. In this regard, the Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to ensure that the promotion of a culture of peace at the national, regional, continental and global level be a powerful enabler towards achieving the goals espoused in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *invited* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expanding their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels, and to ensure

that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels.

32. The Ministers *appreciated* the initiative of President Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which led to the adoption of resolutions 68/127, and 70/109 and 72/241 entitled “a world against violence and violent extremism” by the UN General Assembly at its 68<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> sessions. In this context, they *urged* all Member States to unite against violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations as well as sectarian violence and encouraged the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of violent extremism and discrimination and evolve strategies to address these cause.

33. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the dialogue among all cultures, civilizations and religions should be a durable process and that, in the current international environment, it is not an option but an imperative, sound, and productive tool to promote economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law to guarantee a better life for all. They *further reaffirmed* in this context that tolerance, acceptance, reconciliation, mutual understanding and respect are fundamental values of international relations and that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind and the attainment of human rights for all. The Ministers *further appreciated* the efforts made by Member States at the 70<sup>th</sup> UNGA Session by reaffirming their commitment to Culture and Sustainable Development, including through the adoption resolution 70/214. They *recalled* that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, the natural and cultural diversity of the world is acknowledged and it is recognized that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

34. Bearing in mind that the current challenges facing international community need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through multilateralism, the Ministers *acknowledged* initiatives by NAM Member States for promoting peace based on high ethical values, justice and friendship in order to denounce acts of aggression and to reinforce and promote stability, tranquility and durable peace throughout the world.

35. The Ministers *recognized* the valuable contributions of all religions and beliefs to modern civilization and the contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of common values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence as well as non-discrimination on any grounds.

36. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/RES/72/129 entitled “Moderation” by the UN General Assembly at its 72<sup>nd</sup> session. They *urged* Member States to continue to undertake initiatives to promote moderation through activities such as outreach programmes and cross-cultural dialogue as well as to promote the value of moderation, including non-violence, mutual respect and understanding, through education; they have also invited Member States to commemorate 2019 as the International Year of Moderation.

37. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the need for all Member States to further contribute regionally and internationally to the promotion of dialogue, tolerance, mutual respect, understanding and acceptance through initiatives such as the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM). They *further recognized* the importance of moderation as an all-encompassing approach and a value within societies to tackle global challenges and threats to international peace and security.

38. The Ministers *reiterated* the need to continue working towards the promotion of dialogue and understanding among all civilizations, cultures and religions and *reaffirmed* their commitment to work together to prevent cultural homogenization and domination or incitement to hatred and discrimination, combat defamation of religions and develop better ways for promoting tolerance, respect for and protection of the freedom of religion and belief, including the right to preserve one’s cultural identity. They *stressed* the role the General Assembly and the relevant UN organs can play in that respect in particular

through furthering the much-needed dialogue on those important and sensitive issues.

39. The Ministers *recognized* the ever-increasing significance and relevance of a culture of living in harmony with nature, which is inherent in nomadic civilization, in today's world. They, therefore, *welcomed* the efforts of States to preserve and develop nomadic culture and traditions in modern societies.

40. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by UNESCO, signed in 2005, which entered into force on 18 March 2007, as a major contribution to the international community, within the framework of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, its Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ministers *called upon* United Nations Member States to consider becoming parties to this Convention.

41. The Ministers *declared* their commitment with the implementation of the provisions included in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Action Plan, adopted on 02 November 2001 by the General Conference of UNESCO during its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, in which States invited the United Nations System to cooperate with UNESCO in the promotion of the principles enshrined in the UNESCO Universal Declaration and its Action Plan, with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions adopted in favor of cultural diversity.

42. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, signed in 2003, which entered into force on 20 April 2006, as an important contribution of the international community in favor of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage, to ensure the validity of the cultural manifestations of States, capable of being transmitted from one generation to another, and as an instrument for peace, tolerance, coexistence, respect for human rights and the promotion of the identity and cultural diversity of the peoples.

43. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to enhancing the dialogue among civilizations and religions, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, promoting respect for diversity based on justice, fraternity and equality, and *opposed* all attempts of uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of political, economic, social, legal or cultural systems, and *promoted* dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security, stability, sustainable development and promotion of human rights.

44. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* and *expressed* support for the sustained efforts of the NAM Members to highlight the importance of promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue at the United Nations as articulated in annual resolutions on the subject, including A/RES/71/249 and A/RES/72/136, entitled "Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace", jointly co-facilitated by Pakistan and the Philippines. They *recalled* that resolution 72/136 reaffirms Member States' mutual understanding that interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitutes an important dimension of dialogue among civilizations and of a culture of peace. The Ministers *further encouraged* Member States to consider, and carry out, activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), which provides a framework for enhancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance and mutual understanding, as endorsed by UN.

45. The Ministers *welcomed* the fruitful efforts of the NAM Members, including the initiatives by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Senegal and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in exploring the opportunities for co-existence and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations through holding numerous conferences and fora in order to identify and develop strategies and programmes, at the

national, regional and international levels, that contribute to rapprochement among religions, cultures and civilizations<sup>13</sup>, including other inter-governmental processes and initiatives;

46. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of promoting interfaith harmony at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard, *welcomed* the initiatives of Member States and the United Nations System to organize activities in consultation with Member States, during the interfaith harmony week between all religions, faiths and beliefs proclaimed by the General Assembly as the first week of February of every year.

47. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment, in Vienna, of the King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the important role that the Center will play as a permanent platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

48. Referring to UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/136 entitled “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace” and the Secretary-General’s report A/72/488 entitled “Promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”, the Ministers *highly valued* the input of the “Baku Process” launched in 2008 as a key platform for promoting intercultural dialogue and committed to promote this process within the UN system.

49. The Ministers *welcomed* the efforts by the media, including through new platforms, such as the internet and digital social networking, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and *encouraged* the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, and *emphasized* that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and *reaffirmed* that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

50. In this regard, the Ministers *expressed* their appreciation to the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the internet to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue and acknowledges with appreciation the establishment by the Philippines of the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal pursuant to commitments made during the March 2010 Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development in Manila, the Philippines<sup>14</sup> and *stressed* the importance of enhancing efforts to promote respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, cultures and societies as contained in its Manila Declaration and Program of Action on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development;

51. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to the Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action (TDPA) adopted at the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3 and 4 September 2007.

52. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the Political Declaration and Programme of Action

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<sup>13</sup> The conferences, forums and initiatives by the Republic of Indonesia, inter alia, “Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community” (2005); by the Kingdom of Morocco, inter alia, the “Rabat Declaration on Encouraging Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Effective and Sustainable Initiatives” (2005), Judeo-Muslim Congress (2005-2006), and the “International Charter to Prevent any Defamation of Religions, Beliefs, Sacred Values and Prophets, while Respecting the Freedom of Expression” (2006); by the Republic of the Philippines, inter alia, the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (2005), Informal Summit on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace (2005), Regional Conference of Asian and Pacific Countries on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace (2006), Launching of the Tri-Partite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (2005); by the State of Qatar, inter alia, the Inter-Faith Dialogue Conference (2006), Alliance of Civilization (2006), US-Islamic World Forum (2006), Conference for Religions Dialogue (2005), Islamic-American Dialogue (2004), Forum on Islam-Christian Dialogue (2003) and Dialogue Among Civilizations and Senegal, International Conference on Islam Christianity Dialogue held in 2007, and by Jordan on “World Interfaith Harmony Week” (2010).

<sup>14</sup> The special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and cooperation for Peace and Development was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 16 to 18 March 2010.

on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10), within the framework of the High-Level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held on 30 November 2017 in New York, under the theme of "Solidarity, Dialogue and Tolerance in a Diverse World: Towards a Culture of Peace", and *reaffirmed* their commitment to the implementation of the provisions contained therein.

53. The Ministers *expressed* the importance of monitoring compliance with the provisions and fulfillment of the commitments included in the NAM Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10). In this regard, they *urged* the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity to, through the NAM Chapter in UNESCO, report on a yearly basis on the fulfillment, progress, and challenges faced in implementing the Action Plan.

54. The Ministers *expressed* satisfaction for the reactivation of the NAM Chapter in UNESCO, and, in that regard, *welcomed* the convening of the meeting held on 12 December 2017 in Paris, in line with the mandate established in the NAM Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10).

55. The Ministers *invited* Member States of the Movement, particularly the Troika, to consider providing experts and necessary assistance to the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in order to enable it to achieve and realize its goals and objectives, and to effectively fulfill its mandate on the basis of the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

56. The Ministers *recognized* the important role that the Non-Aligned Movement Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity plays in the promotion of human rights and cultural diversity, and *emphasized* that it should continue its efforts to enhance cooperation and dialogue in the field of HRCD. In this context, they *stressed* the need to invite the Head of the NAMHRCD to all NAM meetings to present his/her report on the realization of its goals and objectives contained in the Political Declaration and the Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10).

57. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the first High Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Inter-religious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace held on 04-05 October 2007, at the joint initiative of Pakistan and Philippines, and the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Inter-Faith Dialogue on the initiative of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, held on 12-13 November 2008, under agenda item "Culture of Peace".

58. The Ministers *noted* with appreciation the Bahrain Declaration adopted at the International Civilizations in the Service of Humanity Conference, held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, from 05-07 May 2014, under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain. The meeting commended the conference's call to bring together humanity within a framework of common values to confront fanaticism, hatred, extremism and terrorism, its aim to create an environment conducive to building human relations, and its call for concerted international action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and islamophobia.

59. The Ministers *recalled* the World Culture Forum on the Power of Culture in Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 27 November 2013, which enriches the deliberations on the impact of culture on the three dimensions of sustainable development.

60. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

60.1. *Continue* to strengthen the dialogue among all civilizations, cultures and religions,

and culture of peace, inter alia, through the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and World Programme for the Dialogue among Civilizations;

60.2. *Oppose* all attempts to impose on any State any particular model of political, economic, legal or cultural system, which may lead to global instability and weaken the security of States and their peoples;

60.3. *Strive* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization as well as unculturalism in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural dialogue and exchange guided by enhancing respect for and observance of cultural diversity,

60.4. *Promote* a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter, and full realization of all human rights, including the right to development;

60.5. *Take* all necessary measures to prevent the use of new platforms, including the internet, digital social networking and mass media, in spreading extremist religious thoughts and ideas, which eventually undermine the culture of peace and religious diversity.

60.6. *Promote* respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, and cultures, and for prophets, religious symbols and Personalities, as part of the universal respect for peoples and civilizations and common heritage belonging to humankind.

60.7. *Promote* the important role of education in the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures, and the role of civil society, faith-based non-governmental organizations and media, as appropriate, in promoting interfaith, intercultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and understanding towards fostering cultural diversity and the realization of internationally agreed goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

60.8. *Continue to enhance* the efforts of the NAM members in promoting the culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, religions, and cultures, through various activities, including international and regional conferences and fora;

60.9. *Call for* the implementation of the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development adopted by the Special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development held from 16-18 March 2010 in Manila, Philippines, on the initiative of the Government of the Philippines.

60.10. *Initiate* discussions with a view to elaborating an international instrument on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, including ways to eliminate defamation of religions, and discrimination based on religion or belief.

60.11. *Contribute* to the implementation of the agreements contained in the Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10) and, in this context, continue to promote a NAM initiative on the subject in the Human Rights Council or the United Nations General Assembly as soon as possible and, in this context, *enhance* the activities of the NAM Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and *consider* the approval of its charter, and *cooperate* with UNESCO in the promotion of the principles included in its Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Plan of Action, with a view to strengthen the synergy of the measures adopted in favor of cultural diversity;

60.12. *Promote* the cooperation between the United Nations and the NAM Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, and *invite* the NAM Centre pending the approval in the Sixth Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

60.13. *Recognize* the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other.

61. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 72/130 of 8 December 2017, as presented by Algeria, which declares 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity, and invite all NAM Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, faith leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals.

### **Defamation of Religions**

62. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong belief in the need to stress moderation of all religions and beliefs and to promote understanding through dialogue within and across religions. In this connection, they are *deeply alarmed* at the rising trends of discriminatory national laws and policies adopted and exercised against any religion, stigmatizing groups of people on the basis of religions under variety of pretexts relating to security and illegal immigration, particularly people from certain ethnicities and religious minorities following the events of 11 September 2001.

63. The Ministers, bearing in mind that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, *emphasized* that everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression, and that exercise of these rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to limitations as are provided for by law and are necessary for respect of the rights and reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, public health or morals.

64. The Ministers *reiterated*, in this regard, the importance of promoting full respect of all religions and cultures among all States, with a view to promoting and ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression while preventing abuses and incitement to religious hatred that could contribute to undermining the ongoing efforts to foster a culture of peace based on mutual respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and civilizations, as provided for in the international human rights instruments to which States are parties.

65. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern at the negative stereotyping of religions, insults to and defamation of religious personalities, holy books, scriptures and symbols, which impede the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to worship and manifest religion without fear of coercion, violence or reprisal. They *deplored* all acts of ideological and physical violence and assaults, and incitements thereto, against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, and those acts directed against the holy symbols, sites or places of worship of all religions. The Ministers *underlined* the need to address these disturbing instances through appropriate measures at the national and international level, including legal measures, to provide adequate protection against acts of religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence resulting from defamation of religions in conformity with existing instruments of international law. They also *underlined* the unacceptability of any attempt to restrict the freedom of worship by any religious group in any circumstance.

66. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern at manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief that can generate hatred and violence among different nations, and, in this regard, *emphasized* the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue, which contribute to promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

67. The Ministers *took note* of the declaration of the Forum on “the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes” held in Fez, Morocco, on 23 and 24 April 2015 which builds on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, initiated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and adopted in Rabat Kingdom of Morocco, in October 2012, and also *noted* the follow-up steps aiming at promoting its provisions, including the Rabat Declaration+5 Conference held in Rabat in December 2017.

68. The Ministers also *expressed* grave concern at programs and agendas pursued by extremist organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments; and, in this regard, the Ministers *condemned* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media or any other means, including the internet and digital social networking,

69. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and bodies, educational institutions and the media, including through the internet and digital social networking, have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief; also they *noted with appreciation* the publication, in 2015, of the “Declaration on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes” and the subsequent “Fes Plan of Action” in 2017 reaffirming the importance of the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement to violence.

70. The Ministers *strongly encouraged* initiatives by the media and all actors in society, including non-governmental organizations, bodies and groups based on religion or belief to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of religion or belief.

71. The Ministers *underlined* the important role of education in the promotion of tolerance and the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief.

### **Right to Self-Determination and Decolonization**

72. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, as follows:

72.1. The Movement *stressed* the fundamental and inalienable right of all peoples, in particular all non-self-governing territories, as well as those territories under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination to self-determination, the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, remains valid and essential to ensure the eradication of all these situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

72.2. The Movement *reaffirmed* the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December

1960, and *expressed* its unwavering support to the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the UN Special Committee on Decolonization; and *called for* their immediate implementation. Likewise, the Movement *noted with satisfaction* the commutation in 2017 of the sentences of the Puerto Rican political prisoner, Oscar López Rivera, who served over thirty-five years in prison for reasons related to his fight for the independence of Puerto Rico;

72.3. The Movement *remained concerned* at the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage, directed against cultural property in areas of armed conflict and territories that are occupied.

73. *Recalling* the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Ministers *welcomed* the General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/119 declaring the period 2011-2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called to speed up the process of decolonization towards the complete elimination of colonialism in this decade.

74. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to preserve, defend, and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

74.1. *Strongly support* the work and activities of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization, underlining the necessity of reinforcing the importance of its decisions and again *urge* the Administering Powers to grant their full support to the activities of the Committee and fully cooperate with this UN body;

74.2. *Request* the colonialist countries to pay full compensation for the economic, social and cultural consequences of their occupation, bearing in mind the right of all people who were or are still subjected to colonial rule or occupation to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation;

74.3. *Strongly condemn* the ongoing brutal suppression of the legitimate aspirations to self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation in various regions of the world;

74.4. *Urge* UN Member States to fully implement the decisions and resolutions of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still are under colonial rule or occupation, and in this regard, *further urge* UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant conventions on the subject, and *also urge* the process of returning these properties to their countries of origin, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, to be expedited, bearing in mind the right of the Non-Aligned Countries to maintain and conserve their national heritage as it constitutes the foundation of their cultural identity;

74.5. *Renew its call* to UN Member States to speed up the process of decolonization towards the complete elimination of colonialism, including by supporting the effective implementation of the Plan of Action of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020);

74.6. The Ministers *recalled* the 2009 suspension of the Constitution Order of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which abolished the democratically elected House of Assembly and the Cabinet, and the subsequent institution of direct rule exercised by the administering power for a period of three years. They *took note* of the provision of

a new Constitution Order in 2012 providing for reduced political power to the elected government than previously maintained, and also *took note* of the subsequent election held in the territory in 2012. The Ministers *welcomed* the endorsement of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of the Government of the report of its fact finding mission in the Turk and Caicos Islands in 2013, which called for, inter alia, a referendum on self-determination and mechanism for amending the Constitution Order;

74.7. *Work* towards the full implementation of the principle of self-determination with respect to the remaining territories within the framework of the Programme of Action of the Special Committee on Decolonization, on a case by case basis, and in accordance with the wishes of the people consistent with the UN Charter and the relevant UN resolutions;<sup>15</sup>

74.8. *Oppose* any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a State, which is incompatible with the UN Charter;

74.9. *Call on* the Government of the United States to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

74.10. *Expressed their concern* that the present political subordination of the Puerto Rican people impedes their sovereign decision-making regarding their serious economic and social problems, including the present fiscal crisis, insolvency of the government of Puerto Rico, and the need to restructure the public debt, as well as regarding the humanitarian crisis resulting from the effects of hurricanes Irma and Maria, which has aggravated the already serious economic and social problems, resulting in a rise in poverty levels in Puerto Rico from 45% to around a 60% of the population, which has caused massive migration and has seriously impaired efforts to achieve a sustainable economic development;

74.11. *Expressed* their concern with legislation *adopted* in the US Congress to impose a fiscal control board over the government of Puerto Rico which will effectively infringe upon the limited power of the government of Puerto Rico over its budget and fiscal and other affairs;

74.12. *Urges* the government of the United States to return the occupied land and facilities on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation;

74.13. *Work* actively to have the UN General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects.

74.14. The Ministers *affirmed* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia-Ma'ohi Nui to self-determination, in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and the UN General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960;

74.15. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong support for the referendum on self-determination in New Caledonia at the end of 2018, in accordance with the Noumea Accord, and *welcomed* all measures taken to guarantee a just, free, fair and transparent process for an outcome acceptable to the peoples of New Caledonia;

74.16. The Ministers *welcomed* and *supported* the Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonization held in Denarau, Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the

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<sup>15</sup> The relevant UN resolutions include General Assembly resolution 65/119, which proclaims 2011 to 2020 decade as the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Ministers *appreciated* the commitment and efforts of the Chair of the Committee to implement its decisions during the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

74.17. The Ministers *welcomed* and *supported* the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization held in Managua, Nicaragua from 19-21 of May 2015 of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Ministers *appreciated* the commitment and efforts of the Government of Nicaragua in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

74.18. The Ministers *welcomed* and *supported* the Pacific-Regional Seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization, on the theme "Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Commitments and Actions for Decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories", which for the second time in a row was generously hosted by Nicaragua from the 31 May to the 02 June 2016, showing once again the Commitment and efforts of the Government of Nicaragua in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

74.19. The Ministers *welcomed and supported* the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization held Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from 16-18 May 2017, of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Ministers *appreciated* the commitment and efforts of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

74.20. The Ministers *appreciated* the commitment and efforts of the Chair of the Committee to implement its decisions during the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

**United Nations: Follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Millennium Declaration and the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Summits and Conferences**

75. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the UN Charter provides a balance among the purposes and principles of the Organization that encompass all pertinent issues, including economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and rule of law, and that the Millennium Declaration, the World Summit for Social Development taken place in Copenhagen in 1995, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome of the 2010 High Level Plenary Meeting on MDGs, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "Future We Want", the outcome of the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai on 13-18 March 2015, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 provide the twenty-first century perspective of that balance, the United Nations General Assembly's resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October 2016, and the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC. They *further reaffirmed* that the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges faced by all States in these areas are inter-connected and that these could be addressed by acting at a sufficiently early stage with the full range of available peaceful means as envisaged in the UN Charter and in a manner that would ensure the preservation of its purposes and principles, the intergovernmental character of the

Organization and the required balance among its principal organs, as well as the neutrality and impartiality of its undertakings in these areas.

76. The Ministers *recalled* the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The Future We Want” which emphasizes the need to attain sustainable development in addressing economic, social and environmental aspects in a coherent and balanced manner. The Ministers *stated* that despite the efforts by developing countries, there are persistent implementation gaps, and many unfulfilled commitments for achieving sustainable development due to the lack of political will by developed countries in the provision of new and additional financial resources, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity building to developing countries. The Ministers *welcomed* the reaffirmation of the Rio Principles in particular the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, nevertheless expressed disappointment at the lack of meaningful participation and support of developed countries towards sustainable development and the overriding priority of poverty eradication, and *stressed* that there are serious threats to the achievement of sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and development and internationally agreed development goals, including the SDG’s. They *looked forward* to the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted during the third international conference on Financing for development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July 2015. They expressed their firm political commitment to mobilize financial and non-financial resources as agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels, in a spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

77. The Ministers *recalled* the successful convening and the outcome of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77+China, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014. They *expressed* their appreciation to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for hosting the Summit and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the full implementation of the Declaration entitled "For a New World Order for Living Well".

78. The Ministers *commended* the successful chairing of the Group of 77 and China by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of South Africa, and the Kingdom of Thailand during 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively, *recognized* the successful chairmanship of the G77 and China of the Republic of Ecuador in 2017, and *welcomed* the election of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China in 2018. They also *commended* successful hosting of the Commemorative Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014, on occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the G77.

79. The Ministers *expressed* their disappointment at the lack of implementation by developed countries of many of their commitments, especially with regard to official development assistance. They *stressed* the need to scale up the global partnership to mobilize the additional resources urgently needed to address the remaining gaps and continuing challenges to the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for achieving the sustainable development goals. In this regard, they *emphasized* the crucial role of a renewed global partnership for development to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions on the path of sustainable development in support of national development strategies and policies.

80. The Ministers *remained concerned* by the lack of and/or uneven progress made by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and Africa in achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard *reiterated* the importance of strengthening global partnership in the follow-up to and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted in the Fourth United Nations LDCs Conference at Istanbul on 9-13 of May 2011, and the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN conference on Landlocked Developing Countries: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the SIDS

ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September 2014, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan.

81. The Ministers *drew particular attention* to the importance of the fulfillment, without further delay, of all Official Development Assistance commitments, including the commitments by some developed countries to achieve the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product for Official Development Assistance to developing countries, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries. In this regard, the Ministers further *urged* the developed countries to take all necessary and appropriate measures to raise the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments so as to reach their agreed timetables, in order to assist developing countries to meet the SDG's targets and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG). They *agreed* to highlight the importance of the ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) as the focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of issues of international development cooperation with participation of all relevant stakeholders, including for monitoring the progress made towards achieving those targets.

82. The Ministers *underscored* the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of providing the necessary means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ministers called on the international community to intensify its efforts to provide enhanced means of implementation to the developing countries through a strengthened global partnership in the collective quest to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

83. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that economic and social development are the centerpiece of the objectives and operational activities of the UN. The achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG), Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be the relevant framework of the development activities of the UN system and other relevant international organizations.

84. The Ministers *underlined* the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the effective implementation of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* the importance of securing the effective and full implementation of the agreed development goals and commitments, including the strengthening of the global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national ownership and development strategies. They further *emphasized* that poverty eradication and sustainable development must be the highest priority of the United Nations Development Agenda.

85. The Ministers *stressed* the important role of the United Nations in addressing issues concerning international trade and development, as well as the persistent systemic inequities in international economic relations, in particular the slow progress in enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in the International, Financial Institutions, which are to the detriment of developing countries. In this regard, they *emphasized* the need for a comprehensive and structural reform of the global financial and economic governance and architecture in order to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system that strengthens and broadens the participation of developing countries in international economic decision making and norm setting. In that context, they also underscored the need to strengthen and implement the development dimension in the series of international economic, financial and trade negotiations. The Ministers *reiterated* the call for the international community, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and international organizations and institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to translate all commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the economic, social and related fields into concrete and specific actions in order to, inter alia, achieve the internationally agreed development goals within the agreed timeframes, and calls for the efficient use of monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that these commitments and

actions are effectively implemented.

86. The Ministers *stressed* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the, agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, poverty and hunger eradication and sustainable development.

87. The Ministers *stressed* that sub-regional, regional, interregional and international cooperation plays an important role in helping developing countries to integrate into the global economy and to achieve their development objectives and the millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in promoting the global partnership for development. The Ministers also *recognized* the need to enhance synergies and complementarities among regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation processes and emphasized the role that the United Nations as well as other relevant international institutions can play in supporting such cooperation.

88. The Ministers *welcomed* the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, which aims at supporting national plans and strategies in health matters, in order to significantly reduce the number of maternal, new born and under-five child deaths as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions, so as to reduce maternal and child mortality in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 3, and also *welcomed* of the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the SDG's, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation.

89. Consistent with, and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to undertake the following measures, among others:

89.1. *Actively engage* in the follow-up process and the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in a manner that would advance the principled positions of the Movement towards the issues under consideration;

89.2. *Call for* international support to *strengthen* South-South cooperation, which complements, and does not substitute, North-South cooperation, including regional, inter-regional and triangular cooperation and in this context, the Ministers *recalled* the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi, Kenya, and called for further implementation of the Nairobi outcome document in close coordination and collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, and in keeping with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

89.3. *Call for* continuous international support and commitment for the conclusion of development-oriented negotiations of Doha Round to strengthen the multilateral trading system and reaffirm their commitment to WTO as the preeminent global forum for trade, including negotiating and implementing trade rules, settling disputes and supporting development through the integration of developing countries into the global trading system;

89.4. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of a strong and effective intergovernmental inclusive *mechanism under the UN system*, in order to provide for adequate follow up of the implementation of the mandates agreed to in Monterrey, in Doha and in Addis Ababa, in addition to holding a follow up Financing for Development International

Conference in 2015 and *welcomed* the effective operationalization of the High Level Political Forum to achieve its functions in following up and reviewing the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Means of Implementation.

### **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

90. *The Ministers noted* that over two years has passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that significant effort is being exerted on implementing the Agenda; however, they acknowledged that the pace of implementation is still quite distant from achieving sustainable development for all, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable. They reiterated the continued unwavering commitment of NAM to further translating ambitions set out in the Agenda into real action. Further support is needed from developed countries especially regarding the transfer of technology, capacity building and financing to developing countries.

91. *The Ministers also noted* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reaffirms all the principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. They further reaffirmed that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be guided by the principles in accordance with paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda.

92. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, where no one is left behind, which also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom, and further *recognized* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. They *emphasized* that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development -economic, social and environmental-, without emphasizing one over the other, and that even though progress has been made, the pace of implementation must be accelerated as the tasks to face are urgent.

93. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the progress made by Member States in their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but stressed that implementing it at all levels requires a revitalized global partnership, which can only be fully achieved if supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the full implementation of SDG 17. In this context, enhancing support to developing countries is fundamental, including through provision of development financial resources, transfer of technology on favorable terms including on concessional and preferential terms, enhanced international support and targeted capacity-building and promoting a rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. They urged the international community and relevant stakeholders to make real progress in these issues, including developing action plans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

94. The Ministers *stressed* the crucial importance of partnership for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and called for coordination and sharing of experience among nations that can boost the capacity of countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, they *welcomed* the regional SDG coordination leaders-fora “Building a Partnership to Underpin National Sustainable Development Solutions” held in Minsk, Belarus, in February 2018, and the Forum of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in April 2018.

95. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political

commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. Therefore, they *recognized* that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is therefore critical for the realization of the SDG's and their targets.

96. The Ministers *noted* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should also be implemented consistent with existing obligations of all UN Members States, in order to ensure that it addresses inequalities and discrimination as its central defining feature. Given the reality of countries being at different levels of development, underpinned by the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), they cautioned that the successful implementation of the SDG's will be largely uneven and progress hampered by such challenges.

97. The Ministers *recalled* that the 2030 Agenda was adopted at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality and empowerment of women remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern, especially in Africa.

98. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the inclusion of youth in the process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, and National Development Policies. In this regard, they *recognized* the King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals which was launched during the ECOSOC Youth Forum in January 2017 as a global award and one of a set of pioneering initiatives in the field of youth empowerment and skills development by the Kingdom of Bahrain. This award is open to all youth around the world, as it will aim to empower young people and give them the attention, encouragement and motivation needed. It will also encourage all eligible participants to improve the enabling environment and infrastructure for youth to allow them to be effective and productive citizens contributing to their communities. In cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Youth, the award will be granted in the following four categories during 2018: Government sector, Private sector, Non-profit organizations, and Individuals.

99. The Ministers *commended* the Kingdom of Bahrain on the success of The World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum which was held in Manama from 30 October until 1 November 2017, under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with UNIDO and attended by officials, experts and entrepreneurs from 90 different countries, attracting around 1,000 entrepreneurs. The Forum adopted the Manama Declaration "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship & Innovation". The outcome of the Forum was issued as Document A/72/626 of the United Nation's General Assembly on 7 December 2017 under Agenda Item 26.

100. The Ministers *welcomed* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016, and *reaffirmed* that its implementation contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

## **United Nations: Institutional Reform**

### **A. Reform of the United Nations**

101. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the institutional reform of the UN, as follows:

101.1. The UN remains the central and indispensable forum for addressing issues relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, human rights and the rule of law, based on dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building amongst States. In this context, the Movement attaches great importance to the strengthening of the role of the UN and *stresses* that efforts should be made to develop its full potential;

101.2. The purpose of reform is to maintain the central role of the United Nations in development, through making the UN development system more responsive, efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, on the basis of their national development strategies, and that reform efforts should enhance organizational efficiency and achieve concrete development results by emphasizing on the need of closing the gap between developed and developing countries, reflecting a vision of sustainable development and prioritizing the needs of developing countries. It should also enhance cooperation benefiting all in international relations and global partnerships and reaffirm the commitment set out in Rio+20 outcome document toward a world that is just, equitable, inclusive and prosperous, as well as the commitment set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

101.3. The reform of the UN, which remains a collective agenda and high priority for the Movement, is a dynamic and ongoing process and not an end in itself in accordance with the parameters for the objective and scope of the review exercise set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reform of the UN must be comprehensive, transparent, inclusive and balanced, and pursued in an effective and accountable manner, fully respecting the political nature of the Organization as well as its intergovernmental, universal and democratic character, consistent with the Charter. In this context, the voice of every Member State must be heard and respected during the reform process irrespective of the contributions made to the budget of the Organization, while *stressing* any reform measure should be decided by Member States through an intergovernmental process in accordance with the Charter;

101.4. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution 39C/20, which incorporates the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the governance, procedures and working methods of UNESCO's governing bodies (38C/101), which contributes to the global, holistic and comprehensive reform of UNESCO, particularly its governing bodies, in order to ensure greater efficiency and transparency in the management of the Organization and the decision-making process;

101.5. In this regard, the Ministers *underlined* that all reform proposals must be considered in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Thus, they stressed the need to adopt a coherent approach in the negotiations in order not to hamper the decision making process that could have a negative impact on the effective functioning of the organization;

101.6. The Ministers *stressed* the central role of the United Nations in Global Governance and that it could only be achieved through strictly observing the delicate balance in the Charter between the principal organs of the United Nations, revitalizing the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the reform of the Security Council, including its adequate expansion, democratization,

improving its transparency, accountability and working methods;

101.7. The Ministers *emphasized* the need for the payment of assessed contributions by major contributors, which is critical to the financial stability of the Organization, to be made timely, in full and without conditions so as to enable the UN to carry out its mandates effectively. A reformed UN must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and capable of carrying out its mandate;

101.8. The impact of UN reform on developing countries is yet to be felt given the continuous decline in the resources made available to the UN as a whole, and in particular for multilateral development cooperation. The Ministers *underscored* the need for a substantially larger allocation and better use of resources to strengthen the development pillar of the United Nations, which includes that Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, Regional Commissions and the Development Account. In this context, the Ministers *expressed* particular concern at the fact that the current system of financing of the Development Account has failed to work and stressed the need to address the perennial issue of the funding mechanism for the Account, as a matter of priority, in order to provide a predictable and sustainable funding to the Account. The Ministers expressed concern over current trends of the UN budget, including proposals to transfer funding of posts and activities from the regular budget to extra budgetary resources, in particular in budget sections related to economic and social areas. The success of UN reform can only be judged in terms of a collective assessment of the potential improvements in the functioning of the Organization while preserving the interests of all developing countries and the quality and efficiency of the services provided to all member states. In this context, UN reform shall be strictly approved by the General Assembly and its ultimate goal shall not be to cut in the UN budget and resources. Should reforms however release part of existing resources, such resources shall be ultimately redirected to support activities and programmes related to international cooperation for development;

101.9. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for the implementation of sustainable development commitments and that it has a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in line with existing mandates.

101.10. The objectives of UN reform, which should include the revitalization and strengthening of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC as well as reforming the Security Council and other relevant UN bodies while addressing at the same time the systemic issues which may arise as a result, are:

- (a) to *strengthen* multilateralism and the inclusive multilateral decision-making process, *providing* the UN with a substantive capacity to fully and effectively meet the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, and at *consolidating* its democratic and inter-governmental character and its transparency in the discussion and implementation of decisions by Member States;
- (b) to *strengthen and update* the role of the Organization, as the pre-eminent and indispensable forum, by developing its full potential in addressing threats and challenges to economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law which could be achieved through the implementation of all of its mandates, decisions and resolutions, bearing in mind that a stronger UN that responds more effectively to their collective needs is in their common interest;

- (c) to *promote* greater democracy, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, non-selectivity, inclusiveness, impartiality and accountability, national ownership, as well as fair and adequate representation of women, regional groups and developing countries within the UN system;
- (d) to *strengthen* the role of the Organization in promoting international cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security and in particular for development and in implementing the internationally-agreed development goals, in the economic, social and related fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals, through the provision of adequate resources and effective follow-up mechanisms. In this context, any UN reform proposal should also address systemic issues and requirement for additional human and financial resources that may arise as a result; and
- (e) to *mainstream* the development dimension within the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the economic sectors of the UN system, including in the areas of sustainable development, policy space, South-South cooperation social and environmental responsibility and accountability, bearing in mind the aim of enabling the full participation of peoples from the South in the international decision and rule-making economic processes, and ensuring their access to and full enjoyment of the benefits of the international economy.

101.11. In acknowledging the interconnectedness of economic development, social development and environmental protection, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law, efforts should be made to ensure that any effort to transform the UN into a more effective instrument for preventing conflict should take into account the need for a balanced coherent and comprehensive approach in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, in accordance with its Charter and international law, in order to enhance conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict peace-building strategies with the aim of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this context, it is critical that all principal organs of the UN play an active role in evolving and implementing a more effective collective security system, in accordance with their respective functions and powers;

101.12. It is indispensable for UN Member States to develop common perceptions and agreed approaches to address existing, new and emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security as well as the root causes of conflict. Such common perceptions and approaches to collective security would only be legitimate if they are developed in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and by all Member States acting together. The active participation of each and every principal organ of the UN is crucial, acting both in the exercise of its respective functions and powers, without upsetting the balance as established by the Charter thereof;

101.13. Efforts to strengthen the contribution of civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to the work of the UN and its bodies through the established consultative arrangements should continue to be pursued, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and should serve the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Such contribution should seek, *inter alia*, to address in particular the obstacles that developing countries are experiencing in mobilizing the resources and in obtaining the technology and capability needed to implement their sustainable development programmes;

101.14. The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's principled position regarding the review of mandates of the United Nations programme and activities, as contained in the Final Document of the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, as well as the joint letter, dated 3 January 2007, signed by the Chairs of NAM and the Group of 77 and China, issued as

an official document of the United Nations (A/61/693); and

101.15. The Ministers *acknowledged* the conclusion of the mandate review process and took note of resolution 62/278, in particular, paragraph 4 by which the General Assembly called upon its relevant bodies and subsidiary organs, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the established regulations and rules governing programme planning, to continue improving the implementation of mandates and addressing the continuing validity of legislative decisions and the effective coordination among units of the Secretariat and other structures of the United Nations system.

102. The Ministers *expressed* satisfaction over the high level of coordination and activism reached by the JCC, between NAM and G-77 and China, in following up various aspects of the UN reform, which has placed them as key players, also contributing to the advancement of the interests of the developing countries, and called in this regard for further cooperation and coordination, including through the JCC in related areas of common concern.

103. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to pursue the following measures:

103.1. *Promote* the concerns and interests of developing countries, in the reform process, ensure its successful outcome, and *promote and preserve* the integrity and respective functions and powers of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC, and the Security Council as defined in the Charter;

103.2. *Oppose* proposals that seek; (a) to transform the democratic and intergovernmental *nature* of the UN as well as its oversight and monitoring processes including any proposal that seeks to undermine the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, as the main committee for administrative and budgetary issues; (b) to impose an artificial cap on budget levels; (c) to fund more activities from within the existing pool of resources; or (d) to redefine the Charter-based functions and powers of its principal organs on budgetary related issues;

103.3. *Engage* constructively in consultations and work, in particular through ensuring the implementation of the relevant UN decisions and resolutions thereof: (a) revitalizing the work of the General Assembly, in view of its central role and position as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the UN; (b) strengthening the role of the ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, and monitoring the implementation of development programmes; (c) democratization and comprehensive reform of the Security Council as an effective forum in the maintenance of international peace and security by expanding it to include greater representation of developing countries, proportionate to the increase in number of developing countries in the General Assembly, and in keeping with the principle of sovereign equality of states; and (d) reforming the Secretariat and its management in order to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of all mandates and to provide the highest level of accountability and transparency, at all levels, within the Secretariat and from the Secretariat to Member States through the establishment of a clear and implementable accountability framework;

103.4. *Enhance* the global partnership for development that is necessary to fully realize the outcomes of all major UN summits and conferences in the economic, social and related fields with the view to addressing multiple global threats and challenges in these areas;

103.5. *Oppose* the tendency to equate reform of the UN with greater empowerment of the Security Council, mindful of the need to keep the balance among the functions and

powers of the principal organs of the UN;

103.6. *Ensure* that the UN is provided with sufficient resources and on a timely and unconditional basis needed to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, including evolving a mechanism to monitor their effective implementation;

103.7. *Promote*, in close cooperation with the Group of 77 and China, the allocations of additional resources to further strengthen the development pillar of the United Nations;

103.8. *Maintain* close inter-governmental oversight and review of all proposals, which are yet to be considered and acted *upon* by the General Assembly, as well as those, which are being implemented; and

103.9. *Preserve* the unity of purpose and action achieved by NAM and the G-77 and China through the JCC, including in other UN headquarters in following up on the various aspects of the UN reform in order for the interests *and* concerns of developing countries to be adequately reflected in the final outcome of this process.

104. The Ministers *took note* of the report of the Secretary-General, *expressed* their support to the vision for reforming the peace and security pillar, and *looked forward to* the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on his peace and security pillar reform proposal.

## **B. Relationship among the Principal Organs of the United Nations**

105. The Ministers *underscored* the need for UN Member States to fully respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the UN, in particular the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among these organs within their respective Charter-based functions and powers. They *stressed* that the Security Council must fully observe all Charter provisions as well as all General Assembly resolutions, which clarify its relationship with the latter organ and other principal organs. In this context, they *affirmed* that Article 24 of the Charter does not necessarily provide the Security Council with the competence to address issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, including in the areas of norm- setting, legislation, administrative and budgetary matters, and establishing definitions, bearing in mind that the Assembly is primarily tasked with the progressive development of international law and its codification.<sup>16</sup> The Ministers *expressed* their grave concern over the increasing and continuing encroachment by the Council on issues which clearly fall within the functions and powers of other principal organs of the UN and their subsidiary bodies. They *further stressed* that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is highly indispensable in order to enable the UN to remain relevant and capable of meeting the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

106. The Ministers *stressed* that while Member States have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Article 24 (1) of the UN Charter and in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Council acts on their behalf. In this context, they *further stressed* that the Council should report and be accountable to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 24 (3) of the Charter.

107. The Ministers *reiterated* their concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through addressing issues which traditionally fall within the competence of the latter organs, and the attempts to enter areas of norm-setting, administrative and budgetary matters and establishing definitions which fall within the purview of the Assembly. They further

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<sup>16</sup> In accordance with Article 13 (1) of the UN Charter

*expressed* concern over the constant attempts by the Security Council to use some thematic issues under its consideration, including those related to human rights to expand its mandate into areas which do not pose a threat to international peace and security, and further urged the Council to confine to its mandate in accordance with the Charter provisions.

108. They *reaffirmed* that all organs and bodies of the United Nations should only carry out those tasks which are established in their respective mandates. In that regard, they *reiterated* that the principal UN organs have distinct and separate roles in accordance with the UN Charter.

109. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers will *continue* to undertake the following measures, among others:

109.1. *Urge* all States to uphold the primacy of and full respect for the provisions of the UN Charter pertaining to the functions and powers of the Assembly, *call on* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the Security Council to conduct regular discussions and coordination among themselves regarding the agenda and programme of work of the respective principal organs that they represent in order to establish increased coherence and complementarity among these organs in a mutually reinforcing manner, respectful of each other's' mandates, and with a view to generating a mutual understanding among them, with whom the members of the respective organs that they represent have vested in good faith their trust and confidence;

109.2. *Welcome* as a step forward the informal meetings between the July's Presidents of the Council, and UN Member States on the *preparation* of the annual report of the Security Council, including those convened by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 2008, Uganda in 2009, Nigeria in 2010, Germany in 2011, Colombia in 2012, the United States of America in 2013, Rwanda in 2014 and in 2015 and *call* for more regular interactions between future July's Presidency of the Security Council and the wider membership of the United Nations, which can help enhance the quality of such reports;

109.3. *Call on* the Security Council to submit a more explanatory, comprehensive and analytical annual report to the General Assembly, assessing the work of the Council, including such cases in which the Council has failed to act, and the views expressed by its members during the consideration of the agenda items under its consideration. Further *call on* the Security Council to elaborate the circumstances under which it adopts different outcomes whether resolutions, presidential statements, press statements or elements to the press;

109.4. *Call on the* Security Council, pursuant to Articles 15 (1) and 24 (3) of the UN Charter, to submit special reports for the consideration of the General Assembly;

109.5. *Call on the Security* Council to ensure that its monthly assessments are comprehensive and analytical, and issued in a timely fashion. The General Assembly may consider proposing parameters for the elaboration of such assessments;

109.6. *Call on the Security* Council to fully take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly on matters relating to international peace and security, consistent with Article 11 (2) of the Charter; and

109.7. *Oppose and stop* ongoing attempts to shift issues under the agenda of the General Assembly or the ECOSOC to the Security Council, and the encroachment by the latter on the functions and *powers* of the Assembly.

109.8. *Reiterate its concern and opposition* to the on-going practice by the Security Council

of continually dealing with human rights issues which do not pose threat to international peace and security and *called* on the Security Council to respect its mandate as outlined in the UN Charter, as clearly stated in the Communiqué issued by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement on 18 April 2017.

### **C. Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly**

110. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the principled positions of the Movement concerning the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, as follows:

110.1. The role and authority of the General Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN,<sup>17</sup> and its inter-governmental and democratic character as well as that of its subsidiary bodies, which have immensely contributed to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the goals of the Organization, and the codification and progressive development of international law must be respected. Its prerogative as the chief oversight organ of the UN, including on management and procurement for peacekeeping operations, must also be respected;

110.2. The revitalization of the work of the General Assembly – which must be guided by the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability and achieved through open-ended and inclusive consultations – is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the UN, and its objectives should continue to strengthen the role and position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nation, bearing in mind that the improvement of its procedural and working methods is only a first, though timely and important step towards a more substantive improvements and revitalization of the Assembly; and to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly, including in the maintenance of international peace and security as provided for in the Charter, through, *inter alia*, fully respecting its functions and powers and strengthening its relationship and coordination with other principal organs, in particular the Security Council.

111. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision taken in paragraph 4 of UNGA resolution 69/321, and subsequent resolutions 70/305 and 71/323, requesting the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue the process of the comprehensive review of the inventory chart on the status of implementation of the resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly and to issue an updated version, as well as the request to the Secretary General to submit an update on the related provisions that have not been implemented with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind the lack of implementation. Such document will give to the Member States the opportunity to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the previous resolutions since the 63rd session.

111.1. The Ministers *took note* of the UN Secretary General reports A/70/681 (2016) and A/71/780 (2017), and requested the Secretary-General to submit an update on the related provisions of the GA resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretary for implementation that have not been implemented with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind the lack of implementation. Such document will give to the Member States the opportunity to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the previous resolutions since the 63rd session.

112. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to implement the following measures, among others:

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<sup>17</sup> As affirmed in the Millennium Declaration, and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document as well as in other relevant General Assembly resolutions.

112.1. *Support* all ongoing and continuous efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the Assembly, taking into account the criteria of relevance and efficiency; *oppose* any reform proposal that seeks to challenge the central role and authority of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN; and *oppose* any approach that seeks to or could result in undermining or minimizing the achievements of the General Assembly or the mandates of its main committees, diminishing its current role and functioning, or raising questions about its relevance and credibility;

112.2. *Stress* the importance of implementing all previous resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, as well as the continuous follow-up on the effective implementation of these resolutions;

112.3. *Call on* UN Member States to renew their commitment and political will to implement *General* Assembly decisions and resolutions on a non-selective and non-discriminatory basis, since the failure to do so is at the root of many unresolved questions;

112.4. *Ensure* that the UN is provided with the resources needed to fully implement all mandated *programmes* and activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

112.5. *Reaffirm* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 35 of the Charter of the UN, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 12 and 24 of the Charter;

112.6. The Ministers *reiterated* the role of the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security and *expressed* grave concern at instances wherein the Security Council fails to address cases involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or ceasefire between belligerent parties, in fulfillment of its primary responsibility in this regard;

112.7. The Ministers *emphasized* that in such instances where the Security Council has not fulfilled its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the General Assembly should take appropriate measures in accordance with the Charter to address the issue. To this extent, the Ministers *recalled* the decision taken at the 14<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit authorizing representatives of the Movement Member States to the UN in New York to work on an appropriate draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly on this issue;

112.8. *Promote* and *preserve* the role and mandate of the General Assembly in setting the priorities of the UN and in considering all budgetary and administrative issues and reform, including its absolute authority to allocate and reallocate financial and human resources, and in the appointment of senior officials in the Secretariat in accordance with the Charter and General Assembly resolutions thereof, through *ensuring*, inter alia, the full adherence by UN Member States to such resolutions;

112.9. In this regard, the Ministers *underlined* that in exercising its role, the General Assembly should ensure that the respective mandates and areas of competencies of all its main Committees be fully respected by all relevant stakeholders.

112.10. *Ensure* that the General Assembly should remain the principal organ that provides

the only framework for reviewing the work of all its subsidiary organs and bodies.

112.11. *Identify* measures to simplify the Uniting for Peace procedure to enable swifter and urgent *action* by the General Assembly, in recognition of its role on issues relating to international peace and security as set out in the Charter;

112.12. *Strengthen* the role of the General Assembly in accordance with article 97 of the UN Charter in the *selection* of the Secretary General of the Organization. In this regard, the role of the General Assembly is imperative in ensuring the transparency, accountability and competitiveness of the process. This requires the Assembly's involvement at early stage of the selection process when identifying candidates for this post;

112.13. *Stress the need* to enhance and strengthen the role of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, through the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations, and to provide the President of the General Assembly with adequate protocol and security services, as well as adequate office space, with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.

112.14. *Underlines* the importance for the United Nations secretariat to continue improving its forms and methods of work to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the General Assembly and its bodies, as well as enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlaps where it exists in the agenda of the General Assembly In this regard, they welcomed paragraph 51 of resolution 71/323, which includes changes to the way in which the UN Journal will be published, thereby reflecting the Organization's commitment to multilingualism.

112.15. The Ministers *commended* the ongoing work of the NAM Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of Algeria, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement. They encouraged all NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the Working Group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement.

112.16. The Ministers welcomed paragraph 16 resolution 71/323, which requests to limit High-Level Meetings of UNGA to current issues of critical importance to the international community, with the interest of the wider membership in mind, and with a focus on the most vulnerable, while encouraging the allocation of events of a strictly sectorial or thematic nature to the six Main Committees.

#### **D. Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.**

113. The Ministers *underlined* the central role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General of the UN, and *expressed support* for efforts aimed at reinforcing and strengthening the role of the Assembly in this regard, and *agreed that* all Non-Aligned Countries shall engage actively in these efforts.

113.1. The Ministers *reaffirmed*, in this regard, that the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly, in line with the provisions of Article 97 of the UN Charter. They further reaffirmed the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly on this matter; namely, that when the Security Council has submitted its recommendation on the appointment of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly shall consider the recommendation and vote upon it by secret ballot in private meeting, following wide and extensive consultations with all Member States of the Organization.

114. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the need for greater transparency and inclusiveness in the selection and appointment process of the SG. In this regard, they noted the outdated nature

of resolution 11 (1) of January 1946 on the terms of appointments of the Secretary General, and emphasized that it is the General Assembly's prerogative and ability to debate and to vote on the appointment of the SG, and in this context, called upon the General Assembly to address both the nomination and appointment of the SG in accordance with resolutions 51/241, 60/286, 64/301, 66/294, 66/297 68/307, and 69/321 which should be fully implemented.

115. The Ministers *noted* that in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard shall continue to be given to regional rotation and shall also be given to gender equality as stipulated in para. 59 of resolution 51/241.

116. Recalling the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the UN Charter, the Ministers *called* upon the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, forward these results to the Security Council.

117. In this context, the Ministers *agreed* that formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General should be done in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States in the General Assembly and the Security Council, and in this regard welcomed the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the informal meetings of the General Assembly with the candidates endorsed by Member States and requested the President of the General Assembly to continue to undertake consultations with Member States in order to improve the preparation and holding of these hearings or informal meetings for an exchange of views and dialogue with all candidates.

117.1. The Ministers *recalled* the process of the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General in 2016 and, in this regard, *welcomed* the signing of the joint letter by which the Presidents of both UNGA and the Security Council formally launched the beginning of the process. They urged that all future selection and appointment processes build upon these practices, and called upon future PGAs and Presidents of the Security Council to continue the practice of holding timely informal meetings for an exchange of views with candidates presented by Member States to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

118. The Ministers *acknowledged* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2009/8) which noted that conducting hearings/meetings with candidates running for the post of executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations common system, could improve their selection processes, in order to enhance transparency and credibility of the selection process and to make the process more inclusive of all nationalities.

#### **E. Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, and other Matters Related to the Security Council**

119. The Ministers *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Security Council, in particular the directives of the Movement adopted during its 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Summits, which have been reflected in the Movement's position and negotiating papers, and the decisions of the Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, as follows:

119.1. The Movement, while noting with appreciation efforts undertaken, *notes* with concern the lack of concrete results in the intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Council, based on General Assembly decisions 62/557, 63/565, 64/568, 65/554, 66/556, 67/561, 68/557, 69/560 70/559, and 71/553 and notes that the negotiations

have shown that while a convergence of views has emerged, major differences still exist, and while there have been some improvements made to the working methods of the Council, they have not satisfied even the minimum expectations of the general membership of the UN, leaving much room for improvement;

119.2. In this context, the Ministers *reiterated* that General Assembly Decision 62/557 is and shall continue to be the basis of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform;

119.3. Reform of the Security Council should be comprehensive, addressing all substantive issues relating, *inter alia*, to the question of the membership, regional representation, the Council's agenda, its working methods and decision-making process, including the veto, and should garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States in line with the provisions of the Charter and relevant General Assembly decisions particularly 62/557;

119.4. In recent years, the Security Council has been too quick to threaten or authorize enforcement action in some cases while being silent and inactive in others. Furthermore, the Council has been increasingly resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose an immediate threat to international peace and security. A careful review of these trends indicates that the Council could have opted for alternative provisions to respond more appropriately to particular cases. Instead of excessive and quick use of Chapter VII, efforts should be made to fully utilize the provisions of Chapters VI and VIII for the pacific settlement of disputes. Chapter VII should be invoked, as intended, as a measure of last resort. Unfortunately, provisions of Articles 41 and 42 in some cases have been too quickly resorted to while the other options had not been fully exhausted;

119.5. The Security Council-imposed sanctions remain an issue of serious concern to Non-Aligned Countries in view of the tenable legal grounds, impartiality and justice. In accordance with the UN Charter, sanctions should be considered to be imposed only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter have been exhausted and a thorough consideration undertaken of the short-term and long-term effects of such sanctions. Sanctions are a blunt instrument, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions of whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country are legitimate means of exerting pressure. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the populace. In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, and that its imposition should be for a specified timeframe and be based on tenable legal grounds, and that it should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined and subject to periodic review. Sanctions should be imposed only when there exists a threat to international peace and security or an act of aggression, in accordance with the Charter, and that it is not applicable "preventively" in instances of mere violation of international law, norms or standards. Targeted sanctions may be a better alternative so long as the population of targeted State concerned is not victimized whether directly or indirectly;

119.6. Transparency, openness and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe in all its activities, approaches and procedures. Regrettably, the Council has neglected these important factors on numerous occasions. Such instances include unscheduled open debates with selective notification, reluctance in convening open debates on some issues of high significance, repeatedly restricting participation in some of the open debates and discriminating between members and non-members of the Council particularly with regard to sequencing and time limits of statements during the open debates, failure to submit special reports to the General Assembly as required under Article 24 of the Charter, submission of annual reports still lacking sufficient information and analytical content, and lack of minimal parameters for

the elaboration of the monthly assessment by the Security Council Presidencies. The Council must comply with the provisions of Article 31 of the Charter, which allow any non-Council member to participate in discussions on matters affecting it. Rule 48 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Council should be thoroughly observed. Closed meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum and as the exception they were meant to be;

119.7. The reform of the Security Council should be addressed in an early, comprehensive, transparent and balanced manner, without delay and without setting artificial deadlines. It should ensure that the agenda of the Council reflects the needs and interests of both developing and developed countries, in an objective, rational, non-selective and non-arbitrary manner;

119.8. The enlargement of the Council, as a body primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, and the reform of its working methods should lead to a democratic, more representative, more accountable and more effective Council;

119.9. The Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, which have remained provisional for more than 60 years, should be formalized in order to improve its transparency and accountability;

119.10. The Ministers *acknowledge* the historical injustices against Africa with regard to its representation in the Security Council and expressed support for increased and enhanced representation for Africa in the reformed Security Council. The Ministers took note of the African common position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

119.11. The Ministers *congratulated* the members of the Non-Aligned Movement elected as non-permanent members of the Security Council. They reaffirmed the necessity of working in the context of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council in the interest of fostering the interests of the Movement.

119.12. The Ministers *renewed* the directives to the Permanent Representatives in New York to continue to develop the elements of the position of the Movement on Security Council reform, taking into account all the options and views of Member States and groups, and to present a comprehensive report to the XVIII Summit of the Movement.

120. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

120.1. *Call on* the Council to increase the number of public meetings, in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter, and that these meetings should provide real opportunities to take into account the views and contributions of the wider membership of the UN, particularly non-Council members whose affairs are under the discussion of the Council;

120.2. *Call on* the Security Council to allow briefings by the Special Envoys or Representatives of the Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat to take place in public meetings, unless in exceptional circumstances;

120.3. *Call on* the Security Council to further enhance its relationship with the UN Secretariat and troop contributing countries (TCC), including through a sustained, regular and timely interaction. Meetings with TCCs should be held not only in the drawing up of mandates, but also in their implementation, when considering a change in, or renewal of, or completion of a mission mandate, or when there is a rapid

deterioration of the situation on the ground. In this context, the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should involve TCCs more frequently and intensively in its deliberations, especially in the very early stages of mission planning;

120.4. *Call upon* the Security Council to uphold the primacy of and respect for the Charter in connection with its functions and powers and *stresses* once again that the decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State of the United Nations or any issue that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter;

120.5. *Call on* the Council to establish its subsidiary organs in accordance with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter, and that these organs should function in a manner that would provide adequate and timely information on their activities to the general UN membership;

120.6. *Reject* the use of the Security Council as a tool to pursue national political interests and agenda aggravating rather than alleviating situations contrary to its mission enshrined in the Charter, and *stress* the necessity of non-selectivity, impartiality and accountability in the work of the Council, and the need for the Council to strictly keep within the powers and functions accorded to it by the Member States under the UN Charter;

120.7. *Urge* the *Council* to avoid resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose a threat to international peace and security, and to fully utilize the provisions of other relevant Chapters, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII, before invoking Chapter VII which should be a measure of last resort, if necessary;

120.8. *Oppose* attempts through the imposition or prolongation of sanctions or their extension by the Security Council against any State under the pretext or with the aim of achieving the political objectives of one or a few States to stamp out the rights to sovereignty, existence and development of the Member States of the Movement, rather than in the general interest of the international community;

120.9. *Urge* the Non-Aligned countries, which are members of the Security Council,<sup>18</sup> to promote *and* defend, as deemed possible, the aforementioned positions and objectives during their tenure of membership in the Council, and to this end to, while *noting* with satisfaction recent positive steps in that regard, *stress* the need for the consolidation of the NAM Caucus in the Council with the principal objective of coordinating and defending the positions of the Movement in the Security Council, and *call upon* the members of the Caucus to provide timely briefings and to engage in close consultation with the Non-Aligned Countries, particularly those whose interests and concerns are under consideration by the Council, as well as to keep the Movement continuously updated of all relevant developments and issues with which the Council is actively seized;

120.10. *Reject* the on-going practice of the Security Council of dealing with human rights issues in pursuit of certain states' political objectives;

#### **F. Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

121. The Ministers *took note* of the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 68/1 on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, and reiterated the need to strengthen the role of the

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<sup>18</sup> Members of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council, comprising the Non-Aligned Countries currently members of the Security Council, are: Bolivia (2017-2018), Cote d'Ivoire (2018-2019), Ethiopia (2017-2018), Equatorial Guinea (2018-2019), Kuwait (2018-2019) and Peru (2018-2019).

ECOSOC as a principal body for the promotion of international economic cooperation, coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and formulation of recommendations on issues of economic and social development as well as for the full implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and *expressed* their resolve and commitment to promote greater efforts geared toward this end. They particularly *welcomed* ECOSOC's role in undertaking regular and periodic review and assessment of the balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and their impact on development, through the High-level Political Forum and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), and called for full implementation of this role.

### **G. The Human Rights Council**

122. While welcoming the NAM member states recently elected to the Human Rights Council, during the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly, the Ministers *stressed* that the Human Rights Council should provide equal treatment to both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the right to development. They further *stressed* that the Council should not allow confrontational approaches, exploitation of human rights for political purposes, selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous considerations and double standards in the conduct of its work, which should comply with the UN Charter, international law and relevant UN resolutions.

123. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that universality, transparency, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity should be guiding principles for the work of the Council and its method of work. The Council in performing its responsibilities should, bear in mind, in accordance with Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds of the Member States.

124. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to and stressed the importance of preserving resolution 5/1 entitled Institutional Building of the Human Rights Council and resolution 5/2 entitled Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council, including their annexes and appendices, endorsed by resolution 62/219 of the UN General Assembly.

125. The Ministers *further stressed* 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. In this regard, they reaffirmed the need to defend the principles of non-selectivity, non-politicization, objectivity and impartiality in the consideration of human rights situations, as well as to ensure that human rights are not used for political purposes and adopting politically motivated decisions, in order to avoid the problems which plagued the former Human Rights Commission. In this regard, they *expressed* their concern over the proliferation of politicization and double standards, as well as country specific resolutions at the Human Rights Council.

126. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of adopting a constructive approach in the promotion and protection of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard, they *urged* the Human Rights Council<sup>19</sup> to focus on constructive and genuine dialogue and cooperation with State Parties, as well as capacity building and technical assistance, provided upon the request in consultation with and with the consent of the concerned states and according to their national needs and priorities, to ensure the realization of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development.

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<sup>19</sup> The 27 NAM Countries currently members of the 47-member of the HRC are Afghanistan (2020), Angola (2020), Burundi (2018), Chile (2020), Côte d'Ivoire (2018), Cuba (2019), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2020), Ecuador (2018), Egypt (2019), Ethiopia (2018), Iraq (2019), Kenya (2018), Mongolia (2018), Nepal (2020), Nigeria (2020), Pakistan (2020), Panama (2018), Peru (2020), Philippines (2018), Qatar (2020), Rwanda (2019), Saudi Arabia (2019), Senegal (2020), South Africa (2019), Togo (2018), Tunisia (2019), United Arab Emirates (2018), and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2018)

127. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, while underscoring that for the next appointment and term 2018-2021, the High Commissioner must commit himself/herself to act strictly in line with the mandate upon which the Office was created, without political bias, avoiding any kind of interference in the internal affairs of the Member States of the Movement.

128. The Ministers *emphasized the need* to develop effective working relationship between the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in line with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 48/141. They further *stressed* that the Human Rights Council, being the expert inter-governmental body on human rights issues, should have an oversight role in reviewing the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its activities under country engagement and establishing its field offices, as well as those related to its advisory services, technical and financial assistance and capacity building's activities, while ensuring the full respect of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as defined in resolution 48/141. In this connection, they *welcomed* the statement of the President of the Human Rights Council, adopted in the 15th session (PRST 15/2).

129. The Ministers *emphasized* the role of the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly responsible for consideration of human rights situations in all countries in the context of the Universal Periodic Review based on cooperation and constructive dialogue. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern over the continuation and the proliferation of the practice of selective adoption of country-specific resolutions in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as in the Human Rights Council, which is a tool that exploits human rights for political purposes breaches the principles of universality, impartiality, 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.

130. The Ministers *decided* to continue the actions taken by the Movement to address the ongoing practice of selective adoption of country specific resolutions and of the establishment of biased country specific mandates, including statements on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement during the interactive dialogues with the country specific mandates and consideration of country specific resolutions in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

131. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the need to promote greater coherence and complementarity between the work of the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council, and avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping in their activities as well as create a working and constructive relationship between them in addressing human rights situations.

132. The Ministers *stressed* that the Universal Periodic Review is the main inter-governmental cooperative mechanism to review human rights issues at the national level in all countries without distinction, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs.

133. The Ministers *recalled* the General Assembly resolution 60/251 which established the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and resolution 65/281, on the review of the HRC which also reaffirms the subsidiary status of the Organ and in this regard, *stressed* the importance of the general debate on, and interactive dialogue with the President of the Council and consideration of the report of the Council in the Third Committee.

134. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of ensuring the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council as an action-oriented, cooperative mechanism based on objective and reliable information and interactive dialogue with full involvement of the countries under review and conducted in an impartial, transparent,

non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner. They *further urged* all NAM members to continue to coordinate their efforts to support NAM Member States under review.

135. The Ministers *reiterated* that the Non-Aligned Movement should continue to closely coordinate its position on the following priority areas:

- a) Fostering international cooperation and constructive dialogue in the Human Rights Council and prevent the occurrence of practices of double standards, selectivity and political manipulation which discredited the Commission on Human Rights;
- b) Continuing working towards the enhancement and improvement, as appropriate, of the work of human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies system, special procedures, expert bodies and the confidential procedure, bearing in mind that while mandate holders exercise their functions in full respect for and strict observance of their mandate, they must observe the Code of Conduct for the Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council contained in HRC Resolution 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and reaffirmed in its resolution 11/11 of 18 June 2009, and also observe HRC resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011, including on resources and funding for special procedures, as well as the need to preserve all these mechanisms and bodies from politicization and double standards, so as to enhance the effectiveness of the system;
- c) Encouraging the presentation of experts from NAM countries as candidates for special procedures mandate-holders, and support candidates presented by NAM countries that are parties, to the human rights treaty bodies and to give consideration, during the election, to inter alia, equitable geographical distribution, balanced gender representation and representation of different legal system;
- d) Developing the relationship of the Human Rights Council with other entities of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions 48/141, 60/251, 62/219, and 65/281;
- e) Determining the Council's reporting procedures to the United Nations General Assembly, for purposes of universal endorsement of all its programs and activities, in its capacity as subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. In this regard, initiate discussions among NAM Members to explore common grounds on the issue;
- f) Ensuring that any future review processes of the Council are directed towards enabling the Council to carry out, on the basis of cooperation and non-confrontation, its mandated role to promote all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly, and should not aim at reforming the Council, but should be focused on taking the necessary measures to improve its work and functioning, as well as to contribute to improving the efficiency of the council in order to be able to carry out, on the basis of cooperation and non-confrontation, its mandated role in accordance with its institution building to promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and review its status as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolutions 60/251 and 65/281.
- g) Rejecting the establishment of any additional country-specific tools which would lead to politicization, double standards and selectivity in dealing with human rights issues and exerting efforts to discard these tools;
- h) Preserving the Universal Periodic Review as the only international mechanism to review human rights situation in all Member States on equal footing;
- i) Ensuring that the Universal Periodic Review be conducted by the Human Rights

Council as a result-oriented, cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country under review and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs and that such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies, bearing in mind the need to eradicate selectivity, double standards and politicization in the consideration of human rights issues. It should aim at strengthening the Member States capacity, upon their request and consent as well as in consultation with them, to implement their obligations, on promotion and protection of human rights. It should not be used as a tool to coerce States and subject them to politically motivated country-specific resolutions;

j) Ensuring also that the Universal Periodic Review is conducted in an objective manner, on the basis of credible and reliable information, and taking duly into consideration information, comments and observations of the country under review. It should not be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to question their political, economic, and social systems, their sovereign rights, and their national, religious and cultural particularities. It must continue to be implemented in accordance with UNGA resolutions 60/251, 62/219 and 65/281;

k) Supporting NGOs participation in the work of the Human Rights Council, based inter alia on ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and the modalities established by the Human Rights Council, taking into consideration that NGOs shall be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, should conform at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of their consultative relations with ECOSOC, the principles and purposes as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, and refrain from any unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations incompatible with those purposes and principles in accordance with article 57 (b) of the resolution 1996/31 and that they are responsible for the actions of their accredited representatives during their participation in the work of the Human Rights Council.

136. The Ministers *recalled* the resolution A/RES 70/151 on Human rights and unilateral coercive measures through which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/21 to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.

#### **H. Peacebuilding Activities and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**

137. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) *recalled* the 14th Summit Conference of Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Havana, Cuba September 2006 at which the Ministers of the Movement *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning post-conflict peacebuilding activities and had *welcomed* the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as by General Assembly resolution 60/180; as a coordinated, coherent and integrated institutional mechanism, to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction at their request in accordance with the principle of national ownership", in laying the foundation for sustainable development.

138. In pursuit of this mandate, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the Non-Aligned Movement's commitment to an efficient and effective Peacebuilding Commission, which fully utilizes the advantages and benefits arising from the diversity of its composition. They also acknowledged the work undertaken by the Commission since it started its operations with respect to the six countries on its agenda, namely: Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic, Guinea and Liberia. They also acknowledged the progress achieved so far, in the elaboration of the strategic frameworks for peacebuilding, for these countries; they appreciated the progress in the case of Guinea where the PBC country configuration has completed its task and ended the configuration on the request of the Government of Guinea.

139. The Ministers *emphasized* the role of the NAM Caucus within the Peacebuilding Commission aimed at coordinating positions of Non-Aligned countries in the Commission and to keep the Movement informed of the activities carried out by the Commission. In this connection, they lauded the efforts of the Caucus in the rapid progress of the Commission, specifically towards the entrenchment of the principle of national ownership, the need for capacity building and drawing recognition to, and signaling the importance of the economic recovery and development dimension in the peace building process.

140. The Ministers *expressed* concern at several instances in which the Security Council denied the coordinator of the NAM Caucus in the PBC an opportunity to address members of the Security Council on matters related to the competence of the PBC. They *urged* the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC to utilize the expertise of the PBC, including the coordinator of the NAM Caucus of the PBC, as the representative of the largest grouping within the PBC, by ensuring participation in discussions on all issues of relevance to, or falling within, the competence of the PBC. Furthermore, they *stressed* on the necessity to promote the institutional relation between the PBC and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC.

141. The Ministers *reiterated* that, without prejudice to the functions and powers of the other principal organs of the UN in relation to post-conflict peacebuilding activities, the General Assembly must play the key role in the formulation and implementation of such activities and functions. They *underlined* the central role of the PBC in providing the United Nations with policy guidance and strategies in its post-conflict peacebuilding activities. In this regard they *reaffirmed* the work of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission as the central organ of the Commission, with responsibilities as described in the General Assembly's resolution 60/180. They as well *considered* the organizational committee a suitable platform for strategy and policy discussions to promote the rules and working methods of the Commission and to reinforce the coherence of the Commission's Configurations and to facilitate a result oriented engagement with relevant actors and stakeholders. In this connection also, they *urged* the NAM Caucus in the Commission to encourage work towards the further development of rules of procedure and methods of work, suitable for the efficient and proper functioning of the Commission. They *emphasized* that the provisional rules of procedure of the PBC need to be regularly revisited in the light of the experience gained by the Commission since its operationalization, and the developments in the work of the Commission. They *praised* as well the important role played by NAM Member States in the review process of the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution A/Res/180 which took place in 2010, to ensure that they are appropriate to fulfill the agreed functions of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the necessity to provide necessary and timely resources, in order to help ensure predictable financing for recovery activities and sustained financial investment, over the medium to long-term. They *reiterated* the fundamental role of the PBC in the conception, with the consent of the countries under the consideration of the PBC, and in conformity with the principle of national ownership, of integrated strategies for post conflict peacebuilding and recovery.

142. The Ministers *stressed the importance* of ensuring that the country specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission develop effective and cooperative mechanisms based on a sustained dialogue with the host countries under review. They *further urged* the Peacebuilding Commission to operationalize the principle of national ownership through the adoption of a demand-driven approach based on joint assessments with host countries.

143. The Ministers *took note* of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council S/RES/2282 and the General Assembly A/RES/70/262 which provided a concept of "Sustaining Peace", *underscored* the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for sustaining peace and acknowledges the importance of the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The Ministers *underscored* that the Peacebuilding Commission and its Country-Specific Configurations, as well as the Peacebuilding Fund, have a significant role to play in enhancing complementarity between peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. The

Ministers *reaffirmed* the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace, and in this regard, *emphasized* that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society were taken into account.

144. The Ministers *welcomed* the Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2012/29 which reiterates inter alia the principles of national ownership and highlights the important role of the PBC in supporting peacebuilding efforts in the aftermath of conflict;

145. The Ministers *emphasized* that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) must continue to be used as a catalytic mechanism geared towards providing critical support during the early stages of the peace building process to avert relapse into conflict. They *stressed* the need for closer synergy between the PBC and the PBF, through a strengthened strategic relationship, to ensure greater coherence and coordination and the avoidance of duplication. The Ministers *took note* of the recommendations and the revised terms of reference of the Peace Building Fund as contained in General Assembly resolution 63/282 and its annex, and *reaffirmed* the roles of the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission to provide policy guidance on the use of the Fund to maximize its impact and improve its functioning, to make the Fund more efficient, transparent, flexible and to facilitate the disbursement of funds, particularly for quick- impact and emergency projects. They *reiterated* as well the importance of increasing the funding target of the PBF, to make it more capable of financing additional projects in post conflict countries. They *stressed* the necessity of having a mechanism to assess whether allocations from the PBF are directed to the appropriate channels leading to peacebuilding;

146. The Ministers *stressed the necessity* to ensure the sustainability of funding for countries in the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Ministers are concerned by the lack of coordination and coherence among financial donors resulting in duplication and redundancy in particular areas and the neglect of other catalytic projects. The Ministers *called for* the setup of a mechanism within the PBC to review, within each country configuration, ways and means to ensure unity of efforts by donors, in close collaboration with host countries;

147. The Ministers *underlined* the importance of the comprehensive review of the work of the PBC in 2015 assessing the progress made in the implementation of key recommendations emanating from 2010 review by the Commission and other UN actors taking stock of remaining challenges. The Ministers *noted* the report of the Advisory Group of Experts that laid the ground work for the Review of the Peacebuilding architecture and subsequent adoption of the substantively identical resolutions in the General Assembly and the Security Council;

148. The Ministers *noted* the first ever annual substantive session of the annual PBC held on 23 June 2014 and stressed the need for the annual session to become a standing event for examining peacebuilding-related themes to facilitate more timely, sustained and effective responses to the needs of people in the countries on the agenda of the commission;

149. The Ministers *welcomed* the independent report of the Senior Advisory Group on Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict (A/65/747) and took note of the Secretary-General's final report on Civilian Capacity in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/68/696-S/2014/5), and also welcomed the General Assembly Resolution 66/255 on Civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict, in support of national capacities for post-conflict peacebuilding, and took note that efforts to broaden and deepen the pool of experts, giving particular attention to mobilizing capacities from developing countries, in particular among women, are vital for successful United Nations peacebuilding activities, and in this regard, *underlined* the importance of effective outreach for these purposes by the United Nations Secretariat, to be undertaken in accordance with the existing rules and regulations,

and in close consultation with Member States.

150. The Ministers *underscored* the importance of civilian capacity that exists already within the developing world and expressed readiness to support national civilian capacity development and institution building in support of peacebuilding activities in post-conflict situations, including through peacekeeping operations in accordance with their mandates, as well as enhanced regional, South-South and triangular cooperation. In this regard, they reaffirmed the fundamental principle of national ownership. The Ministers *further emphasized* the importance of continued intergovernmental considerations of any development of measures undertaken to mobilize civilian capacities in the aftermath of conflict, keeping in mind the need to apply the fundamental principle of national ownership and institution building processes, forging South-South and triangular cooperation and ensuring sustain and predictable financing for post-conflict peacebuilding, as reflected in the Secretary General's final report (A/68/696-S/2014/5).

151. The Ministers *underlined* the necessity for the UN to make full use of South-South cooperation arrangements in the development of civilian capacities in post-conflict countries. The Ministers *stressed* the need for the UN to draw from the expertise of leaders and practitioners from countries of the Global South who have grappled with civilian capacity challenges with the aim to deploy effective civilian expertise.

152. The Ministers *welcomed* Egypt's efforts in consolidating the regional dimension of peacebuilding within the United Nations system, including by organizing and hosting a workshop in November 2014 in Cairo entitled "The regional Aspects of Peacebuilding; Identifying Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities", to offer perspectives from Africa and the Global South to the 2015 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture. The Ministers *welcomed* the issuance of the Outcome Report of the workshop as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council (A/69/654-S/2014/882).

153. The Ministers *commended* the ongoing work of the NAM caucus in the PBC in strengthening the position and role of the Movement in the Peacebuilding Commission. In this regard, they *expressed* their appreciation for the efforts of Bangladesh during its chairmanship of the NAM caucus. They *further encouraged* the non-aligned members of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Non-Aligned countries which are on its agenda, to actively participate in the NAM Caucus to ensure its purposeful contribution to the Peacebuilding activities of the United Nations;

154. The Ministers *commended* the continued efforts of the Central African Republic country Configuration, in particular the numerous visits to the country, the engagement and the support of the Central African authorities for the National Peacebuilding and Recovery Plan (RCPA), as well as the advocacy role towards the Security Council and all the other bilateral and multilateral partners of the CAR. They also *expressed their appreciation* for the establishment of the reference group on the promotion of the rule of law in CAR, which provides regular updates on the implementation of the Special Criminal Court, as well as on the reestablishment of the penal chain in the country. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the role of the Kingdom of Morocco in this regard, in its capacity as Chairman of the Central African Republic country Configuration.

155. The Ministers *underlined* the need for the PBC to establish dynamic partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations and to ensure that regional efforts receive the requisite attention and support. The Ministers *expressed the need* for integrated peacebuilding strategies and programmes that are consistent and in line with host-country strategies and programmes to ensure national ownership; they also *reiterated* that long term Peacebuilding process required a stronger partnership with donors to enhance speed, flexibility and risk tolerance of funding mechanisms, including for regional and cross-cutting issues under the PBC's consideration.

156. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture and *hoped* that its implementation will contribute to reduce fragmentation in the United Nations system.

### **I. United Nations Secretariat and Management Reform**

157. Recognizing that the reform of the UN is a collective agenda of its membership, the Ministers *stressed* that the voice of every Member States must be heard and respected during the reform process, irrespective of its level of contribution to the budget of the Organization;

158. *The Ministers recognized* the efforts led by the Secretary-General on management reform and welcome an inclusive and consultative process. They *called for* continued consultations and deepened engagements with all Member States as meaningful reform requires ownership of the entire membership of the Organization. They *emphasized* that the reforms should increase transparency, accountability, efficiency and oversight. They emphasized the centrality of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the need to monitor and evaluate mandate implementation. They *underscored* the importance of addressing gender parity and balanced geographical representation at all levels of the Secretariat and ensuring fair and equitable access to United Nations procurement opportunities for developing country Member States.

159. The Ministers *recognized* that in order to advance the reform process of the Secretariat and Management, as approved by member states, the United Nations must be equipped with the necessary and sufficient resources to allow its full implementation, avoiding any delay in this task;

160. *The Ministers furthermore expressed* concern at the continued decline in the level of resources made available to the United Nations as a whole, which seriously hampers and limits mandate implementation across the Organization, including its reform initiatives.

161. The Ministers *stressed the importance* of ensuring that the Secretariat meets the highest standards of accountability, transparency, integrity and ethical conduct. The Ministers, therefore, *urged* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to fully implement General Assembly resolution 66/257, 67/253, 68/264, 69/272 and 71/283 entitled “Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat”, and other relevant resolutions, bearing in mind that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention and strong commitment at all levels of the Secretariat, especially at the highest level;

162. The Ministers *stressed the need* to increase the representation of developing countries, in particular at the senior levels, and to achieve gender balance, improve geographic distribution, in particular from member States not or underrepresented, in the Secretariat, and enhance transparency in the recruitment process;

163. The Ministers *reiterated* that the objectives of the reform of the Secretariat of the UN and its management are as follows:

- (a) To respond more efficiently and effectively to the needs of Member States;
- (b) To further strengthen and update the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN and thus, improving its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organization, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter;
- (c) To ensure the effective enforcement of greater accountability and transparency measures within the Secretariat as well as accountability of the Secretariat towards

Member States in particular at the senior managers level, and to fully implement, in this regard General Assembly resolution 64/259, 68/264, 69/272 and 71/283;

- (d) To better reflect the international character of the United Nations Secretariat as a fundamental principle through better observance of equitable geographic representation at all levels of the Secretariat, including senior managerial level, as well as to achieve the targeted gender balance among all staff members, in accordance with article 101 of the Charter;
- (e) The final result of the reform process should be to ensure that the UN is able to implement all its mandates more effectively and efficiently.

164. The Ministers *emphasized* that the reform of the Secretariat of the UN and its management should not:

- (a) Change the intergovernmental nature and mechanisms of the decision-making, oversight and monitoring processes of the Organization;
- (b) Be a cost-cutting exercise of the Organization;
- (c) Affect the accomplishment of the mandates through the reduction of the budget levels of the Organization;
- (d) Fund more activities from within the existing pool of resources of the Organization;
- (e) Change and/or encroach on the mandate of the Fifth Committee, as the main Committee for the administrative and budgetary issues;
- (f) Redefine the functions and powers of the principal organs of the Organization; and
- (g) Undermine the need to fully observe the principle of the geographical distribution of the appointment to the posts in the U.N. Secretariat, in particular the D level and above.

165. The Ministers furthermore *stressed* the need to continue to submit for the consideration and prior approval of the General Assembly, through its Fifth Committee, any proposal or measure related to the implementation of the reform initiatives contained in the report "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all" and its Addendum 1, in line with the provisions contained in General Assembly Resolution 72/266.

166. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and *stressed* that any proposals to amend the overall departmental structure, as well as the budgetary, programming, planning, monitoring and evaluation process of the Organization, are subject to review and prior approval by the General Assembly.

167. The Ministers *strongly supported* the oversight role performed by the General Assembly, as well as its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. In this context, they renewed their commitment to strengthen the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Ministers also *urged* the rest of the membership of the United Nations to actively participate in the sessions of the Committee.

168. The Ministers *strongly rejected* attempts to impose conditionalities to the reform process which negatively impact the confidence atmosphere needed for the negotiations.

169. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly resolutions 65/247

and 65/248 on the Human Resources Management and the United Nations Common System which finalized the establishment of the new contractual arrangements and harmonized the conditions of service in the field of the United Nations and expect that the implementation of such resolutions brings about a better and more transparent recruitment process of personnel to the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations common system, while creating more opportunities to recruit young professional staff from developing countries.

#### **J. Repositioning of the United Nations Development System**

170. The Ministers *underlined* that the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (QCPR) is the main instrument to better position the United Nations development system (UNDS) and took into consideration the proposal from the Secretary General to move beyond coordination towards the new narrative for sustainable development to support countries, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, the review of the functions and existing capacities of the UN development system to be carried out in accordance with General Assembly's QCPR resolution A/RES/71/243 of 21 December 2016 should be guided by the following considerations.

171. The QCPR's mandate should be the basis of any proposed reform of the UNDS. In this regard, the Ministers are of a firm view that the QCPR is a development resolution and thus this should be the focus of the process.

172. The process should take into account that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is our highest priority and the underlying objective of the UNDS. It is very important that the operational activities for development of the UNDS take into account the need to build, promote, and strengthen the capacity of developing countries in their efforts to address long-term sustainable development at the national level, especially least developed countries that still face difficulty in addressing poverty and hunger.

173. The process should fully respect States' sovereignty, independence, and ownership over its own development pathways and recognize the importance of national ownership and leadership, bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground in these countries. In this regard, they should take into account the different realities, capacities, and levels of national development, respecting national policies and priorities.

174. The Ministers *stressed* that the process of the UN development system reform should aim at better adapting the system to support developing countries, upon their request, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their national plans and strategies with the overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through strengthening coordination, coherence and collaboration among all UN agencies, reinforcing the principles of accountability, transparency and oversight by Member States, according to the mandate of each institution, in order to achieve greater impact and results.

175. The Ministers also *underlined* that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should remain the only instrument for cooperation with developing countries, bearing in mind the different realities, capacities, and levels of national development, respecting national policies and priorities and political, economic, social and cultural specificities as well as ensuring that the development system contribute effectively to mobilizing more predictable, flexible, and less earmarked funding for the implementation of Agenda 2030.

176. The Ministers *requested* the United Nations development system to continue to support all programme countries, regardless of which modality for the delivery of assistance they prefer to adopt, in accordance with their development plans and priorities.

177. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the “no one size fits all” approach and the principle of voluntary adoption of the “Delivering as one” approach by the programme country, and requested the United Nations development system to enhance its cooperation for development to maximize the “Delivering as one” approach in the countries that choose it, including through lessons learned and by integrating programmatic and operational functions in order to enhance coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and the impact of country-level efforts.

178. The Ministers *encouraged* the United Nations Development System to adapt its governance structure to be more responsive to the needs of Member States in a more efficient approach and called upon an improved coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities for development, and thereby strengthen support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

179. The Ministers further *reaffirmed* the critical role of the United Nations Development System at the regional level and the need to strengthen the role of the regional and sub-regional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the context of the UNDS reform, while emphasizing the need for a “no one size fits all” approach at the regional level and to build upon the specificities of each region and the strength of its regional mechanisms, including the Regional Economic Commissions as one of the main subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC.

180. The Ministers *commended* the effective coordination between NAM and G-77, through the Joint Coordinating Committee, in the consultations on the System-wide Coherence, and in this regard *undertook* to continue to work together with the G-77, through the JCC, with a view to continue defending, preserving and promoting the interests of developing countries and promoting the integrated, intergovernmental, inclusive and transparent nature of all relevant negotiation processes, without the imposition of artificial deadlines for decision-making.

#### **United Nations: Financial Situation and Arrangement**

181. The Ministers *reiterated* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the financial situation and arrangement of the UN, as contained in the Final Document of the 17th NAM Summit as follows:

181.1. The Movement *remained concerned* at the financial situation of the UN as a result of the failure on the part of some Member States, especially major contributing States, to meet their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

181.2. The Movement *recognized* that the imposition of unilateral sanctions or embargos has resulted in some cases in the failure of Member States to meet their assessed contributions to the UN in a timely manner, reason for which their immediate and complete lifting is urged;

181.3. The Movement *reiterated* that it remains crucial to ensure that all decisions on the priority-setting of the UN are adopted in an inclusive and transparent manner in the intergovernmental bodies, in full compliance with General Assembly resolutions, and that the Organization should be provided with the resources needed for the full and effective implementation of all mandated programmes and activities as well as those required to guarantee the quality of services needed for the functioning of its inter-governmental machinery;

181.4. The principle of capacity to pay of Member States should remain as the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the Organization;

181.5. The general principles governing the financing of UN peacekeeping operations, as set out in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, should be adhered to. A

proper balance should be struck between the level and urgency with which peacekeeping activities are funded on the one hand, and availability of resources needed for full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities by the General Assembly, in particular in the area of development, on the other;

181.6. To strike a balance in reflecting the agreed priorities of the Organization in the allocation of resources to the United Nations regular budget; which is persistently to the detriment of the development activities;

181.7. The existing reporting procedures on budget and financial cycle should be maintained and the role of the Member States in programme evaluation of the Organization should be strengthened. In this regard, reaffirm the functions of the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC), as the main subsidiary organ of ECOSOC and the General Assembly for planning, programming, monitoring, evaluation and coordination and its vital role in program design by ensuring that the Secretariat accurately interprets and translates legislative mandates into programs and sub-programs.

182. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the financial stability of the UN should not be jeopardized by any arbitrary measure, particularly imposition of arbitrary cuts or ceilings to the level of the budget. They also *stressed* that measures to ensure financial discipline should be taken in full compliance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular 41/213 and 42/211, as well as relevant rules and regulations of the Organization. In this regard, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations.

183. The Ministers *stressed* that any efforts to use financial contributions to push for the adoption of certain proposals are counterproductive and violate the obligations of the Member States to provide resources for the Organization, as enshrined in its Charter. The Ministers, in this context, *rejected* all unilateral coercive measures contrary to the international law, which obstruct and sometimes impede payments of assessed contributions from Members of the Non-Aligned Movement to the budgets of the Organization.

184. The Ministers *stressed* that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation. They also reaffirmed the priorities of the Organization as approved by the General Assembly and the need for the Secretary-General to fully reflect these priorities when presenting proposed programme budgets.

185. The Ministers *stressed* that the ceiling is the main distortionary element of the scale of assessments, affecting the principle of capacity to pay and *noted* with concern that despite the arrangement to reduce the ceiling from 25% to 22% in 2000 as a compromise, the major contributor is far from honoring its commitment to pay all its arrears. In this context, the Ministers urged the General Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 55/5 C.

186. The Ministers, while recalling General Assembly resolutions 64/248 and 65/246, *rejected* any change to the elements of the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments aimed at increasing the contributions of developing countries. In this regard, they emphasized that the core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessments, such as base period, Gross National Income, conversion rates, low per capita income adjustment, gradient, floor, ceiling for Least Developed Countries and debt stock adjustment must be kept intact and are not negotiable.

187. The Ministers *emphasized* that organizations which have an enhanced observer status at the United Nations giving them the rights and privileges usually applied only to observer states, such as the right to speak in the general debate of the General Assembly and the right of reply, should also have the same financial obligations to the United Nations as observer states. In this

context, they *urged* the General Assembly to consider a decision on an assessment for such organizations.

188. The Ministers *affirmed* that the current principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions should constitute a basis for any discussion on the peacekeeping scale. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* that the peacekeeping scale must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. The Ministers also *recalled* that the economically less developed countries have limited capacity to contribute towards the budgets of peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Ministers *emphasized* that any discussion on the system of discounts applied to the peacekeeping scale should take into account the conditions of developing countries whose current positions must not be negatively affected. The Ministers *stressed*, in this regard, that no member of the Non-Aligned Movement should therefore be categorized above level C of the peacekeeping scale of assessment.

189. The Ministers *rejected* the use of programmatic and budgetary documents by several authorial departments of the Secretariat and some Member States to promote concepts and approaches that are not adopted by the General Assembly or are under its review. In this context, the Ministers *urged* the Secretary General to ensure that, when presenting such documents, the programmatic aspects and the resources requirements are consistent with the legislative mandates of the General Assembly.

190. The Ministers *took note* of the exponential increase in the financial requirements and complexity of Special Political Missions over the past decade and acknowledge their unique characteristics in terms of establishment and financing, since they do not follow the regular budget cycle of the United Nations, despite being funded by this budget. In order to enhance efficiency and transparency of the budgetary process of the Organization, and taking into account the characteristics of the approval, functioning, scope and mandate of these activities, the Ministers therefore *believed* that Special Political Missions should be financed through the same criteria, methodology and mechanisms used to fund peacekeeping operations, including the establishment of a new separate account for Special Political Missions. The Ministers *reemphasized* their position in that regard, and called for the consideration of creating such separate account within the United Nations peace operations review.

191. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to reiterate the following measure, among others:

191.1. *Urge* all UN Member States in arrears, in particular the major contributing States, to settle their outstanding dues without further delay and to pay their future assessments in full, on time and without imposing preconditions in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, *mindful* at the same time of the special situation faced by some developing countries that hamper their ability to pay their assessed contributions.

### **United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations**

192. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) adopted at the 11th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Cairo in 1994, and reiterated the Movement's position on UNPKOs adopted by the 12th Summit held in Durban in 1998 as well as in the Movement's subsequent Summit Conferences, which have been further reiterated at the subsequent NAM Summits and Ministerial Meetings.

193. The Ministers *commended* the Movement's significant and major contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security under the auspices of the United Nations.

*Noting* that peacekeeping has become the flagship activity of the Organization, the Ministers *expressed* satisfaction that the Non-Aligned Countries currently provide more than 88% of peacekeeping personnel in the field and deliver new pledges in areas most needed to make UN Peacekeeping Missions more efficient and effective. They *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning UNPKOs, as follows:

193.1. The Ministers *reiterated* that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the UN and that the role of regional arrangements, in that regard, should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and should not in any way substitute the role of the UN, or circumvent the full application of the guiding principles of UNPKOs;

193.2. The Ministers *emphasized* that the establishment of any peacekeeping operation or extension of mandate of existing operations should strictly abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and those principles that have evolved to govern such operations and have become basic principles thereof, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate and impartiality. The Ministers *believed* that these basic principles that have guided UN peacekeeping operations over the last five decades without controversy still remain relevant and should be preserved. The Ministers *also emphasized* that the respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should also be upheld in this regard;

193.3. The Ministers *stressed* that implementation of all mandated tasks should be supported by a comprehensive peace process, provision of adequate resources, based on national ownership and the support of the international community;

193.4. The Ministers *continued to emphasize* that UN peacekeeping operation should be provided from the outset with political support, full and optimal human, financial and logistical resources, clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies, and that the safety and security of peacekeepers are guaranteed;

193.5. The Ministers *called upon* the Security Council, while mandating UNPKOs, to authorize optimal troop strengths in order to achieve the mandated tasks. The Ministers *took note* of the establishment of the new force generation mechanism PCRS and also stressed the necessity for the UN to continue to work towards improving this system, taking into account the views of the TCC's, in light of complex, evolving and multi-dimensional Peacekeeping Operations;

193.6. The Ministers *stressed* that UNPKOs should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, with other political, social, economic and developmental instruments. They *further stressed* that due consideration should be given by the UN to the manner in which those efforts can be carried out from the early stage of UN engagement in post conflict situations and continue without interruption after the departure of UNPKOs, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace, security as well as sustainable development. In this context, they *stressed* the need to improve synergies between the activities of peacekeeping and peacebuilding to attain the overall objective of sustaining peace;

193.7. The Ministers, while recognizing the ongoing surge in peacekeeping which requires a genuine and concerted response by the entire membership of the UN, in particular the developed countries, *called upon* these countries to participate in and share the burden of UNPKOs;

193.8. The Ministers *emphasized* that in the context of the comprehensive approach and

the objective of a lasting peace and security, UN peacekeeping operations should be accompanied by a parallel and inclusive peace process that is well planned and carefully designed, supported by the consent and adherence of the parties concerned. They further emphasized that more effort must be invested in local political solutions to conflict which peacekeeping operations must endeavor to support;

193.9. The Ministers *welcomed* Security Council Resolution 2086 of 21 January 2013, which has a particular focus on multidimensional peacekeeping, as an important contribution to the pursuance of a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding;

193.10. The Ministers *acknowledged* the letter sent by NAM on 14 November 2014 to the President of the Security Council regarding resolution on policing, which reflects NAM's strong concern over the encroachment of the Security Council on issues which exclusively falls within the purview of the C-34;

193.11. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the General Assembly has the primary role within the UN in formulating concepts, policies and budgetary matters related to peacekeeping. In this regard, the Ministers *emphasized* that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is the only UN forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of UNPKOs in all their aspects, and that the role of the Committee continues to be critical in providing strategic recommendations. In this regard, they *welcomed* the revision of the working methods of the C-34 with the objective of having a more strategic, action-oriented C-34 report, which will allow a clear orientation for the Secretariat, and expressed the hope that its recommendations are implemented in spirit and letter. Further, the Ministers *agreed* to continue to promote and safeguard the collective positions and priorities of the Movement on peacekeeping;

193.12. The Ministers *stressed* that the UN's engagement in increasingly demanding and complex multidimensional peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the agreed principles, guidelines and terminology governing peacekeeping. They *emphasized* and *reiterated* the importance of consistency in the use of agreed peacekeeping terminology and underlined that any discussion of the above should be done through the inter-governmental process and that only those guidelines and terminology that have been agreed by member states should be implemented;

193.13. The Ministers *stressed* that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) is the only body in charge of the development of concepts, policies, doctrines and strategies in UN peacekeeping operations. They further stressed that only those approaches that have been adopted by member states within the C34 should be implemented. They also *stressed* that policy development in Peacekeeping must be matched with the necessary resources in order to guarantee the effectiveness of Peacekeeping operations;

193.14. The Ministers *noted* the consultations in different regions of the world, following the establishment of the "High level Independent Panel on Peace Operations" by the United Nations Secretary General in October 2014, and commended the contributions of the Non-Aligned members, in particular Bangladesh, Egypt and Ethiopia, for hosting the regional consultations with the High Level Panel in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, respectively. The Ministers also *took note* of the report by the "High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations" and the subsequent implementation report by the Secretary-General. In this regard, the Ministers *recalled* the GA Resolution A/RES/70/6 and urged the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations emanating from the review process after thorough consultations with member states and due consideration by the relevant bodies, particularly the C-34, in accordance with established procedures and in compliance with their respective purview;

193.15. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the use of force in peacekeeping operations should abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the guiding principles that govern such operations;

193.16. The Ministers *emphasized* that the use of technology in a peacekeeping context should be considered on a case-by-case basis and must uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, and adhere to the fundamental principles of UN peacekeeping, in particular the consent of the host State. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of defining the legal, operational, technical and financial aspects related to the use of modern technology. The Ministers *emphasized* that technology, if used within parameters as defined above, can complement the work of the troops on the ground and not substitute them;

193.17. The Ministers *recognized* that there is a range of important mandated tasks, including but not limited to, support to political processes, support to the restoration and extension of state authority and protection of civilians. While they stressed that the protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host country, the Ministers *acknowledged* that the protection of civilians is currently mandated in a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions and reaffirmed their commitment in this regard. The Ministers, accordingly, *emphasized* that relevant peacekeeping missions with this mandate should conduct their tasks without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians;

193.18. The Ministers *stressed* that the United Nations peacekeeping Operations, in particular, with Protection of Civilian mandates should be guided by the principles of the Charter and should not be used as means for Government change and military intervention;

193.19. The Ministers *took note* with appreciation of the measures taken under the five-year global field support strategy to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery in an integrated, accountable and transparent manner and emphasized the continued need for extensive and inclusive consultations by the UN Secretariat with Member States on the implementation of the new service delivery model;

193.20. The Ministers, while taking note of the efforts exerted by the Department of Peacekeeping (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS), *emphasized* the importance of preserving unity of command in mission at all levels, as well as coherence in policy and strategy, and clear command structures in the field and up to, and including, at headquarters. They *stressed* the comparative advantages of Command and Control structures of the UN over other arrangements and called for effective communications by the UN on this subject to countries that have constantly refused to place their troops under UN Command. They also *urged* that Command and Control structure should be in accordance with the mandate and any new mandate should be formulated with the active participation of the TCCs;

193.21. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the deadliest rebel attacks on the United Nations Peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of Congo which killed 15 Tanzanian soldiers participating in the peace keeping mission with other 43 wounded in December 2017, the Ministers *highlighted* that this is the worst attack on UN Peacekeepers in the United Nations' recent history and it indicates another enormous sacrifice made by troop contributing countries in the service of global peace. The Ministers therefor *called* for the implementation of all recommendations made by the UN investigation team that examined the circumstances surrounding the attack.

193.22. The Ministers *called upon* the UN Secretariat and concerned parties to accord the highest priority to the safety and security of UN peacekeepers in the field in light of

the worsening security situation prevailing in many field missions. In this context, they *condemned in the strongest terms* the killing, kidnapping and targeted attacks of UN peacekeepers, and all acts of violence against them, and *urged* the UN and Host Countries to bring perpetrators to justice;

193.23. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* on perpetual delay in communication of information to the concerned TCCs/PCCs and the repatriation of injured or fallen peacekeepers from the field to their home countries. They *urged* DPKO to expedite the operationalization of the new online NOTICAS database application to enhance the procedures pertaining to the communication of information with concerned troop contributing countries on incidents or accidents happening in the field and to proceed swiftly on the repatriation of injured or fallen peacekeepers, without giving priority to financial costs;

193.24. The Ministers *underlined* the importance for an effective triangular cooperation between Troop and Police Contributing Countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council, and *noted* with appreciation the recent interest in strengthening this cooperation. The Ministers strongly *supported* a complete reshuffling of the current modalities of the triangular cooperation in order to make it more result-oriented and beneficial to all. They *reiterated* that effective triangular meetings must take place at a regular basis, with a view to ensuring continuous, substantive, representative and meaningful dialogue well ahead of mandate renewals, in order to avoid an ad hoc approach in this regard.

193.25. The Ministers *expressed the view* that further development of the mechanisms, referred to in paragraph 157.19 above, towards achieving peacekeeping objectives should be considered;

193.26. The Ministers *emphasized* that enhancing the role of Troop Contributing Countries in all different aspects at all phases of the Peacekeeping process remains a top priority and *underscored* in particular that the experience and expertise of troop contributing countries can be drawn upon when the Security Council implements, extends or adjusts UN peacekeeping mandates. Troop contributing countries are best placed to contribute to an objective assessment of the situation on the ground. In this regard, enhanced and better interaction between Troop Contributing Countries and the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations could also contribute to a more inclusive and substantial consultation and decision-making process;

193.27. The Ministers *emphasized* that any invitation by the UN Secretariat to the meetings on establishing a new UN peacekeeping mission or expanding an ongoing UNPKO should be transparent and encompass all current and potential Troop Contributing Countries;

193.28. The Ministers *stressed* that peacekeepers cannot substitute to peacebuilders and that Peacekeeping efforts should be accompanied by Peacebuilding activities, in such a manner as to facilitate the economic revitalization, development and to enable national capacity building, on the basis of national ownership, to pave the way towards a seamless exit strategy, to prevent recurrence of armed conflicts and to support critical tasks in order to achieve sustainable peace;

193.29. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that peacekeeping remained the most cost-effective tool available to the United Nations for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security but also *noted* that in the face of the changing global peace and security environment, peacekeeping needed to be strengthened through support for political solutions for durable and sustainable peace. It was reiterated that addressing the root causes of conflict was the best conflict prevention and resolution strategy along with inclusive national ownership and leadership to drive the peace processes;

193.30. The Ministers *called for* United Nations intensified support for the African Union's operations by ensuring predictable and sustainable funding to AU-led Peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, including support through access to UN assessed contributions. Furthermore, they expressed its support for the ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership between both Organizations in the area of peacekeeping. In this regard, they welcomed the joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security signed in April 2017;

193.31. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of strengthening cooperation between the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations (UN) in the area of peacekeeping and peaceful settlement of disputes;

193.32. The Ministers *remained* concerned over the staffing and structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support whereby NAM Member Countries are insufficiently represented, particularly at senior and professional levels. The Ministers *urged* the Secretary-General to further enhance his efforts in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and relevant General Assembly resolutions to attain equitable geographical distributions and gender representation at all levels. In this regard, the Ministers *believed* that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and in the field should also take into account the contributions of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), in particular at the professional and leadership level in Headquarters as well as in the field missions;

193.33. The Ministers *underscored* the importance of the rapid and effective deployment of the UNPKOs including their reinforcement as necessary. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* the need for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities for any new UN peacekeeping missions or for reinforcing existing UN peacekeeping missions if in crisis. The Ministers *stressed* that the development of such mechanisms, including through the development of the Global Field Support Strategy, should be in close consultation with Troop Contributing Countries;

193.34. The Ministers *expressed* concern at the significant reduction of the UN Peacekeeping budget in the context of consolidation for the demand for Peacekeeping Operations. They *reaffirmed* that the funding of UNPKOs through voluntary contributions should not influence the UN Security Council decisions to establish UNPKOs or affect their mandates;

193.35. The Ministers *expressed* concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the United Nations currently owes to the Troop Contributing Countries, which may adversely affect the UN peacekeeping capacity;

193.36. The Ministers *noted* the outcome of the 2017 session of the UN Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) working group. They *stressed* the need and reiterated the call for the increase in reimbursement rates of troop cost, daily allowance, self-sustainment, welfare and recreation, medical services mission factors and COE on the basis of actual expenses and investments by Troop Contributing Countries. In this regard, the Ministers also noted the issuance of the revised Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual (A/72/288) and strongly encourage the COE Working Group to review its modalities including its working methods;

193.37. The Ministers *commended* the ongoing work of the NAM Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement in the field of peacekeeping and Special Political Mission. They *expressed* appreciation to Morocco for its dedicated efforts and leadership as Coordinator of the Working Group; recognized that this allowed the Movement to have a stronger position during the negotiations; and *requested* it to maintain its role during the next sessions of the COE

working group. Moreover, they *encouraged* all NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the working group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement, in particular the Troop Contributing Countries, in the work of the Special committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as well as in all other fora dedicated to peacekeeping and Special Political Missions;

193.38. The Ministers *noted* the last review of the troop reimbursement rates in the 2014, and express concern that this has not adequately taken into account the financial burden on Troop Contributing Countries, which could jeopardize the sustainability of participation in peacekeeping operations. They *look forward* to the start of the work of the next cycle of the senior advisory group, and urged that this will lead to an adequate increase in troop cost;

193.39. The Ministers *emphasized* the need for ensuring payment of timely and adequate compensation for death and disabilities of peacekeepers while serving in UN Field Missions;

193.40. The Ministers *stressed again* that all UN Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without condition. They *reaffirmed* the obligation of Member States, under article 17 of the UN Charter, to bear their expenses to the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the Permanent Members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963;

193.41. The Ministers *reemphasized* the critical importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of UNPKOs, and *reiterated* the view that there is a need to ensure greater UN procurement from Non-Aligned Countries;

193.42. The Ministers *acknowledged* the outstanding contribution and sacrifices of peacekeepers, and *stressed* that all UN peacekeeping personnel perform their duties in a manner that preserve the image, credibility, impartiality, and integrity of the UN. They *stressed* the importance of maintaining a policy of zero tolerance on all forms of misconduct, and condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by UN personnel in peacekeeping operations, which undermine the values and principles of the United Nations and stain the Organization's image. They reaffirmed that investigation and prosecution should lie within the purview of national jurisdictions of the concerned States. They expressed that the safety and security of the UN Missions personnel remains a major concern for the Troop and Police Contributing Countries, which deserves greater attention from the Secretariat, in view of the growing casualties in Missions;

193.43. The Ministers *emphasized* that due process and national requirements must always be observed during investigations of misconduct. They further *stressed* that the UN should ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any UN peacekeeping mission, Troop Contributing Countries or UN peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are ultimately found to be unsubstantiated;

193.44. The Ministers *noted* the importance of security sector reform (SSR) among other important components in the context of UN peacekeeping and post conflict situations, and *stressed* that SSR should be integrated in the broad framework of UN Rule of Law activities, thus ensuring that SSR activities and structures are not duplicating the work carried out in the Rule of Law area. They *reaffirmed* that the development of a UN approach to SSR must take place within the General Assembly, and in accordance with the principle of national ownership, and *stressed* that the formulation of strategies to SSR, including its scope and mandate, should be carried out through the intergovernmental process and must be context-specific;

193.45. The Ministers *emphasized* that SSR should be undertaken at the request of the country concerned, and underlined the primary responsibility and the sovereign right of the country concerned in determining its national priorities in this regard.

194. The Ministers *stressed* the necessity to continue improving the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that its work be carried out in a more efficient and transparent manner.

195. The Ministers, deeply concerned on the high level of casualties among Peacekeepers in recent years, *stressed* the necessity for the UN to develop effective Safety and Security arrangements for Peacekeepers. The Ministers, mindful of the risks inherent in peacekeeping, *reserved* their most profound thoughts and respect for those UN peacekeepers that have lost their lives while in the service of peace. They *emphasized* that their sacrifice should stand as an enduring testimony of the unique work carried out by them in favor of peace and stability. They *further emphasized* the importance of 29 May, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as providing an occasion to pay tribute on an annual basis at the UN Memorial for Peacekeepers to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this context, they *welcomed* the recommendation by the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations for the establishment of the Memorial Wall at the Peacekeepers Memorial at the UN headquarters and urged for its early implementation.

196. The Ministers *expressed* their serious concern over the significant increase of attacks targeting peacekeepers and took note of the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard, in particular the report on “Improving Security of the UN Peacekeepers” (Cruz Report) and its subsequent action plan presented by the Secretariat, and called for a common approach between the Secretariat, Troop and Police Contributing Countries and all other relevant stakeholders for a long-term strategy in this regard, which should be discussed within the context of the C-34 or any other relevant intergovernmental forum.

197. The Ministers *took note* of the deployment of foreign military contingents from either individual States or regional arrangements alongside the United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this context, they *emphasized* their concerns regarding the need for comprehensive mandates that clearly define the modalities of withdrawal and reconfiguration, in order to improve cooperation and coordination with the UN, and to avoid any possible negative impact on the safety and security of UN peacekeepers.

198. The Ministers *called upon* the Secretary-General, to fully take into account the views of the None-Aligned Movement, including the submissions made on 21 November 2014 and on 19 March 2015, while considering the recommendations of the “High level Independent Panel on Peace Operations”.

199. The Ministers *took note* of the report of the Secretary-General and expressed its support to the vision for reforming the peace and security pillar of the United Nations while ensuring accountability and transparency, with due regard to the promotion of the principle of equitable geographical representation. It was reiterated that any reform effort should not seek to change established mandates, functions or funding sources of the peace and security pillar, and that it shall be conducted in consultation with Member States of the Organization. In this regard, the report of the Secretary-General would be awaited to provide detailed information on the proposed structure, functions and staffing requirements for the consideration of the General Assembly in accordance with established procedures.

### **Disarmament and International Security**

200. The Ministers *reaffirmed* and reiterated the long-standing principled positions of the Movement on disarmament and international security, including the decisions taken at the XII Summit in Durban in 1998 the XIII Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2003, the XIV Summit in

Havana in 2006, the XV Summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2009, the XVI Summit in Tehran in 2012, the XVII Summit in Island of Margarita in 2016, the XIII Ministerial Conference in Cartagena in 2000, the XIV Ministerial Conference in Durban in 2004, the Ministerial Meeting held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in 2006, the XV Ministerial Conference held in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2008, and the XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non- Aligned Movement held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2011, and the XVII Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in 2014.

201. The Ministers *reiterated* their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. In this regard, they called for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

202. The Ministers *expressed* their deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. They reiterated further their deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirmed the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law. They stressed the need to address this issue in the context of the efforts aimed at the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world and in this regard, they noted continuing relevant international efforts, including the three International Conferences on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, held respectively in Norway in 2013, in Mexico in 2014 and in Vienna in 2014, and the important role of the humanitarian initiative in promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They *reiterated* the call in General Assembly Resolution 72/251 for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

203. Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Ministers *reiterated* their determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 72/48 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

204. The Ministers *reiterated* their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and in this context, underlined that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

205. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. They *stressed* the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They expressed concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

206. The Ministers *reiterated* their deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations. They *reaffirmed* the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. They *called upon* the NWS to fulfill their multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament and to implement the unequivocal undertaking they provided in 2000 and further reiterated in 2010 so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They *emphasized*, in this regard, the urgent need to commence and to bring to a conclusion negotiations on

comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament without any further delay.

207. The Ministers *acknowledged the* significant contribution towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament made by NAM Member and Observer States, including through the voluntary renunciation of the possession of nuclear weapons by Belarus, Kazakhstan, South Africa and Ukraine;

208. The Ministers, while noting the statements by NWS of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, *reaffirmed* the need for urgent concrete actions by the NWS to achieve this goal in accordance with their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments. They *reaffirmed* the importance of the application of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by NWS in all measures related to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations.

209. The Ministers *remained* deeply concerned at the strategic defence doctrines of the NWS, including the “NATO Alliance Strategic Concept”, which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies. They therefore *strongly called upon* them to exclude completely the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military and security doctrines.

210. The Ministers *reiterated*, with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review, violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. They *stressed* once again that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate also the commitments undertaken at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and at the NPT Review Conferences by the NWS.

211. The Ministers *welcomed* the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, they *took note* of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. It is hoped that, when entered into force, the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

212. The Ministers *emphasized* that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. They *stressed* the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They *reaffirmed* that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security. Nevertheless, they *stressed* that nuclear disarmament, as the highest priority established by SSOD-I and as a multilateral legal obligation, should not be made conditional on confidence building measures or other disarmament efforts.

213. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance and the relevance of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as the sole specialized, deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery and reiterated their full support for its work. They commended the UNDC for the successful adoption of the consensus recommendations on “Practical Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Weapons” by the Commission in 2017. They *expressed* regret that since 2000 the UNDC was unable to reach agreement on the “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons” due to the lack of political will and inflexible positions of some Nuclear-

Weapons States, despite NAM's constructive role and concrete proposals throughout the deliberations. They further *called upon* UN Member States to display the necessary political will and flexibility, in order to enable the Commission to agree on "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" in its current cycle.

214. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterated their call to the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority. They *emphasized* the necessity to start negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, without further delay, on further effective nuclear disarmament measures, in particular a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that sets, inter alia, a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

215. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the efforts undertaken, in particular by those representatives of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement who served as the Presidents of the CD for the commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations. They noted the various proposals on the program of Work of the CD as contained in the documents CD/1864, a decision adopted by CD on 29 May 2009 but not implemented, CD/1933/Rev.1, CD/1952, and CD/1955 which were presented successively by Algeria, Egypt, Iran and Iraq between 2009 to 2013 sessions. They called on the CD to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work without any further delay taking into account the security interests of all States. In this regard, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the principle contained in the final document of the SSOD-I that "The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage". They agreed to continue coordination of efforts at the NAM Chapter in Geneva.

216. The Ministers *called* for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. They further *called* for urgent compliance with legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament.

217. The Ministers *commended* the efforts of NAM Member States in advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, they *welcomed* the convening, at the initiative of NAM, under resolution 72/251, of the upcoming United Nations International High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, to be held on 14-16 May 2018, in New York, as a follow-up to the first-ever High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament on 26 September 2013, to review the progress made in this regard. They encouraged all Member States of the United Nations and members of Specialized Agencies to participate in the Conference at the highest level. The Ministers *expressed* their hope that this International Conference can contribute to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world.

218. The Ministers *welcomed* UN annual meetings and activities for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September since 2014, as outlined in resolution 68/32. They *invited* Member States, the UN system and the civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities. They also *expressed* their commitment to work together with the objective that the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons becomes one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons, the necessity for their total elimination and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security.

219. Moreover, the Ministers *underlined* the importance of UNGA resolutions 68/32, 69/58, 70/34, 71/71 and 72/251 as a roadmap on nuclear disarmament and accordingly stressed the need for an active participation of NAM Member States in all activities related to their implementation, including enhancing public awareness and education on this issue. They commended all efforts aiming at promoting the implementation of these resolutions, including those undertaken by the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament and the NAM Chapter in Vienna.

220. The Ministers *called* for further international, regional and national efforts aimed at advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, they noted with appreciation the efforts of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and also noted the adoption of a “Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament” at its Second Summit, held in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 January 2014, a “Special Declaration on the Urgent Need for a Nuclear Weapon Free World” at its Third Summit, held in Belen, Costa Rica, on 27 and 28 January 2015, a “Special Declaration on the commitment to advance in the multilateral negotiations on Nuclear Disarmament”, at its Fourth Summit, held in Quito, Ecuador, on 27 January 2016, and further noted the adoption of a “Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament” at its Fifth Summit, held in the Dominican Republic, on 25 January 2017.

221. The Ministers, in *reiterating* their support for a comprehensive consideration of the UN disarmament agenda and the ways and means of revitalizing and enhancing the disarmament machinery, *reaffirmed* that a Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV) remains the most appropriate forum for furthering the priorities established by SSOD-I, including nuclear disarmament as the highest priority for the international community. In this context, while recalling the UNGA resolutions 65/66 and 72/49 and its decision 70/551 entitled “Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament”, they welcomed the successful outcome of the Open-Ended Working Group, convened by resolution 65/66 of the General Assembly and its decision 70/551, which held its substantive sessions in 2016 and 2017, under the able Chairmanship of Ecuador, adopting by consensus recommendations for objectives and agenda for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV). They further *welcomed* the endorsement, by the Assembly, of the report of the Open-Ended Working Group and the substantive recommendations contained therein, and *stressed* the importance of continuing consultations on the next steps for convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

222. The Ministers, while recalling the vital importance of the principles of equitable geographic representation and gender balance, *called for* the fair application of these principles in the appointment and recruitment to leadership, senior and managerial positions in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Ministers *called also for* transparency and balanced representation in the composition of the membership of the Groups of Governmental Experts established in the field of disarmament and international security. They also *underlined* the importance of transparency and openness of the work of such groups.

223. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they *called for* the early commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances to all NNWS by all the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances as a matter of high priority. They *expressed* concern that despite long standing requests by NNWS to receive such legally binding universal assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard.

224. The Ministers *stressed* the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. They *reiterated* that if the objectives of the

Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential. In this context, the ratification of the CTBT by Myanmar and Swaziland was welcomed.

225. The Ministers *recalled* the commitments made towards the full implementation of the New START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the need for follow-up measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals. They *stressed* that reductions in deployments and in operational status, although they may contribute to risk reduction, cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. In this context, they *called on* the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to such cuts, to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, thus contributing to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and facilitating the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons at the earliest date.

226. The Ministers *took note of* the successful completion of the commitments, by the Russian Federation and the United States, under the New START treaty, and *called for* the renewal of the commitments agreed within the framework of said Treaty. Nonetheless, they *expressed* their grave concern over the US Nuclear Posture Review and its National Security Strategy, which goes against legal obligations and undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and threatens international peace and security.

227. The Ministers *continued* to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense systems and the threat of weaponization of outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brought new challenges to international peace and stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They *remained* seriously concerned at the negative security consequences of the deployment of strategic missile defence systems which could trigger an arms race(s) and lead to the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

228. The Ministers *recognized* the common interest of all humankind and the inalienable, legitimate sovereign rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes, and reconfirmed their stand to oppose and reject any act denying or violating it and *emphasized* that prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban to deploy or use weapons therein, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. They further *emphasized* the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space. They also *reemphasized* the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the CD, inter alia, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, taking note of the joint Russian-Chinese initiative of a draft treaty on the “Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects” (PPWT) presented in the Conference on Disarmament on 12 February 2008 and in 2014. They *noted* that this initiative is a constructive contribution to the work of the Conference, and is a good basis for further discussion toward adopting an international legally-binding instrument. In this context, they *noted* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/27 on no first emplacement of weapons in outer space with a view to ensuring its exclusive peaceful use. They also *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/250 on “Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space”, which calls for the establishment of a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. They further urged all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer

space for peaceful purposes. They *called for* the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

229. The Ministers, while reaffirming the Declaration on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) of the 17th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Algeria in May 2014, and noting that considerable progress has been made in developing and applying the latest ICTs, they *expressed concern* that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields. They also *noted* with concern cases of illegal use of new ICTs to the detriment of Member States of the Movement, and expressed strong rejection to those violations. In this regard and while taking into account the ongoing efforts within the United Nations, they *called upon* Member States to further promote at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats from the malicious use of ICTs, as well as possible strategies to address these threats. They *emphasized* that ICTs should be utilized by Member States in a manner consistent with international law and the UN Charter. They *called for* the intensification of efforts towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict, and ensuring instead the exclusive peaceful uses which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICTs for contributing to social and economic development. They *stressed* that the development of any international legal framework to address issues related to the use of ICTs with implications on international peace and security should take into account the concerns and interests of all States and be based on consensus and pursued within the UN with the active and equal participation of all States. They *highlighted* the central role of governments in areas related to public policy aspects of ICT security.

230. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Declaration on Information and Communication Technologies of the 17th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Algeria, and reiterated the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies is fully in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law and, especially, the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs and the well-established principle of peaceful coexistence among States.

231. The Ministers *remained convinced* of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent and non-discriminatory approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects as a contribution to international peace and security. They expressed their support for efforts to be continued within the UN to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this regard, they *emphasized* the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies, including space launch vehicle technologies, to human advancement, such as for telecommunications and data gathering on natural disasters. They also *emphasized* the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its aspects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and *welcomed* that the Panel of Governmental Experts established in accordance with Resolution 59/67 successfully concluded its work in 2008 and submitted its report to the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly. While welcoming the consensus adoption of the UNGA decision 69/517 on "Missiles", they encouraged follow up efforts to further examine the elements contained in the conclusions of the Secretary-General's Report A/63/176. Pending the achievement of such a universal approach related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, any initiative to address these concerns effectively and in a sustainable and comprehensive manner should be through an inclusive process of negotiations in a forum where all States could participate as equals. They *stressed* the importance of the security concerns of all States at regional and global levels in any approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

232. The Ministers *believed* that the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaty as well as Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. They *reiterated* that in the context of NWFZs, it is essential that NWS should

provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. They *urged* States to conclude agreements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned with a view to establishing new NWFZs in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) and the Principles and Guidelines adopted by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999. They also *called upon* all the nuclear-weapon States to ratify related protocols to all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, withdraw any reservations or interpretative declarations incompatible with their object and purpose, and respect the denuclearization status of these zones.

233. The Ministers *welcomed* the anniversaries of all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. In this regard, they welcomed the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in the world, and *recognized* its contributions to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation. Similarly, they *welcomed* the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) on 27 March 2017, and recognized the importance of its full and effective implementation to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

234. The Ministers *welcomed* the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the declaration of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status on 25 September 2017 and commended Mongolia's efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons. They also *recalled* the convening of the Third Conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Established Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and Mongolia held in New York, on 24 April 2015, the Ministers *called* on the States parties and signatories to those Treaties to implement further ways and means of co-operation among themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States. They *expressed* their support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and its policy aimed at institutionalizing that status.

235. The Ministers *reiterated* their full support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. As a priority step to this end, they *reaffirmed* the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfillment of the proposal initiated by Iran in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone. Pending its establishment, they *demand*ed on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. They called for the earliest implementation of relevant IAEA resolutions on "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". They *expressed* great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States, and *condemned* Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. In this context they also *condemned* the statement made by the then Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, related to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel. They *urged* the continued consideration of the issue of Israeli nuclear capabilities in the context of the IAEA, including at the General Conference. They were of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbors, and the region. They also *called for* the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, they *expressed* their serious concern over the continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one NWS. This development

will have potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

236. The Ministers *took* into consideration the draft resolution tabled by the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, before the Security Council on 29 December 2003 on the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They *welcomed* the initiative presented in 1990 by the Arab Republic of Egypt on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and its initiative presented before the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 28th September 2013 containing implementation steps in support of the establishment of the Zone. They also *stressed* that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East. They *took note* with appreciation of the letters sent, in 2013 and 2014, to the United Nations Secretary-General, renewing the support for the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, reflected in the note A/68/781 by the Secretary-General, by: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

237. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for the efforts of the Arab Group in Vienna to keep the question of the Israeli nuclear capabilities under consideration of the General Conference of the IAEA.

238. The Ministers *underscored* the Movement's principled position concerning non-use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of any State. In this regard, they *condemned* the Israeli attack against a Syrian facility on September 6, 2007, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and *welcomed* Syria's cooperation with the IAEA in this regard.

239. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements, and in this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 72/47 on this matter without a vote. They *reaffirmed* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

240. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of the UN activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centers for peace and disarmament.

241. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), while *reaffirming* the package of agreements of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT, and recognizing the crucial role of the NPT in nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, were of the view that the "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions" of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, represent an outcome that can be built upon and further enhanced in the near future, to fully address the priorities of the Movement, in particular to realize a world free from nuclear weapons. They *called upon* NWS to implement fully and effectively their obligations under the Treaty, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament, and the outcomes of its Review Conferences, in particular the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

242. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *stressed* the importance of the review of

the operation of the Treaty in the framework of the NPT Review Conferences and in this context *emphasized* that the inclusion of the Review Part of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference as an opinion of the President and not as a consensus language should not be considered as a precedent to be followed in the future without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Review Conference.

243. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* the importance of the full implementation of the action plans adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on nuclear disarmament, on nuclear non-proliferation, on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. They *expressed concern* at the lack of agreement on a number of key priorities of NAM States Parties to the NPT and *agreed* to continue their collective efforts in pursuing the realization of their priorities at the NPT Review Conferences.

244. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of a detailed plan of action on “the Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East” in the “Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions” of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

245. While *expressing deep concern* over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT strongly urged the United Nations Secretary-General and the three cosponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East to fully implement it, without any further delay, to achieve on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Recalling the consensus decision contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening, in 2012, a Conference on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, they expressed their profound disappointment and serious concern that the conference was not convened in 2012 as scheduled. They *underscored* that the failure to convene the Conference is contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and contradicts and violates the collective agreement of the States Parties contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. They *strongly rejected* the arguments presented by the Conveners for not convening the Conference on schedule.

246. NAM States Parties to the NPT *expressed* their disappointment that as a result of the opposition by the US, UK and Canada at the concluding session of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, consensus on measures regarding the process to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was not achieved. They further *underscored* that efforts related to the establishment of the Zone should be undertaken in accordance with the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East as well as the relevant United Nations Resolutions. The Ministers *reiterated* in this regard the common position of the NAM States Parties to the NPT as reflected in working paper NPT/CONF.2015/WP.49 presented at the 2015 Review Conference, and *called* for concrete and urgent steps for its implementation;

247. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* their call for the firm commitment by all States Parties to the Treaty to the full and indiscriminate implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty. They further called for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty, particularly an unequivocal undertaking by the NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they *underlined* the agreement by consensus at the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, which reaffirmed the previous agreements, on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT; and on providing effective, unconditional and non-discriminatory universal legally binding security assurances to all NNWS parties to the Treaty, which would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

248. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *called upon* the NWS to fully comply with their commitments not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against NNWS parties to the Treaty or NWFZs at any time or under any circumstances, pending the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances.

249. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. They continued to note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. They again *emphasized* that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued sustainable development. They *expressed* their full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and *strongly rejected* any politically motivated attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical co-operation programme, in violation of its Statute, as well as any pressure or interference in the Agency's activities which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the IAEA and the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

250. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *emphasized* once more that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty. They *stressed* that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. In this connection, they *confirmed* that each country's choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

251. The Ministers *stressed* the need for the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in developing countries, which contributes to the attainment of their respective national sustainable development goals, and the full respect for their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They *underlined* particularly the responsibility of developed countries to facilitate, to the fullest extent possible, the transfer, to developing countries, of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes. They also encouraged the IAEA to continue supporting developing countries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular through its technical cooperation programme, which is essential for the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

252. The Ministers *recalled* the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/Eu+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015 adopted by Security Council resolution 2231. The Ministers *called for* its full implementation by all its participants and *underlined* that this agreement showed once again that dialogue and diplomacy are the most appropriate means to resolve such issues, as the Movement has always advocated.

253. The Ministers *took note* of the adoption, through a vote, in 2010 and 2011, by the IAEA Board of Governors, of three proposals of assurance of supply mechanisms in the framework of the multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. They *highlighted* that this issue should be conducted through wide, integral and transparent consultations and negotiations, focusing on its technical, legal, political and economic implications, before any further decision is taken about this complex and sensitive matter. They *emphasized* that decisions should be made by consensus, with the participation of all IAEA member States, and

any proposal from IAEA must be consistent with its Statute, without any prejudice to the inalienable right of its member States to research, develop and use for peaceful purposes of nuclear sciences, in all its aspects, including the inalienable right of each State Party, if it so decides, to develop, for peaceful purposes, a full national nuclear fuel cycle in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

254. The Ministers, *emphasizing* the importance of the positive role played by the Non-Aligned Members in the IAEA, *stressed* the necessity that all members of the IAEA strictly observe its Statute. They *stressed* that any pressure or interference in the Agency's verification process, which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the Agency, should be avoided. They *recognized* that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for verification of compliance with the obligations under the respective safeguard agreements of the Member States. They also *reaffirmed* that a clear distinction has to be made between the legal obligations of Member States under their respective safeguards agreements and their voluntary undertakings, in order to ensure that such voluntary undertakings are not turned into legal safeguards obligations. Bearing in mind the Agency's responsibility in protecting safeguards' confidential information and given the undesirable incidents of leakage of such information, they *emphasized* the need for strengthening the regime for the protection of safeguards confidential information.

255. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities - operational or under construction- poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the UN Charter and regulations of the IAEA. They *recognized* the urgent need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument prohibiting attacks or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

256. The Ministers *affirmed* the need to strengthen the Radiological Safety and Protection Systems at facilities utilizing radioactive materials as well as at radioactive waste management facilities, including the safe transportation of these materials. They *reaffirmed* the need to further strengthen existing international regulations relating to safety and security of transportation of such materials. They noted the efforts of the IAEA in this regard, including through the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety which was unanimously endorsed by the IAEA General Conference. While *reiterating* the need to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes, they called for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the IAEA as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive waste on their territories.

257. The Ministers *recognized* that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests with the individual States. In that sense, they *underlined* that States with nuclear power programs have a central role in their own countries in ensuring the application of the highest standards of nuclear safety and the responsibility for providing a timely, transparent and adequate response to nuclear accidents in order to minimize their consequences. They *stressed* the need for a rapid, timely, continuous, reliable and transparent dissemination of information on nuclear accidents with significant transboundary radiological effects in accordance with relevant international conventions.

258. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to improve national, regional and international preparedness and response to nuclear accidents and called for a strengthened role of the IAEA in emergency preparedness and response, including through assisting Member States, upon their request, on emergency preparedness and response to nuclear accidents, promoting capacity building, including education and training in the field of crisis management.

259. The Ministers *emphasized* that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate,

deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

260. The Ministers *emphasized* that the IAEA is the sole inter-governmental organization within the UN system with the mandate and expertise to deal with the technical subjects of nuclear safety and nuclear security.

261. The Ministers *stressed* that the issues related to proliferation, should be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives taken in this regard should be within the framework of international law, relevant conventions and the UN Charter, and should contribute to the promotion of international peace, and security.

262. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) *reaffirmed* that the possibility of any use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. They *recognized* the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through the resumption of the multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol dealing with all Articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, including through verification measures bearing in mind that the lack of such verification regime poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the Convention, and urged the party rejecting negotiations to reconsider its policy. They *expressed* satisfaction that currently 180 States are Parties to the Convention, and also *stressed* the importance of universal adherence to the Convention and, in this context, welcomed the recent accession of Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Guinea, Liberia, Nepal, State of Palestine, and Vanuatu to the Convention. They *reiterated* their call to promote international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including scientific-technical exchange. They *underlined* the importance to maintain close coordination among the NAM States Parties to the Convention and highlighted that the BTWC forms a whole and that, although it is possible to consider certain aspects separately, it is critical to deal with all of the issues interrelated to this Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

263. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to BTWC *welcomed* the active participation by NAM States Parties in the 8th BTWC Review Conference and the BTWC Meeting of States Parties (MSP), held respectively from 07-25 November 2016 and 04-08 December 2017, in Switzerland, to advance their positions in this Convention. They welcomed the consensus outcome adopted at the 2017 MSP under the able Chairmanship of India. They *reaffirmed* the importance of strengthening the full effective and balanced implementation of all articles of the convention and, in this regard, *reiterated* their commitment to work in the inter-sessional period, in particular on Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under article X, review of developments in the field of S and T related to the convention, strengthening national implementation, assistance, response and preparedness, and institutional strengthening of the convention.

264. They also *welcomed* their key role in the adoption of the important decisions related to the implementation of Article X of the BTWC, especially by emphasizing the need for enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, bearing in mind the Action Plan on the implementation of Article X submitted by the NAM States Parties at the Sixth Review Conference, and the additional NAM States Parties' proposal on an institutional mechanism for international cooperation and compliance with Article X presented more recently. They further *encouraged* the BTWC States Parties to implement the Article X, as set forth in the Final Documents of the seventh and eighth BTWC Review Conferences. They *reiterated* the importance to strengthen the operationalization of cooperation database which was established by the Seventh Review Conference to ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of cooperation under Article X are provided by States Parties in the database and to consider the ways to improve reporting on this issue, taking into account the current lack of effectiveness of the referred database—and welcomed the VIII Review Conference decision regarding the maintenance of a Sponsorship

Programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the inter-sessional programme in the framework of the BTWC.

265. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the BTWC *emphasized* the importance of the BTWC role in the international legal architecture related to WMD and in particular in the total prohibition on all biological and toxin weapons. They further *emphasized* the need for enhancing, without restrictions, international cooperation and assistance and exchanges in toxic biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes without any discrimination, in conformity with the Convention. They *reaffirmed* that the respective mandates of this Convention and other international organizations should be respected, while utilizing the experiences of the relevant multilateral organizations dealing with human and animal health on issues that are of direct relevance to the Convention, and that no actions should be taken to undermine the convention and/or interfere with its mandate.

266. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) *welcomed* the successful conclusion of its Third Review Conference. They reiterated that a transparent, holistic and balanced approach shall prevail in follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Third Review Conference, and encouraged the continuation of discussions aimed at drafting a document on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, with a view for it to be considered during the Fourth Review Conference. They *invited* all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible with a view to its universality. They *reaffirmed* that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation, and in this context also encouraged all States Parties that have not yet done so to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Convention. They *reaffirmed* the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under CWC. They *reiterated* their call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. They *recalled* that the full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention, in particular economic and technical development through international cooperation, is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose. They also *reaffirmed* the need to respect the principles included in the Convention, and called upon States parties to the CWC to avoid the polarization and politicization of the work of the Organization, while encouraging States Parties to continue working cooperatively in the interest of consensus.

267. The Ministers of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *welcomed* those States that have successfully destroyed all declared Category 1 Chemical Weapons. They further welcomed that, upon completion of the destruction of the remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons in Libya, on 23 November 2017, the total amount of destroyed Category 2 Chemical Weapons has reached 100%. They *expressed* their serious concern that certain possessor States parties did not meet their obligations regarding the deadlines for the total elimination of chemical weapons and that nearly 4% of declared chemical weapons still remained to be destroyed as of 31 October 2017. They therefore *urged* the remaining possessor State Party to take every necessary measure to ensure its compliance with its “Detailed plan for the destruction of Chemical Weapons remaining after the final extended destruction deadline of 29 April 2012”, in the shortest time possible, in order to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

268. The Ministers of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *underlined* that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention, legal norms and standards of the international community. They *acknowledged* the total elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons and the constructive cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic

regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. They also *commend* the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic in implementing the relevant Executive Council of the OPCW decisions, in particular decisions taken by Executive Council with regard to destruction of Syrian chemical weapons production facilities.

269. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the CWC *reaffirmed* that the implementation of the Article X of the CWC on assistance and protection against chemical weapons make a significant contribution to countering the threats of use of chemical weapons. They *stressed* the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely and needed assistance and protection against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including assistance to the victims of chemical weapons. They *highlighted* the need for all States Parties, particularly those in a position to do so, to contribute to the Voluntary Fund of Assistance to ensure that the capacity of the Technical Secretariat is able to provide, upon the request of States Parties, timely, adequate and effective assistance, with a view to responding to the growing demands from States Parties.

270. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the CWC *welcomed* the decision on Components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI adopted at the 16th Conference of the States Parties to the CWC and *considered* it as a positive step towards achieving the goal of the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. They *attached* high importance to the adoption of a Plan of Action for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of Article XI. They *welcomed* the proposal of the Action Plan of Article XI presented by the NAM CWC States and China, which is currently being discussed at the OPCW. They *looked forward* to the continuation of Article XI consultations with a view to further deliberate the Document of the facilitators as soon as possible for negotiations by delegations in order to adopt a decision in this regard. They *welcomed* the holding of the annual review and evaluation workshop of the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of article XI and *stressed* the importance of the active participation of States Parties in the annual workshops. In this context, and taking into account the importance of adopting an Action Plan for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, they considered that States Parties to the CWC should present concrete recommendations and proposals before the Fourth Review Conference. To that end, they *called upon* NAM States Parties to the CWC to continue engaging in discussions towards this end, within the framework of the NAM Chapter in The Hague.

271. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the CWC, while paying due respect to the chemical weapons victims and their families, *declared* their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need and that the States Parties to the Convention as well as the OPCW should pay urgent attention to meeting these needs. In this context, they *welcomed* the decision adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to establish an International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and a voluntary Trust Fund for this purpose. In this regard, they *expressed* their appreciation to States Parties for their contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, and encouraged all States Parties to consider actively contributing to the Trust Fund.

272. The Ministers once again *condemned* the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip in 2009 and July and August 2014 and the occupying power's indiscriminate shelling and bombing of Palestinian civilian areas and *expressed* their grave concern over the reported use in civilian areas of harmful and potentially fatal incendiary weapons, such as white phosphorous. In this regard, they *reiterated* their call for a thorough investigation of this serious matter by relevant bodies under the appropriate international conventions and agreements.

273. The Ministers *regretted* unsubstantiated allegations of non-compliance with relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction and *called on* States Parties to such

instruments that make such allegations to follow procedures set out in those instruments and to provide necessary substantiation for their allegations. They *called upon* all States Parties to the respective international instruments to implement fully and in a transparent manner all their obligations under these instruments.

274. The Ministers *expressed* their satisfaction with the consensus among States on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. They *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution 72/42 entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” and underlined the need for this threat to humanity to be addressed within the UN framework and through international cooperation. While *stressing* that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, they *emphasized* that progress was urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. They *called upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They also *urged* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

275. While *noting* the adoption of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), 2055 (2012) and 2325 (2016) by the Security Council, the Ministers *underlined* the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter and existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and of international Organizations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly. They further *cautioned* against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions. In this regard, they *stressed* the importance of the issue of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction to be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, *taking into account* the views of all Member States.

276. Mindful of the threat posed to humankind by the existing weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons and underlining the need for the total elimination of such weapons, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and therefore *supported* the necessity of monitoring the situation and triggering international action as required. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 72/23 entitled “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

277. The Ministers, while staying committed to the cause of prohibiting the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction, *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/23 “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament”, adopted on December 4, 2017, *reiterated* the adherence of their countries to and *called* on the international community to abide by the goals and principles set out therein.

278. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defense and security needs. They *expressed* their concern about unilateral coercive measures and *emphasized* that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms and their parts and components to States.

279. The Ministers *recognized* the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and the Non-Aligned Countries, and called for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional

weapons by the industrialized states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

280. The Ministers *remained* deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread to unauthorized recipients in many regions of the world. They *recognized* the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. They *called on* all States, in particular major arms producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments and to implement legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. They *encouraged* all initiatives by States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

281. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the total validity of the Programme of Action and *emphasized* the importance of its prompt and full implementation and *stressed* that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect in its implementation. They *welcomed* the successful conclusion of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action, held in New York, from 06-10 June 2016. They *acknowledged* the efforts undertaken by the Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations to implement the Programme of Action. They *called for* the full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner the Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly. Underlining the importance of international cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action and expressing the resolve of NAM Member States in further advancing of this objective, the Ministers *called for* support for the successful outcome of the Third UN Conference to Review the Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action, to be held in New York, from 18 to 29 June 2018.

282. The Ministers *emphasized* that the international assistance to support the implementation of the Programme of Action is still not commensurate with the needs of affected countries, taking into account the growing magnitude of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the danger it continues to pose. They called for ensuring the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of such international assistance. They *called for* the provision of concrete assistance, including technical and financial assistance to developing countries upon their request. They *emphasized* that such assistance should not be made conditional on being part of, or detracting from, the recipient States' Official Development Assistance. They also *called on* the UN, in its activities in support of the implementation of the PoA, to rely further on the expertise available in developing countries.

283. The Ministers *noted* the adoption, by vote, of the Arms Trade Treaty by the UN General Assembly on 2nd April 2013 and its entry into force on 24 December 2014. They also *noted* that the Treaty aims at regulating trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons. They *called for* balanced, transparent and objective implementation of the Treaty, in strict accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, and the inherent right of each State to security and to individual or collective self-defense. They also *underscored* that its implementation should, in no way, affect the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defense, security needs and the maintenance of their territorial integrity. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the ATT *emphasized* the importance of ensuring a leading role for NAM States Parties from those regions most affected by the illicit trade of conventional arms in the implementation of the Treaty, as well as in any future institutional arrangements of the Treaty.

284. The Ministers *expressed* their concern by the continued maneuvers to politicize the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

285. The Ministers *continued* to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilians, denying them access to farmland, causing famine and forcing them to flee their homes eventually leading to de-population and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. They *called upon* all States in the position to do so, to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance.

286. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) *reiterated* their commitment to the full implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. They *invited* those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention. They also *welcomed* the Global Conference on Assisting Landmine and other Explosive Remnants of War Survivors in the Context of Disability Rights and other Domains, held in Medellin, on 03-04 April 2014.

287. The Ministers of the NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) *welcomed* the efforts of those parties who have recently completed their obligations under the Mine Ban Convention, including Algeria and Belarus, by having destroyed their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and cleaned affected areas.

288. The Ministers *expressed* concern about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which continue to cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some Non-Aligned Countries. They *called on* the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries and provide mine action support to affected countries, including information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines-laid.

289. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols *encouraged* States to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols. NAM is of the view that Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) raise a number of ethical, legal, moral and technical, as well as international peace and security related questions which should be thoroughly deliberated and examined in the context of conformity to international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In this regard, NAM States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) welcome the informal meetings of CCW experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems held in Geneva in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and support continued deliberations on this issue in the CCW on the basis of an agreed mandate. NAM States Parties to CCW welcome the accession of Iraq to the Convention and its annexed protocols.

290. The Ministers *recognized* the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions and expressed solidarity with the cluster munitions-affected countries. They called upon all States in a position to do so, to consider providing the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to unexploded cluster munitions clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material, equipment, technology and financial resources for unexploded cluster munitions clearance. They also noted the first Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 7-11 September 2015. In addition, the Ministers of the NAM State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions *welcomed* the accession of Cuba to the Convention.

291. The Ministers *underlined* the importance of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 71/70, taking into consideration the possible harmful effects to human health and the environment, caused by the use of weapons and munitions containing depleted uranium.

292. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption without a vote of General Assembly Resolution 72/46 on the relationship between disarmament and development. They also *expressed* concern at the increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs. They further *stressed the* importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and *urged* all States to devote resources made available from there to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty. They *expressed* firm support for the unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures aimed at reducing military expenditures, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security and recognized that confidence building measures assisted in this regard.

293. The Ministers *commended* the work of the NAM Working Group on Disarmament, under the chairmanship of Indonesia, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement in the field of disarmament. They *encouraged* NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the Working Group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement.

294. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed to*:

294.1. Continue to pursue the positions and priorities of the Movement, as appropriate, in the relevant international fora; and

294.2. Task the NAM Coordinating Bureau to undertake efforts, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Movement at disarmament and international security meetings.

### **Terrorism**

295. The Ministers, while reiterating the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter, *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled position concerning terrorism, as follows:

295.1. Terrorist acts constitute one of the most flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life, leading to the lack of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples, and that such acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security, destabilize legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, affect the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, as well as create adverse consequences on the economic and social development and cause the destruction of the physical and economic infrastructure of States;

295.2. Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, *inter alia*, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy;

295.3. Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purposes, wherever, by

whomever, against whomsoever committed are, in any circumstance, unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them;

295.4. The Ministers *condemned* all forms of incitement to terrorism, under whatever guise of justification, resulting in the loss of life and the destruction of private and public property. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to combat the violent extremist ideology inciting terrorism irrespective of its origin;

295.5. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of people remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and that the use of State power for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned. In this regard, and in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant UN resolutions, the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation does not constitute terrorism (A/res/46/51 of 9 December 1991);

295.6. The Movement *reaffirmed* its principled position under international law and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 as well as other relevant UN resolutions on the legitimacy of the struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination, which does not constitute terrorism, and once again *called for* the definition of terrorism to differentiate it from the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation;

295.7. The financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern that must be fought with determination. In this regard, the Ministers strongly *condemned* criminal incidences of hostage-taking with resultant demands for ransoms and/or other political concessions by terrorist groups, and called upon all States to cooperate actively in order to address this issue, in all its aspects including its legal aspects. They *invited* Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent terrorists from benefitting from hostage-taking, including ransom payments and political concessions.

295.8. The Ministers reiterated the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the willful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts.

296. In this context, the Ministers *took note* of the UNSC resolution 2133 of 27 January 2014 condemning such incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking, publication of the “Algiers Memorandum on Good practices on Preventing and denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by terrorists”, and of the “Rabat Memorandum on good practices for effective counterterrorism practice in the Criminal Justice Sector”;

297. While highlighting the contribution of regional and sub-regional initiatives, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the General Assembly as the principal deliberative organ of the United Nations having competence to do so.

298. The Ministers *welcomed* the Fifth Review of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) and the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 70/291 of 01 July 2016. They further *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 71/291 of 19 June 2017, through which the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) was established, in accordance with the competencies and functions set out in the report of the Secretary General

(A/71/858), with the purpose of, among others, supporting the implementation, in a balanced manner, of all four pillars of the UNGCTS and addressing, upon request of Member States, capacity-building needs. They *looked forward* to the contributions of the UNOCT in bringing more coherence and effectiveness to the activities carried by the United Nations on the counter-terrorism sphere, and *pledged* their support to contributing to its activities.

299. The Ministers *welcomed* the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre at the United Nations Headquarters established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office over its first two years of operation, and welcome the \$100M contribution by the Government of Saudi Arabia to the Centre to further integrate it within the UN system and ensure the continuity of its contribution to promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/10.

300. The Ministers *encouraged* Member States, in their efforts to counter terrorism, to utilize the expertise and resources of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), in particular, the capacity-building component in supporting Member States upon their request, and to collaborate with it and contribute to the implementation of its activities within the UNOCT, including through the development, funding and implementation of capacity-building projects, in order to mobilize a more systematic response to terrorism at the national, regional and global levels, with a special emphasis on the national level.

301. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters; namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict.

302. While condemning all violations and acts of terrorism committed by FTFs in Iraq, Syria, Libya and elsewhere, the Ministers *welcomed* all victories achieved in the fight to eradicate the threat posed by this phenomenon. In addition, they *called for* holding accountable those responsible of or involved in its creation and the facilitation of its activities. In this context, the Ministers called for all States to address all aspects of this issue, including the movement of foreign terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones and the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin or residence, or their deployment to a third country, through the implementation of their international obligations, and underlined the importance of United Nations capacity-building and the facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most affected regions, upon their request.

303. The Ministers *underlined* the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, and in this regard urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the UN Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts.

304. The Ministers *took note*, in this regard, of the publication of “The Hague – Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for more effective Response to the FTF phenomenon” and *called upon* all Member States in accordance with their obligations under international law, to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

305. *Acknowledging* the serious danger and threats posed by terrorism and terrorist acts to the international community, consistent with and guided by the Movement’s principled positions thereof as well as *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures:

305.1. *Strongly and unequivocally condemn*, as criminal, and *reject* terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which are unjustifiable whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them, and in this context, *reaffirm* their support for the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 and other relevant UN resolutions;

305.2. *Resolve* to take speedy and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism, and in this context, urge all States, consistent with the UN Charter, to fulfil their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law combating terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories or by organizations based in their territories; by refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States; by refraining from encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts; by refraining from allowing the use of their territories for planning, training or financing for such acts; or by refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States;

305.3. *Condemn* any form of, and *refrain* from extending, political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism, and in this context, *urge* all States, consistent with the UN Charter and in fulfilling their obligations under international law, to ensure that refugee status or any other legal status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts and that claims of political motivation by them are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for their extradition;

305.4. *Urge* all States, which have not yet done so, to consider to ratify or accede to international and UN conventions and protocols relating to combating terrorism;

305.5. *Observe* and *implement* the provisions of all international conventions as well as regional and bilateral instruments relating to terrorism to which their countries are party, taking into account the recommendations of the Final Document of the UN Conference on the Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice held in Cairo, Egypt in 1995 and the International Conference on Combating Terrorism held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2005;

305.6. *Oppose* attempts to equate the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation with terrorism, in order to prolong occupation and oppression of innocent people with impunity;

305.7. Further *call on* all States to endorse in principle the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the UN to define terrorism, to differentiate it from the struggle for national liberation and to reach comprehensive and effective measures for concerted action and notes in this regard the proposal of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. They also *denounced* the brutalisation of peoples kept under foreign occupation as the gravest form of terrorism. They *condemned* the use of State power for the suppression and violence against innocent victims struggling against foreign occupation to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. They *stressed* the sanctity of this right and *urged* that in this era of enlarged freedom and democracy, peoples under foreign occupation should be allowed to freely determine their destiny. In this context, they *also reaffirmed* their support for General Assembly Resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 as well as other relevant UN resolutions and the principled position of the Movement that the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination does not

constitute terrorism;

305.8. *Call upon* all States to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering *terrorism*, and to *reaffirm* their commitment in this respect to prevent human rights violations, consistent with the rule of law and their obligation under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

305.9. While *reaffirming* the Movement's principled position on combating international terrorism, and in the light of the previous initiatives and considerations adopted by NAM, and of their conviction that multilateral cooperation under the UN auspices is the most effective means to combat international terrorism, the Ministers *reiterated* their call for an International Conference under the auspices of the UN to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including identifying its root causes;<sup>20</sup>

305.10. Further *reiterate* the importance of the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism and, in this respect, *noting* the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, for elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the continuing efforts to that end, and *call upon* all States to continue to co-operate in resolving the outstanding issues;

305.11. *Call* for a transparent, comprehensive and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and *agree* to actively engage in future meetings concerning the reviews of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and its implementation and further *call* for the enhanced engagement of all States in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and support any initiatives by NAM Member States aimed at enhancing the effective implementation in a manner that would advance the principled position of the Non-Aligned Movement;

305.12. The Ministers *called upon* the promotion and defense of the principled position of the Movement in relation to terrorism. In this regard, they urged the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of NAM (CoB-NAM) to participate and deliver the Movement's position on this matter, following consultations among the Member States of the CoB-NAM, during the relevant general debates of the General Assembly, including during the meeting for adopting the resolution on the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, with a view to further advance towards this end.

305.13. The Ministers *expressed* their full solidarity with those countries that have suffered the most from the phenomenon of FTFs.

305.14. Strongly *condemn* the grave acts of terrorism which targeted Iraqi civilians in different parts of the country and call for enhancement of international cooperation to support Iraqi capacity building programs to combat all forms of terrorism;

305.15. The Ministers *welcomed* the victories that the Iraqi military forces achieved through the liberation of all the areas, which were occupied by the terrorist group of ISIL/Da'esh, and the last which has been liberated, and calls upon providing support to the Iraqi forces in all its fractions by developing its capabilities and promoting building capacities of Iraqi Army, providing them with sophisticated weapons and share cooperation in the field of intelligence information between Member States to end the existence of any remnants of the enemy terrorist gangs of ISIL/Da'esh and to prevent the

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<sup>20</sup> Proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt made in 1999 concerning the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to elaborate an action plan and formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

provision of shelters for individuals and groups who sow terror.

305.16. The Ministers commend the government of the Republic of Iraq for the victories achieved by the Iraqi armed forces as well as the liberation of all Iraqi territories from the control of Da'esh terrorist group; welcome the return of the internally displaced people to their homes and for providing security and stability in the liberated cities. The Ministers also take note of the appreciation of Iraq to all the states that helped Iraq to achieve these victories.

305.17. The Minister *called upon* the Member States of NAM to assist Iraqi Government's efforts to rebuild the war-devastated regions and to strengthen Iraqi capabilities.

305.18. The Ministers condemned the crimes committed by the terrorist groups of Da'esh, such as mass murder, the captivity of women, subjugation, rape and kidnapping of thousands of Iraqis, which are considered crimes against humanity, causing a human catastrophe and large numbers of displaced civilians, escaping from the brutality of such terrorist groups.

305.19. The Ministers condemned what has happened to the historical and archaeological monuments of Iraq, targets of massive and systematic destruction especially in the city of Mosul by the terrorist group of ISIL/Da'esh. They also *condemned* the terrorist acts such as the demolition of historical monuments, dating back to historical eras representing the first civilization in the world, hence the community of nations is called to prevent, stop and restore Iraqi antiquities that were smuggled outside Iraq.

305.20. The Ministers recognized the importance of prohibiting the terrorist groups of Da'esh, to recruit foreign terrorist fighters, whose presence exacerbates the conflict and contributes to the spread of violent extremism; and of taking the necessary steps to prevent the infiltration of terrorists, reaffirming on the implementation of the sanctions imposed against the groups of Da'esh, the front of Al-Nusrah and all other parties that recruit for these organizations who are involved in its activities such as financing of foreign terrorist fighters , facilitating their travel to the in favor of terrorist groups and eliminating the sources of funding for these terrorist organizations.

305.21. The Ministers expressed grave concern regarding the increasing presence of terrorism in Libya and the threat it poses to the Libyan people, as well as to regional and international security. They strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups in Libya, including the kidnapping and brutal slaying of 20 Egyptian nationals as well as 30 Ethiopian nationals, and made clear that, *inter alia*, terrorism and extremism threaten the unity and the territorial integrity of that country. They called on the international community to support the Libyan Government of National Accord in combating terrorism.

305.22. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the heinous terrorist attacks in Egypt both in northern Sinai and throughout Egyptian cities. They also strongly condemned the incitement to violence propagated through several satellite channels against Egypt.

305.23. The Ministers strongly condemned a number of terrorist attacks against Iranian scientists, which resulted in the loss of valuable human resources essential to the development of any country. They also strongly condemned several incidences of terrorism by the violent extremist and terrorist groups including killing and abducting of the border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its Sistan and Baluchistan Province, and targeting Iranian diplomats and Iran's diplomatic premises which resulted in killing and wounding of dozens of civilians, including two terrorist bombings in Beirut, Lebanon, in November 2013 and February 2014 and targeting the Embassy and the Cultural Centre by the al-Qaeda linked terrorist groups

305.24. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the heinous terrorist attack in Islamabad, Pakistan on the Marriot Hotel on September 20, 2008 and the terrorist attack on the visiting Sri Lankan Cricket Team in Lahore, on March 3, 2009, and several recent terrorist attacks including the heinous terrorist attack on a school in Peshawar on 16 December 2014 which represented intensification of international terrorism, causing colossal loss of life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation in accordance with the obligations of all Member States under relevant international law against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism;

305.25. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the heinous terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, between November 26 and 29, 2008, which represented an escalation of international terrorism, causing extensive loss of life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation of all Member States, in accordance with relevant international law, against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism;

305.26. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the cowardly terrorist attack in In-Amenas, Algeria, on 16 January 2013, which represented an attempt of destabilization, and commended Algeria for the way it faced this attack;

305.27. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the terrorist attacks of Boko Haram and the abduction of school girls in the North-East of Nigeria. They *welcomed* and *supported* measures being taken by the Government of Nigeria and the cooperation with countries of the region notably Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin through the Joint Multinational Task Force as well as the international community to combat this terrorist group.

305.28 The Ministers also *strongly condemned* the terror attacks in Kenya including the Al Shabaab terrorist attack at the Westgate shopping Mall in Nairobi, on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013, the Garissa University attack on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 and more recent terror attacks in country. They observed that radicalism and extremism are playing an increasing role in terror attacks in the Eastern African region and beyond. They welcomed and *supported* the continued efforts of the Government of Kenya and the region in the fight against the Al Shabaab militant group and its affiliates and called for concerted international action to tackle this menace.

305.29. The Ministers *condemned* the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Al- Shabaab on 24 May 2014, on the Federal Parliament which led to the fatal casualties of African Union Peacekeepers, as well as the Somalian National Army. The Ministers pledged their continued solidarity with the people and Government of Somalia in the fight against the terror group Al-Shabaab. They *called upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia and of AMISOM in stabilizing the security situation in Somalia.

305.30. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel as well as international efforts aiming at mobilizing resources and assistance in support of the States of the region efforts to address the complex security, political and humanitarian situation. The Ministers *underscored* the strategy should be implemented in close cooperation with the States of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb, as well as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States(CEN-SAD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU);

305.31. The Ministers *condemned* the violence and terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic;

305.32. Strongly *condemned* the rise of violence and brutality committed by ISIL/Da'esh and other Al-Qaida affiliated groups, in particular Iraq, Syria and Libya, noting that Da'esh not only pose a threat to the people of these countries, but also to all countries in Middle East, and if left unchecked, to the rest of the world;

305.33. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the heinous terrorist attacks in Marawi City, Philippines from 23 May to 23 October 2017 perpetrated by ISIL Da'esh including affiliated terrorist groups in the Philippines, which represented intensification of international terrorism, causing extensive loss of life, destruction and damage, and *called for* international cooperation in accordance with the obligations of all Member States under applicable international law against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism. They *welcomed and supported* measures being taken by the Government of the Philippines to combat these terrorist groups;

305.34. The Ministers *took note* of the adoption by the Security Council of several resolutions on countering Da'esh and other Al-Qaida affiliated groups, namely 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 2178 (2014), 2253 (2015), and 2368 (2017) addressing the phenomenon of the FTF, and *called for* their implementation and building the capacities of States to implement them.

305.35. *Hold* a NAM Ministerial *Meeting* on the issue of terrorism at the most appropriate date, based on the progress of the discussions and negotiations on this issue at the United Nations;

305.36. *Continue to support* national, regional and international efforts and arrangements that seek to implement, where appropriate, the pertinent international legally binding instruments, as well as the relevant UN resolutions,<sup>21</sup> including General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolutions and regional arrangements and instruments relating to combating terrorism;<sup>22</sup> *strengthen* the cooperation with all States in this regard, emphasizing that such cooperation should be in conformity with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions; and in this context, *urge* the relevant UN organs to promote ways and means to support and strengthen such cooperation;

305.37. *Note* the increasing and recognized potential links between transnational organized crime and the financing of terrorism, including money laundering, stress the need for promoting cooperation and coordinating efforts in fighting the scourge of these two criminal activities;

305.38. *Reject* actions and measures, the use or threat of use of force in particular by armed forces, which violate the UN Charter and international law especially the relevant international conventions, imposed or threatened to be imposed by any State against any Non-Aligned Country under the pretext of combating terrorism or to pursue its political aims, including by directly or indirectly categorizing them as terrorism Sponsoring-States. They called upon the Security Council to promote legitimacy and credibility of the ISIL/Da'esh/Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regimes, in particular by

<sup>21</sup> These include General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolution 1373.

<sup>22</sup> These include the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which was adopted in Algiers in July 1999 and entered into force on 6 December 2003, and its Plan of Action, which was adopted by the 2nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo on 12 July 2003; the Arab Convention to Combat Terrorism, which entered into force on 7 May 1999; the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, which was adopted in Ouagadougou on 1 July 1999; the OIC Declaration on Terrorism, which was adopted by the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Cooperation of Foreign Ministers in Kuala Lumpur on 3 April 2002; the ASEAN Declarations on Terrorism adopted by the 7th and 8th ASEAN Summits in 2001 and 2002 respectively; the ASEAN Joint Declarations to Combat International Terrorism with the USA of 1 August 2002, with the EU of 28 January 2003, with India of 8 October 2003 and with Russia of 2 July 2004, and the ASEAN-China Joint Declaration on Co-operation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (4 November 2002); the Protocol on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, which was adopted at the SAARC Summit in Islamabad in January 2004, and ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), signed on 13 January 2007.

addressing the concerns of due process and transparency in its listing and delisting procedure and in granting exemption, and in this regard, called for the early appointment of an Ombudsperson to assist the ISIL/Da'esh/Al-Qaida sanctions regime in considering delisting requests, while paying due regard to the principle of geographical rotation. They further totally reject targeting other States under the pretext of combating terrorism, as well as the unilateral preparation of lists accusing States of allegedly supporting terrorism, which are inconsistent with international law and constitute on their part a form of psychological and political terrorism and in this context, *underscoring* the need to *exercise* solidarity with the Non-Aligned Countries that are affected by such actions and measures;

305.39. *Introduce* comprehensive qualitative changes to national laws and legislations of Non-Aligned Countries, in order to criminalize all terrorist acts as well as the support, financing or instigation of such acts;

305.40. The Ministers *commended* the efforts of the UAE for hosting Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) that works with practitioners, experts, state officials, and policy makers to develop responses that reduce radicalization, recruitment and the threat of violent extremism. The Ministers also welcomed the launch of Anti-Da'esh Online Operations Centre in Abu Dhabi, dedicated to challenging the use of online media for incitement and recruitment by extremists.

305.41. The Ministers acknowledged the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting in November 2015 of the workshop on charitable donations, combating the financing of terrorism and violent extremism. The Ministers also took note of the outcome of the workshop in the form of a joint communique on the need to conduct an objective and accurate evaluation of the non-profit organizations sector, identify the dangers related to the exploitation of these organization in financing terrorism, as well as encourage these organizations to be part of the official financial sector to avoid the risk that pushes non-profit organizations under any purpose to use other channels, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2253 (2015).

305.42. The Ministers took note of the hosting by the State of Kuwait of the "Conference on Combating Da'esh" on 13 February 2018 to confront the scourge of terrorism.

306. The Ministers *condemned* ISIL, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida for ongoing terrorist acts that target the death of civilians and the destruction of property, cultural and religious sites in Iraq. In this regard, the Ministers also *condemned* the deliberate targeting and persecution of individuals and mass executions perpetrated on entire communities solely on basis of their religion or beliefs. Additionally, the kidnapping of civilians for ransoms, forced displacement of members of minority groups, killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, obstructing the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to education, are condemned in the strongest possible manner.

307. While recognizing that violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality civilization or ethnic group, the Ministers *urged* all Member States to unite against violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, *encouraged* the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to evolve strategies to address them, and *underlined* that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and facilitating understanding, inclusive dialogue and respect for religious and cultural diversity and human rights;

308. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern over the increase in incitement to sectarian

hatred, which has led to the rise in sectarian tensions and the acts of violence against different religious sects. They strongly *condemned* those extremist groups and preachers who preach hatred towards other sects and *urged* all Member States to ban the access of the groups and preachers of hate to public platforms and to take a proactive role in ensuring that interfaith dialogue and understanding are encouraged, promoted and protected. They *reiterated* the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for States' sovereignty, territorial integrity, friendly relations among nations, the right to self-determination of all peoples that are still under foreign occupation and alien domination;

309. The Ministers *expressed* deep concern over the misinterpretation and the misrepresentation of religions by terrorist groups to justify terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, seeking to instill hatred in the hearts and minds of the youth and justifying and glorifying brutality and violence. In this regard, they *reiterated* the necessity to effectively counter the narratives of terrorism through a comprehensive and international framework, and in an effective and comprehensive way and address all its root causes, including through the engagement of community leaders and clerics from all denominations;

310. The Ministers *stressed* that it is essential to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, and that, in this regard, the international community should consider developing an accurate understanding of how terrorists motivate others to commit terrorist acts or recruit them, and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet, in compliance with applicable international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

### **Democracy**<sup>23</sup>

311. The Ministers *reiterated* that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. They *reaffirmed* that while all democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and further *reaffirmed* the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination, and their rejection to any attempt to breakdown constitutional and democratic orders legitimately established by the peoples. They *expressed* their conviction that international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, on the basis of respect for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as well as those of transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity and inclusiveness, could contribute to the attainment of the goal of democracy consolidation at national, regional and international levels.

312. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world, without distinction between developed and developing countries, in compliance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

313. The Ministers *recalled* the constitutional processes that have been taking place in several Latin American countries as an expression of respect to and strengthening of democracy based on the freely expressed will and participation of the people of those countries to determine their own political, economic, legal, social and cultural systems.

314. The Ministers further *recalled* recent national efforts to strengthen democracy, equality, respect for human rights, social integration and economic development particularly in countries, such as in some Arab States, which started conducting major reforms in 2011

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<sup>23</sup> This section should be read in conjunction with the section on Human Rights under Chapter III of the Document.

towards a better future for their peoples in political, economic and social fields and stressed the importance of the national ownership of these processes.

315. The Ministers *also recalled* the pledge by the leaders of UN Member States, as reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and *noted* the important role of the UN in the promotion and strengthening of democratic practices in Member States which have sought legal, technical and financial assistance. The Ministers *took note* of the work of the UN Democracy Fund.

316. The Ministers *stressed the importance* of the Bali Democracy Forum initiated by the government of the Republic of Indonesia which concluded its seventh annual meeting from 10-11 October 2014, as an intergovernmental forum to promote democracy, in its Member and Observer States from all regions, that is home-grown and not imposing, based on the principles of equal participation, sharing of experiences and best practices, dialogue and international cooperation. The Ministers also *took note* of the activities organized by the Institute for Peace and Democracy as the implementing agency of the Bali Democracy Forum.

317. The Ministers *commended* Mongolia for its Chairmanship of the Community of Democracies in 2011-2013 and welcomed the assumption of El Salvador as the new Chair for the term 2013-15 and *welcomed* its intention to continue working together with the Bali Democracy Forum and the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and other relevant forums.

318. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

318.1. *Work* collectively for the promotion of democracy and for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries, including seeking assistance from the UN on a voluntary basis;

318.2. *Promote*, while *recognizing* the importance of the promotion of democracy at the national level, the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of developing countries in international decision-making; and

318.3. *Oppose and condemn* any politically motivated attempt or misuse of the international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, including the marginalization or exclusion of Non-*Aligned* Countries from the full participation and equal opportunities of membership in the intergovernmental bodies of the UN system.

### **North-South Dialogue and Cooperation**

319. In acknowledging the need for an increased interaction between leaders of the developing and developed world, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

319.1. *Generate, expand and deepen* a more dynamic relationship and co-operation with developed and industrialized countries, in particular with the Group of Eight, firmly rooted on mutual respect, mutuality of benefits, shared and differentiated responsibilities, constructive engagement and dialogue, broad partnership and genuine interdependence, with the aim of forging compatible or complementary responses or initiatives on global issues, generating greater understanding, and narrowing the development gaps between the North and the South;

319.2. *Continue to hold* Ministerial Meetings between the NAM Troika and the

European Union, within the framework of ordinary sessions of the General Assembly, aimed at facilitating comprehensive and transparent exchange of views of common interest to be addressed in the UNGA sessions;

319.3. *Take note* of the successful Ministerial meetings held by the Chair of the NAM with other interested parties, and continue to hold meetings, including at the Ministerial level, between the Chair of NAM and other interested parties, as appropriate, on issues of common interests;

319.4. *Ensure* that the views of developing countries are fully taken into account before decisions on relevant issues<sup>24</sup> affecting them and the international community are made by developed countries, which could be achieved through, inter alia, institutionalizing established contacts between the leaders at the highest level of developing and developed countries, and in this context, *request* the Chair of the Movement to coordinate with the Chair of the Group of 77 and China to identify measures that could contribute towards achieving this objective including through strengthening of the Joint Coordination Committee; and

319.5. *Call on* international meetings and conferences to take into account the interests and concerns of developing countries including middle-income countries, and countries in special situations especially in the current situation and serious adverse impacts of the global economic and financial crises on their development, and *request* the Chair of the Movement to continue to convey those interests and concerns, inter alia, by means of declarations adopted by the NAM as appropriate;

319.6. *Highlight* the importance of North South Cooperation being aligned with national development priorities of recipient countries as well as the importance of increasing the efficiency of economic and technical cooperation, and development assistance.

319.7. The Ministers *reiterated* that international development cooperation, especially North-South cooperation, remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable development. As North-South cooperation is the main channel of development financing, the international community must uphold the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) and push North-South cooperation to continue to play its key role. Developed countries should bear the primary responsibility in financing for development. They urged developed countries to fulfill their unmet ODA commitments.

### **Role of Regional Organizations**

320. The Ministers *underscored* the important role that regional and sub-regional arrangements and agencies, composed of Non-Aligned and other developing countries, can play in the promotion of regional peace and security as well as economic and social development through cooperation among countries in the region;

321. The Ministers *highlighted* the importance of synergy between regional and sub-regional initiatives to ensure complementarity and the added value of each processes towards their common goals, such as political stability, economic growth, and social and cultural development;

322. The Ministers *called* for the intensification of the process of consultations, cooperation, and coordination between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, arrangements, or agencies, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, as well as on their mandate, scope and composition, which is useful and can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security;

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<sup>24</sup> The relevant issues include peace and security questions, including international terrorism, trade and finance policies, external debt and debt forgiveness/cancellation, the environment including climate change, and energy security

323. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the determination of the United Nations to enhance its relationship and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular the African Union in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

324. The Ministers *recalled* the UN Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and *called on* the international community to renew commitment for NEPAD and other related initiatives for Africa, noting in this regard the efforts exerted by the African Union and other regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalization of the provision contained in General Assembly resolution 59/213 and 69/290 highlighting the particular areas of required support by the UN system to the African Union, in the social, economic, political, peace and security areas, and express their full commitment to continue to advocate the necessity for continued international support required to meet the special needs of Africa as contained in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063.

325. The Ministers *highlighted* the importance of the Declaration on the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) adopted in Bandung, Indonesia in 2005, and *welcomed* the holding and the outcome of the Asian-African Summit 2015 in Indonesia to further strengthen the NAASP which serves as the primary platform in enhancing cooperation between Asia and Africa. The Ministers further *called on* the international community to enhance cooperation under the framework of the NAASP as one of the measures to deepen partnership between developing countries, particularly between Asia and Africa.

326. The Ministers *noted* the importance of Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) as the only forum between East Asia and Latin America to enhance mutual understanding and trust and to increase political, economic, social and cultural ties and dialogue, and *called on* its members to promote cooperation and partnership in its framework, including to collaborate to meet common global challenges.

327. The Ministers *supported* the continued efforts and commitments by ASEAN Member States to focus on advancing and strengthening an ASEAN Community building process and to enhancing and maintaining ASEAN Centrality, in developing the ASEAN Community's Post 2015 vision. The Ministers also *exchanged* views on regional and international issues and strengthen external relations and partnerships as recognized in the Chairman's Statement of the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit entitled "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community", adopted during the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 12 November 2014.

328. The Ministers *welcomed* the strengthening of relations between the Movement and Observer Organizations, and in this regard, they *recognized* the important participation of the Chairmanship of the Movement in various high-level events and conferences convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during 2017, upon its kind invitation.

## **CHAPTER II: REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES**

### **Middle East**

#### **Peace Process**

329. The Ministers *deeply regret* the persistent deadlock in the peace process and the absence of a credible political horizon to bring an end to the Israeli military occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and achieve the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom. They *stressed* the urgency of the achievement of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and *called for*

the exertion of urgent and collective efforts by all concerned parties to realize this long-overdue objective. They *stressed* that a peaceful solution of the question of Palestine remains a priority on the Movement's agenda. They *affirmed* their principled support in this regard and *stressed* their readiness to contribute to the achievement of a peaceful solution.

330. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the commitment of its Member States to the realization of a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all aspects and in accordance with international law.

331. The Ministers *stressed* the urgent need for collective efforts to advance the achievement of a peaceful solution firmly based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, including, *inter alia*, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (2003), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008) and most recently resolution 2334 (2016), which was strongly welcomed and supported by the Movement, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap. They *reiterated* the need for substantial and urgent progress to be made towards achieving an end to the unlawful Israeli occupation of all of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including achievement of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine in all of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. They *stressed* the importance of respect for the longstanding terms of reference of a peace settlement in order to ensure the attainment of justice and a comprehensive, sustainable peace, and called on the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities in this regard.

332. The Ministers *deplored* the ongoing Israeli intransigence and illegal policies that greatly undermine the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They *expressed grave concern* regarding the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including in particular the Gaza Strip, and stressed that the status quo is unsustainable and that the situation requires immediate attention by the international community. They *reaffirmed* that ongoing, illegal measures, including in particular the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall, the confiscation of Palestinian land and the forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population by other illegal means, are totally contradictory to the objective of peace.

333. The Ministers *deplored* Israel's repeated obstruction of all previous international and regional peace efforts and its disrespect and violations of past agreements. They *stressed* the need for intensified, coordinated efforts, including measures of accountability, by the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all of its illegal policies and genuinely commit to a peaceful solution on the basis of the internationally-endorsed terms of reference, stressing that respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, is the key to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

334. The Ministers *recalled* the historic role and obligations of the international community, including the UN Security Council and General Assembly, towards advancing a just and comprehensive peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and regional stability. They *called upon* the international community as a whole to intensify actions to support and promote a collective negotiation process on all final status issues regarding the question of Palestine; namely, refugees, Jerusalem, settlements, borders, security, water and prisoners, underscoring that the just resolution of all of these issues is imperative for the conclusion of a comprehensive and final peace agreement. They *called upon* the Security Council to engage the Quartet, considering the Council's Charter authority and responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to heed the appeals of the international community and to act with urgency to promote and support a peaceful solution. They *called on* the members of the NAM Caucus of the Council to remain active in this regard.

335. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their support for the Arab Peace Initiative, which was adopted by the XIV Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002, and endorsed repeatedly thereafter, confirming the commitment by the Arab States to a comprehensive peace. The Ministers *deplored* Israel's failure to seriously respond to this important initiative and to reciprocate in word and deed, and *called upon* it to do so forthwith in the interest of advancing comprehensive peace and security in the region. They *recognized* the active role of the Arab Ministerial Follow-up Committee in upholding the Arab Peace Initiative and supporting the peace process including through serious engagement with all concerned international partners.

### **Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

336. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to upholding the positions concerning Palestine adopted by the XVII Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as by the recent NAM Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, including the principled positions set forth in the Declarations on Palestine adopted by the NAM Committee on Palestine, most recently on 19 September 2017 and 22 February 2018, which constitute the guidelines for the Non-Aligned Countries on the question of Palestine. They *reaffirmed* their long-standing support and solidarity with the just cause of Palestine and strong commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people and their leadership. They *underscored* the need to continue providing political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian people and to bolster their resilience and efforts aimed at achieving their legitimate national aspirations, including their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

337. The Ministers *recalled* with deep regret that June 2017 marked the passage of fifty years since the onset of Israel's foreign occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands in 1967, and reflected on other solemn anniversaries in 2017, including the seventieth anniversary of the General Assembly's decision to partition the Mandate Palestine by its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and the ensuing 1948 Al-Nakba<sup>25</sup> that befell the Palestinian people and called for the exertion and intensification of all necessary efforts to bring an end to this injustice and advance a peaceful and just solution. They also *expressed* their deep regret that since 1967, for over fifty years, the Palestinian people have continuously suffered under the brutal Israeli military occupation of their land and continue to be denied their fundamental human rights, including the right to self-determination.

338. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 67/19 (29 November 2012), which accorded to Palestine the status of nonmember observer State in the United Nations, reflecting the international community's longstanding, principled support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination, and for the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. They *reaffirmed* the significance of this political achievement for the Palestinian people and the Government of the State of Palestine, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, and *expressed support* for further efforts to build on this historic development to enhance Palestine's status and rights in the international arena and to ensure its rightful place in the community of nations, including by the achievement of admission to membership in the United Nations. They *welcomed* in this regard the application for membership submitted, on 23 September 2011, requesting the admission of the State of Palestine, convinced that the early realization of this objective will be a major step towards the advancement of freedom, dignity, stability, peace and development for the Palestinian people and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which all peoples are entitled. They *reaffirmed* their strong continued support to the admission process of the State of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations as soon as possible.

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<sup>25</sup> This is the term commonly used to refer to the catastrophe and tragedy that befell the Palestinian people in 1948, by which they lost their homeland and by which the majority of Palestinians were forcibly uprooted from their homes and displaced, becoming refugees, whose plight continues until this day.

339. The Ministers *also recalled* the importance of the recent accessions by the State of Palestine to several international conventions, upholding the rule of international law and enhancing its ability to protect and promote the rights of the Palestinian people, and noted in particular its accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as an important step for countering impunity for war crimes, ensuring accountability and achieving justice.

340. The Ministers *condemned* Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian Territory in breach of international law and UN resolutions. They *condemned* the continuing brutal Israeli military campaign against the defenseless Palestinian people by which the occupying Power has continued to commit grave human rights violations and reported war crimes, including by use of excessive, indiscriminate force that over the years has killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and has caused vast destruction of properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands. They also *condemned* illegal Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power has continued to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to forcibly displace Palestinian civilians in grave breach of international law. They further *condemned* the provocations and incitement by groups of extremist settlers, including against the holy sites in occupied East Jerusalem and the vandalization of mosques and churches which are fueling tensions and religious sensitivities that risk further destabilization. They also *condemned* Israel's imposition of collective punishment on the Palestinian people by various illegal measures, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which has been subjected to an illegal Israeli blockade since 2007. The Ministers *reiterated* their demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and fully abide by its legal obligations, including under the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention. The Ministers of the Movement that are Party to the Rome Statute also *affirmed* the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for addressing reported war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people, and *emphasized* the centrality of justice in bringing an end to such crimes and impunity.

341. The Ministers *reiterated their grave concern* about the plight of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and elected officials, held captive in Israeli prisons and detention centers, which number over 6,500 persons, and about ongoing arrest raids being carried out by the Israeli occupying forces. They *deplored* Israel's ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including reported torture, solitary confinement, prolonged administrative detention, inadequate access to proper medical care, education and family visits, subjection to military trials, unsanitary conditions of detention in grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law. They *reiterated their deep concern* about the death of several prisoners due to abuse and medical negligence.

342. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* in particular over Palestinian child prisoners and detainees, and *demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the abhorrent practice of imprisoning children, including by means of administrative detention, and that it respects its obligations under international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They *called again for* proper international access to Palestinian prisoners and detainees and inspection of their conditions. They also *renewed the call* for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, reaffirming the Ministerial Declaration on Palestinian Political Prisoners of Bali (May 2011) and Sharm El Sheikh (May 2012), as well as the Communiqué issued by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement on 21 April 2017. They *expressed support* for all efforts in this regard, including the "*International Campaign for the Freedom of Marwan Barghouti and all Palestinian Prisoners*", and welcomed the "*Robben Island Declaration*".

343. The Ministers *condemned* in the strongest terms the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing of more than 2,150 Palestinians, the overwhelming majority civilians, including more than 550 children and 250 women; the injury of more than 11,000 people, including 3,000 children, more than 1,000 of whom will suffer life-long

disabilities; the displacement of more than a third of the population of Gaza during the height of the crisis, with more than 110,000 people rendered homeless; and the wanton and deliberate destruction of and damage to thousands of Palestinian homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, schools, hospitals, mosques, public institutions, business properties, farms and more than 100 UN facilities, the majority of them UNRWA schools, all in grave breach of international humanitarian law. They *called upon* Israel to immediately cease the perpetration of military aggression in all manifestations against the Palestinian people under its occupation. They *recalled* in this regard the holding of the emergency meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine at the Ministerial level on 4 August 2014 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was held during the latest Israeli aggression against Gaza, and also *recalled* the Declaration adopted by this Ministerial meeting which expressed NAM's unwavering support for the just cause of Palestine.

344. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* about the grave situation in the Gaza Strip due to the lasting impact of the Israeli military aggression of July and August 2014, which they condemned in the strongest terms, as it caused massive human and physical devastation. They also *expressed grave concern* over the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis there as the entire Palestinian civilian population continues to be inhumanely isolated, besieged and deprived by the decade-long illegal Israeli blockade – a blockade that constitutes massive collective punishment and a grave breach of international humanitarian and human rights law.

345. The Ministers *deplored* the continuing obstruction of the reconstruction and the extremely slow pace of recovery of Gaza due to the ongoing illegal Israeli blockade, and *expressed deep regret* that thousands of families remain displaced and homeless and that vital infrastructure has not been rebuilt, severely impacting humanitarian, socio-economic, psychosocial and environmental conditions. They *reiterated* their call for the complete lifting of the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip and called upon Israel to promptly and unconditionally open all its crossing points with the Strip, in accordance with international humanitarian law and all UN resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1860 (2009). They *reiterated their call* for respect for the ceasefire agreement achieved on 26 August 2014, based on the Egyptian initiative on the basis of the November 2012 ceasefire agreement, along with their continuous calls for urgent efforts to ensure the immediate, sustained and regular opening of all border crossing points into and out of the Gaza Strip to allow for the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian assistance, medical supplies, food, fuel supplies, construction materials and commercial flows, including exports, necessary for economic recovery. They *expressed* their appreciation to the Egyptian efforts in facilitating humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people through the Rafah Border crossing, throughout the duration of the Israeli aggression.

346. The Ministers *recalled* the report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry (COI) established by the Human Rights Council, pursuant to its resolution S-21/1 of 23 July 2014, to investigate all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law resulting from Israel's 2014 military aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and recalled also other relevant inquiries and reports of the Secretary-General related to the violations of international law and human rights law on Children and Armed Conflict, and called for continuous follow-up, including, *inter alia*, in the Security Council, to ensure accountability. They *deplored* that Israel has continued to deliberately ignore the recommendations made in the above-mentioned reports, resolutions and inquiries without consequence, and reiterated their call for the establishing accountability for the grave breaches and crimes perpetrated and for justice for the victims of these crimes. They *stressed* that, in addition to violating countless provisions of human rights law, such collective punishment measures by Israel are tantamount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law, by which it is bound as the occupying Power and with which it must scrupulously comply. They *stressed* in this regard the need to ensure protection for the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with international humanitarian law and the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

347. The Ministers *continued to call for* accountability for the crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, during its December 2008-January 2009 and July-August 2014 military aggressions against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. They *reiterated* the call for the international community, including the Security Council, to ensure serious follow-up efforts to bring an end to Israel's impunity and to realize justice for the victims, including action to follow-up the findings contained in the report of the "United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" (Goldstone Report). They further *stressed* the importance of the investigation by the Independent Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council, pursuant to its resolution S-21/1 of 23 July 2014, as well as by the Board of Inquiry dispatched by the UN Secretary-General, towards establishing accountability for the crimes perpetrated in July and August 2014 and ensuring justice for the many innocent victims.

348. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities. They welcomed the reconvening the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect in accordance with common article 1, as called for by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. They *expressed appreciation* to Switzerland, in its capacity as Depositary of the *Geneva* Conventions, for convening the Conference. They *welcomed* the Declaration endorsed by the Conference, reaffirming, *inter alia*, the statement of 15 July 1999 and the Declaration of 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014; expressing the deep concern about the continued impact of the Israeli occupation; and calling upon Israel, the occupying Power, to fully and effectively respect the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

349. The Ministers *reiterated* the urgency of reconstructing Gaza, particularly following the massive destruction inflicted by the occupying Power in July and August 2014. They *called upon* the international community to fulfill the pledges made at the Conference on Palestine hosted by Egypt and Norway in Cairo on 12 October 2014 for reconstruction, humanitarian aid and development in Gaza. They also *called for* serious efforts to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to allow for the entry of all necessary construction materials for the repair of the thousands of destroyed and damaged Palestinian homes, properties and infrastructure and UN facilities, including UNRWA schools. They also *stressed* the necessity of sustained commercial flows, including both imports and exports, to promote the recovery of livelihoods, businesses, and industry in Gaza and its economic viability and to alleviate the staggering levels of unemployment and poverty that continue rise due to the blockade and destruction. They *stressed* that the crisis situation in the Gaza Strip must be comprehensively addressed, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant UN resolutions, in the overall context of the belligerent Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory since 1967, including East Jerusalem, with a view to addressing the root causes, bringing the occupation to a complete end, and achieving a just and lasting peace.

350. The Ministers *reiterated* their categorical condemnation of Israel's continuing illegal campaign of settler colonization in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They also *condemned* the violence, terror, provocations and incitement by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, orchards, mosques and churches. They *deplored* all illegal Israeli actions associated with this destructive colonization campaign, particularly ongoing land confiscations; the construction and expansion of illegal settlements, settlement "outposts" and settlement infrastructure; the transfer of more Israeli settlers; the construction of the Wall; home demolitions; residency revocations; forced displacement of civilians; excavations; and the imposition of arbitrary and racist residency and movement restrictions via a permit regime and hundreds of checkpoints throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem.

351. The Ministers *reiterated* that such policies and measures by Israel, the occupying Power, constitute grave breaches of international law and flagrant defiance of UN resolutions and the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, and in this regard *recalled* the responsibilities of States not to support, facilitate or cooperate, directly or indirectly, with such unlawful policies and to undertake practical measures to bring them to a halt. They *urged* the undertaking of serious efforts, collectively and individually, to ensure respect of the legal obligations defined in the ICJ Advisory Opinion, including by the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention.

352. The Ministers *stressed* the incompatibility of peace negotiations with Israeli colonization activities, and *demanded* an immediate cessation and reversal of all such illegal activities. They *expressed deep concern about* the extensive physical, economic and social devastation being caused by the Israeli settlements, Wall and network of checkpoints, which are severing the Palestinian Territory into separate areas, including several walled cantons; isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the Territory; forcibly displacing thousands of Palestinians from their homes, including many Bedouin families, particularly in the Jordan Valley; and completely destroying some communities. They *stressed* that such actions gravely undermine the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardize the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the 1967 borders. They *recalled* in this regard the “*United Nations Register of Damage caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*”, and *called* for the speedy fulfillment of its mandate in order to redress the losses and suffering being endured by the Palestinian people as a result of the Wall.

353. The Ministers *reaffirmed* all relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli settlement activities, including those relating to Jerusalem and confirming that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; *demanded* their full implementation; and *considered* that all Israeli measures aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic character and status of Jerusalem and of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a whole are null and void and have no legal validity whatsoever. They also *recalled* Israel’s obligations under the Quartet Roadmap to freeze all settlement activities, including so-called “natural growth”. They *reaffirmed* that these unlawful measures will not be recognized by the international community and cannot alter the terms of reference of a peaceful solution nor negate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;

354. The Ministers *expressed alarm* about continued provocations and incitement by Israeli extremists and officials in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Aqsa Mosque, which have aggravated tensions and religious sensitivities and resentment and risk the outbreak of a religious conflict. They called for the cessation of all provocations and aggressions in this regard and for respect for the sanctity of holy sites, rejecting any attempts to alter the status quo. They also *expressed* support for Jordan in preserving and administrating the Islamic and Christian Holy sites in Jerusalem, including Al-Haram al-Sharif and the Hashemite historic Custodianship of the sites as exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn al-Husain. They also *recalled* the International Conference on Jerusalem held in Doha in February 2012 and welcomed the establishment of the “Jerusalem Support Fund” by the State of Qatar, and expressed support for the “Palestinian Strategic Plan for the Development of the Vital Sectors in Jerusalem”. They *further stressed* the need to approach the appropriate United Nations bodies to establish an international commission to investigate all the measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the City aimed at altering and erasing its Islamic and Arab features and status.

355. The Ministers *commended* the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI as Chair of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and welcomed in this regard the conclusions and the final communiqué of the 20th session of Al-Quds Committee, held in Marrakech, Morocco on 17-18 January 2014. They *recalled* the outcome of the first meeting of the OIC Ministerial Contact Group on defending the cause of Palestine and protecting

the City of Al-Quds held in Rabat, Morocco, on 12 November 2014, Chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco, with the participation of Azerbaijan, Egypt, Guinea, Jordan, Malaysia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the OIC Secretary General. They *expressed* their support to the approved set of practical measures to support the State of Palestine, strengthen the resilience of the people of Jerusalem in their city.

356. The Ministers *commended* the efforts exerted by the OIC Ministerial Contact Group in Charge of Defending the Cause of Al-Quds Al Shareef and Palestine, mainly the recommendations contained in the *communiqué*, adopted by the Second Meeting held, under the chairmanship of the Kingdom of Morocco, in New York on 26 September 2015, on the margin of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

357. The Ministers *concluded* that illegal Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, remain the major obstacle to peace, impairing all efforts to advance negotiations and achieve peace based on the two-State solution in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map. They *reiterated* the calls for a full cessation of all such illegal activities, which entrench Israel's nearly half-century military occupation in contradiction to legal obligations and the consensus global calls for an end to the occupation. They *cautioned* that only a small chance remains to salvage the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, which, if thwarted, would require the consideration of alternative solutions to end this prolonged conflict and injustice and realize the inalienable rights and freedom of the Palestinian people. If faced with continued Israeli defiance, they *called for* urgent action and practical measures by the international community, collectively as well as individually, to compel the occupying Power to cease completely its settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide forthwith by all of its obligations under international law.

358. The Ministers *welcomed*, in this regard, the adoption of resolution 2334 on 23 December 2016 by the Security Council, and *welcomed* the leading role played by the members of NAM Caucus in that body in line with its Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security. They *recalled* that resolution 2334 (2016), *inter alia*, reaffirmed the illegality of Israeli settlement activities; reiterated the demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; underlined that the Council will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations; called upon all States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied in 1967; called for an end to all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction; and urged the intensification of international and regional efforts and support aimed at achieving without delay a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions, Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, Arab Peace Initiative and Quartet Roadmap and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967.

359. The Ministers *condemned* the occupying Power's contempt of the Security Council and *called for* immediate measures to implement resolution 2334 (2016) and all other relevant resolutions regarding the Palestine question and to hold Israel accountable for its violations and grave breaches. They *stressed* the importance of the reports by the Secretary-General pursuant to the resolution for monitoring implementation, and *called for* serious follow-up by the Security Council to ensure respect of its resolutions and accountability. In this regard, *reiterated* that it is fundamentally unacceptable to delegate the fulfillment of the mandate of the Security Council to a state that has consistently adopted policies and practices that are inherently incompatible with the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter and acts in blatant contempt to Security Council resolutions.

360. The Ministers *also expressed grave concerns* regarding ongoing violations being

perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in Occupied East Jerusalem, including attempts aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the City of Jerusalem. In this regard, it deplors all breaches of international law and provocations in the City, stressing that such actions have no legal validity and are null and void, as determined by the Security Council of the United Nations. It further reaffirms all Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to Jerusalem and confirming that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

361. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas and emphasized the importance of protecting and strengthening national, democratic Palestinian institutions, including the Palestinian Legislative Council. They reiterated the importance of Palestinian unity for preserving the unity and integrity of the Palestinian Territory and for the realization of the just, legitimate national rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. They *welcomed* the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the “Agreement to End Palestinian Division”, signed in Cairo on October 2017 (S/2017/899). In this connection, they *urged* the achievement of Palestinian reconciliation based on that agreement as well as the 2011 Cairo and 2012 Doha agreements and *commended* the serious efforts undertaken in this regard by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government of the State of Qatar, the League of Arab States and all other concerned regional parties to bring the sides together. They *urged* the implementation of agreements reached in this regard, stressing that unity is vital for achieving the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people. They *called on* the international community to respect and support Palestinian reconciliation and to reject and demand a halt to Israeli punitive measures in this regard and called for support of the Palestinian national consensus government.

362. The Ministers *called for* urgent efforts to further support the development and strengthening of Palestinian national institutions, stressing the importance of this effort in laying strong foundations for the independence of the State of Palestine. In this connection, they strongly *welcomed* the important step taken, including by several Members of the Movement, in extending official recognition to the State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, as well as the recent recognition extended by Sweden and the calls for recognition by numerous European parliaments. They *considered* that such recognition constitutes a significant contribution to sustaining momentum towards the ultimate realization of independence. They *reiterated the hope* that all Members of the Movement would extend recognition to Palestine at this time, remaining at the forefront of support of this historic march of the Palestinian people to realize their inalienable human rights, including to self-determination in their independent and sovereign State, to redress the historic injustice they have endured, and to achieve peace.

363. The Ministers *called for* intensification of efforts by the entire international community, particularly the Security Council, to address the current political and humanitarian crisis, in order to ameliorate the situation on the ground, de-escalate tensions and help advance credible peace solution, based on clear parameters and within a set timeframe, towards the achievement of a solution that guarantees the complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that began in 1967, and the independence of a sovereign, contiguous, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital as well as a just solution for the Palestine refugee problem based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III). They *stressed* that such a solution is essential for the promotion of comprehensive peace and security in the region.

364. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* about the critical situation and heightened vulnerability of Palestine refugees in the recent period, particularly due to the instability and crises throughout the region, which underscores the regional dimension of this problem and the urgent need for a just, comprehensive solution. They *commended* the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing

vital support and emergency assistance to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, particularly in the Gaza Strip and Syria at this time and *urged* increased donor support to the Agency for the implementation of its mandate, in particular in light of the dramatic reduction of funds by the Government of the United States of America. They *rejected* such decisions as punitive measures and called for upholding humanitarian principles and responsibilities. They also *commended* the Agency and *recognized* its decades-long contribution to the human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the promotion of their rights and dignity as well as its contribution to stability in region.

365. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference entitled “Preserving Dignity and Sharing Responsibility – Mobilizing Collective Action for UNRWA” held on 15 March 2018, in Rome, and convened by Foreign Ministers of Jordan, Sweden and Egypt as co-chairs, where the participants *expressed* powerful political support for UNRWA, its mandate and its critical services to the Palestine refugees. In addition, pledges by numerous participants were made as additional funding for UNRWA of approximately US\$ 100 million, of which US\$ 50 million pledged by the State of Qatar, to help addressing the Agency’s unprecedented funding shortfall, and to sustain its vital services.

366. The Ministers *strongly urged* all Member States, regional and international financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations to urgently address the chronic funding shortfalls faced by UNRWA through increasing their contributions to the Agency and supporting UNRWA’s necessary and valuable role in the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees, until a just and lasting solution is found to their plight, in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

367. The Ministers *commended* the many bilateral and multilateral efforts in the political, humanitarian, social, economic and developmental fields, undertaken by the Non-Aligned countries in support of the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their inalienable rights and full independence. They welcomed, inter alia, the initiative of Indonesia in establishing the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) Capacity Building Programs for Palestine, the efforts regarding Palestine by the Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA) as well as the Co-Chairmanship of Japan, Indonesia and Palestine in conducting the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD). They also recognized the efforts of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the contributions of Members of the Movement in this regard. They called for the intensification of all such cooperation and support in line with the principled positions of the Movement. In this context, *recalled* the State of Kuwait’s efforts to convene an international conference on the widespread and systematic violations of the rights of Palestinian children in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine.

368. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the necessity of upholding international law, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter with regard to the question of Palestine under all circumstances and called for the implementation of all relevant UN resolutions. They urged the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution that calls for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine without delay. *They reaffirmed* the permanent responsibility of the UN towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects on the basis of international law and *stressed* the need for all relevant UN organs, committees and specialized agencies to continue exerting efforts to this end in accordance with the relevant resolutions. They *reiterated* the call upon the UN not to reward illegal actions and intransigence and to increase its efforts towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They *called for* coordinated, collective efforts at the governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental levels for realizing these objectives in the year 2015.

369. Consistent with, and guided by, the afore-mentioned principled positions, and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed to* undertake the following measures:

369.1. *Continue* holding meetings at the ministerial level of the NAM Committee on Palestine, within the framework of the Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meetings that take place at the outset of UNGA regular sessions and during any other Ministerial Meetings of the Movement, whenever necessary and in accordance with the developments on this issue, to mobilize support for the Palestinian people as well as responsible action at the international and regional levels, including in parliaments, to address such developments and promote peace on the basis of international law and the relevant resolutions in this regard;

369.2. *Maintain* regular contacts and dialogue at the ministerial level between the NAM Ministerial Delegation on Palestine and the members of the UN Security Council, the Quartet and the Arab Ministerial Follow-up Committee, with a view to coordinating and enhancing the role played by NAM in the international efforts seeking a solution to the question of Palestine and lasting peace in the region;

369.3. Enhance contacts and coordination with civil society to mobilize international awareness and public opinion on this issue towards making a substantial contribution to attaining a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

370. The Ministers *rejected and strongly denounced* the 6 December 2017 unilateral decision by the Government of the United States of America to recognize the City of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to transfer the American Embassy to Israel to the City and called for the US Government to reverse and rescind its decision. They cautioned that this provocative decision will further heighten tensions, with potentially far-reaching repercussions. They categorically *rejected* these and any other related actions recognizing Israel's illegal measures and claims in the City aimed at consolidating Israel's unlawful control and *de facto* annexation of the City, in grave breach of international law and direct contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 2334 (2016), and affirmed that such actions have no legal effect and are null and void. They *strongly welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly resolution ES-10/19 on 21 December 2017 by an overwhelming majority, reaffirming the relevant resolutions; reiterating the call upon all States to refrain from establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, pursuant to resolution 478 (1980) of the Security Council; and stressed that Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in line with relevant UN resolutions.

371. The Ministers *appreciated* the efforts made by the State of Kuwait in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of February 2018 to hold a special session on Palestine, as well as to contribute to the holding of the informal consultations under the "Arria Formula" on the prospects for a two-state solution for peace, as well as their efforts to hold an emergency session of the Council over the bloody events which resulted in the killing and injuring of hundreds of Palestinian civilians participating in a non-violent march in the Gaza strip to commemorate Land Day, at the hands of Israeli occupation soldiers on 30 March 2018.

372. The Ministers *welcomed* the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, in his capacity as President of the Committee Al-Quds, and noted with appreciation the letters sent to His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 25 July 2017, condemning the Israeli violations in Al Haram Al Sharif, as well as his letter dated 07 December 2017, following the decision made by the American Administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in flagrant violation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

373. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening and the Final Communiqué of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul on 13 December 2017, including the participation of His Excellency Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in his capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the conclusions of the Arab Ministerial Meeting held in Cairo on 09 December 2017 rejecting the unilateral decision of the President of the United States of America to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the occupying

power. They *considered* this decision as null and void, and to be without any legal effect; and they affirmed the need for the protection and preservation of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the City, in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. They *urged* serious follow-up of the commitments made in this regard.

374. The Ministers *strongly urged* all Member States to support Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the executive arm of the Al Quds Committee chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, in order to help the steadfastness of the inhabitants of Al-Quds.

### **Occupied Syrian Golan**

375. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. They further *reaffirmed* that all such measures and actions, including the illegality of Israeli settlement construction and expansion activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967, constitute a flagrant violation of international law, international conventions, the Charter and decisions of the UN, particularly Security Council Resolution 497 (1981), the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, and the defiance of the will of the international community. They *reiterated* the Movement's demand that Israel comply with Security Council Resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and that Israel should adhere to the Madrid terms of reference based on the principle of land for peace and international legitimacy, which are in their entirety considered to be a primary and basic element in the negotiation process that should be adhered to, including the immediate commencement of the demarcation of the 4 June 1967 line.

376. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's unwavering support and solidarity with the Syrian just demand and rights to restore the full Syrian sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan on the basis of the terms of reference of the Arab Peace Initiative, the Madrid Peace Process, as well as the principle of land for peace and in accordance with relevant Security Council Resolutions. They again *demand* that Israel respect all its commitments and pledges.

377. The Ministers *reiterated* their demand for Israel to comply immediately and unconditionally with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, dated 12 August 1949, and to apply them to the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan. They *strongly condemned* the Israeli brutal practices in Israeli occupation prisons, and *expressed their grave concern* at the inhuman conditions of the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan, which have led to the deterioration of their physical health and put their lives at risk, in a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

378. The Ministers *called upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to reopen the Quneitra entry point, to facilitate the visits of the Syrian citizens under Israeli occupation to their motherland, Syria;

### **Lebanon, the Remaining Occupied Lebanese Lands, and the Consequences of the Israeli Aggression against Lebanon**

379. The Ministers, recalling their previous statements on Lebanon, *welcomed* the election of General Michel Aoun as President of the Republic in October 2016, the formation of the "national interest" government, the commitment to hold the parliamentary elections in May 2018 and the strengthening of State's institutions. They also *welcomed* the steady efforts of the Government in working in close cooperation with the international community, including the International Support Group for Lebanon, in order to respond effectively to the immediate

domestic and regional political, security, humanitarian and development challenges facing the country. They *expressed their support* for the continued institutional efforts and valued national dialogue sessions, as well as other bilateral dialogue initiatives to continue the consolidation of national solidarity, to reinforce the authority of the State over all its territories, in a manner that guarantees its sovereignty and security, and commended the previous decisions of the National Dialogue sessions held in the Parliament and in the Presidential Palace in Baabda.

380. The Ministers *commended* the resilience of the State's institutions and the generosity of the Lebanese people in hosting a large number of Syrian nationals displaced into the Lebanese territory since 2011, in addition to half a Million Palestinian refugees, which makes Lebanon today the country with the highest ratio of displaced and refugees, both per capita and per square kilometer in the world. They strongly condemned all terrorist attacks in Lebanon, hailed the efforts of the Lebanese Armed Forces in fighting terrorist groups, namely Da'esh and Al-Nusrah Front mainly in the latest battle "Fajr al Jouroud", and paid tribute to all the martyr soldiers preserving the safety of the Lebanese people. The Ministers further welcomed the strong international commitment to support the Lebanese Armed Forces through its Capabilities Development Plan and also commended the ongoing support to Lebanon by all friendly countries including NAM countries and the Arab and Islamic countries.

381. The Ministers *expressed* solidarity with and support for the Government and people of Lebanon, hailed their heroic resistance to the Israeli aggression, and emphasized the primordial importance of Lebanon's national unity and stability. They *expressed* strong condemnation of the continued serious violations by Israel of the Lebanese territorial integrity and sovereignty. They *expressed* their support for the position the Government of Lebanon, which calls on the international community for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006) and to put an end to the ongoing Israeli violations to this resolution and to the continuous threats, acts of espionage and electronic warfare it is launching against Lebanon; and which reiterates Lebanon's demand based on this resolution, for a permanent cease-fire and to adhere to the Truce Agreement, as provided for in the Taef agreement; and which also demands Israel to compensate Lebanon for the damage it has inflicted as a result of its obsessive aggression upon it. In this regard, they charged Israel with full responsibility for the consequences of its aggression against Lebanon in 2006 and demanded Israel to fully implement the relevant General Assembly Resolutions on the "Oil slick on Lebanese shores", the last one of which being Resolution 72/209 adopted on 20/12/2017.

382. The Ministers *emphasized* the necessity to have Israel withdraw from all Lebanese territories including Shebaa Farms, Kfarshouba Hills and the Lebanese part of Al Ghajar village up until behind the Blue line, in accordance with relevant international resolutions and in particular Security Council resolution 1701; expressed their support for the right of Lebanon and its people, to liberate or return the Shebaa Farms and Kfarshouba Hills and the Lebanese village of Al Ghajar, to resist any aggression and to defend Lebanon by all legitimate and available means; and further emphasized Lebanon's commitment to Security Council Resolution 1701.

383. The Ministers *reiterated* the right of Lebanon to its oil and water and gas resources, especially those located within its exclusive economic zone, which South- West boundaries were delineated according to the maps that were deposited by the government of Lebanon to the Secretariat of the United Nations on 9/7/2010 and 12/10/2010.

384. The Ministers, emphasizing the principles of International Humanitarian Law, *condemned* the targeting of civilians wherever it may occur.

385. The Ministers were strongly *convinced* that there should be no impunity for the Israeli violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights, and that Israel should be held accountable for its apparent commission of large scale crimes committed against Lebanon and its population. They also *emphasized* the necessity to have Israel provide the United Nations with the full, correct information and maps related to the sites

of unexploded munitions, including cluster bombs fired indiscriminately on populated civilian areas during its aggression against Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

386. The Ministers, pursuant to the failure of other means, *emphasized* the necessity of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict based on relevant UN Resolutions leading to the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as called for by the Arab Peace Initiative of Beirut in 2002.

387. The Ministers *supported* the government of Lebanon position, abiding by its constitution, to reject any form of permanent settlement or local integration and to reaffirm its attachment to the right of return of the Palestine refugees to their homeland, and valued the clear and firm position of the people of Palestine and their leadership rejecting the settlement of those refugees in the Arab host countries, in view of their particular situation, especially in Lebanon, in conformity with article 4 of the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant United Nations resolutions. They commended the work of UNRWA and expressed their appreciation to the progress in the rebuilding of the Nahr El Bared Camp and, in this regard, called on the donor countries to increase their assistance and to honor their previous commitments.

388. The Ministers *commended* the unique pluralistic Lebanese model based on the parity between Muslims and Christians and called for its preservation, and in this regard *welcomed* the initiative of the President of the Republic to make Lebanon a permanent center for dialogue between cultures, religions and ethnicities.

389. The Ministers commended Lebanon's generosity facing the mass influx of Syrian nationals displaced into its territory, and reiterated the importance to demonstrate international solidarity towards Lebanon in sharing this burden and to continue providing direct support to the Lebanese Government institutions in this regard, and expressed the need for the international community to intensify efforts to provide appropriate assistance to those displaced during their temporary stay and to their host communities. They emphasized the importance of reaching a political solution to the crisis in Syria, and in light of the Lebanese position that rejects any form of permanent settlement or local integration in Lebanon, they called for increased international efforts in order to mitigate the impact of the humanitarian crisis in expediting the only durable solution for those temporarily displaced into Lebanon, which is their safe and dignified return to their homeland and livelihoods.

390. The Ministers *supported* the efforts of the Lebanese Government to save Lebanon from all threats to its security and stability, and *expressed* their understanding of the policy of dissociation the Government pursues vis-à-vis the developments in the Arab region.

391. The Ministers *commended* Lebanon's generosity in hosting refugees from Syria, *reiterated* the importance to continue supporting Lebanese government institutions in this regard, and *expressed* the need for the international community to intensify efforts to provide appropriate assistance to those refugees during their temporary stay and to their host communities. They *emphasized* the importance of reaching a political solution to the crisis in Syria, which will expedite the safe and dignified return of those refugees to their homeland and livelihoods.

### **Africa**

392. The Ministers acknowledged the adoptions of the Agenda 2063 by the 24th ordinary session of the Ministers of the Assembly of the African Union held from 30 to 31 January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and expressed their support for effective implementation of this initiative in order to promote peace, stability and socio-economic development in Africa.

393. The Ministers *welcomed* the successful third Arab-African Summit held in Kuwait on 19 November 2013 under the title "Partners in Development and Investment. They welcomed as well all initiatives to strengthen the historic relations, solidarity and cooperation between the

two regions.

### **Chagos Archipelago**

394. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was unlawfully excised by the former colonial power from the territory of Mauritius in violation of international law and UN Resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

395. The Ministers *noted* with grave concern that despite the strong opposition expressed by the Republic of Mauritius, the United Kingdom purported to establish a “marine protected area” (“MPA”) around the Chagos Archipelago, further infringing the territorial integrity of the Republic of Mauritius and impeding the exercise of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago as well as the exercise of the right of return of Mauritian citizens who were forcibly removed from the Archipelago by the United Kingdom. In this regard, they *welcomed* the ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal in the case brought by the Republic of Mauritius against the United Kingdom under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that the “MPA” was unlawfully established under international law.

396. Cognizant that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius is committed to taking all appropriate measures to affirm the territorial integrity of the Republic of Mauritius and its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago under international law, the Ministers *resolved* to fully support such measures including any action that may be taken in this regard at the United Nations General Assembly.

397. The Ministers *further took note* of the adoption by the UN General Assembly on 22 June 2017 of resolution 71/292 requesting an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 and of the subsequent Order of 14 July 2017 of the ICJ inviting the United Nations and its Member States, which are likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion, to make written submissions to the ICJ.

398. The Ministers *encouraged* Member States of the Movement to contribute to the ICJ advisory proceedings by making submissions in support of the decolonization of Mauritius and by participating in the oral hearings which will take place in 2018.

399. The Ministers also *took note* of the concern expressed by the Republic of Maldives regarding the legal and technical issues arising from the United Kingdom’s illegal decision in 2010 to declare a “MPA” in the Chagos Archipelago which overlaps the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Maldives as declared in its Constitution without prejudice to future resolution of maritime delimitations.

### **Libya**

400. The Ministers *welcomed* the signing on 17 December 2015 of the Libyan Political Agreement of Sokherat, Morocco and *urged* UNSMIL, the neighboring countries, the League of Arab States and the African Union to assist the Libyan Parties in the full implementation of the Agreement. They *affirmed* their support to the Authorities emanating from the Agreement as the legitimate Authorities of Libya, and *encouraged* them to work in a consensual way to end the division, ensure security and stability of the country and provide the Libyan People with the necessary services.

401. The Ministers *reiterated* their commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Libya and called on all states to refrain from interfering into the internal affairs of Libya, including by supplying arms to armed groups in violation of Security Council resolutions, using mass media to incite to violence and attempts to undermine the political process.

402. The Ministers *commended* the efforts exerted by the Libyan side to combat terrorism in Benghazi, Sirte and other parts of Libya, and *called on* the Parliament and Presidential Council to meet their commitments in accordance with the Libyan political agreement, in order to achieve security and stability in Libya and to its people.

403. The Ministers *welcomed* the appointment of the new Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salamé, and *welcomed* and *supported* the United Nations Plan of Action presented by Mr. Salamé on 20 September 2017 to establish stable, unified, representative and effective governance. They *urged* the neighboring countries of Libya, the Arab League and the African Union to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations to end the political crisis in Libya.

404. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over Libya's political stalemate, which does not serve to reunite the State's institutions nor does it improve security or economic conditions or alleviate the suffering of the Libyan people. They *affirmed* that there is no military solution to the Libyan crisis and that the Libyan political agreement signed on 17 December 2015 in the city of Skhirat remains the only appropriate framework to end the political crisis, and the way to hold general elections to lay a foundation for a stage of stability and construction in Libya.

405. The Ministers *urged* the House of Representatives, the Presidency Council and the Supreme Council of the State to resume the national dialogue under the auspices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ghassan Salamé. They also *urged* them to show flexibility to reach a consensus to introduce the necessary amendments to the Political Agreement leading to the formation of a Presidency Council and one Government, as well as to prepare for the general elections. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the announcement made by all Libyan parties of their acceptance and support for the holding of elections as soon as possible.

406. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment of a voter registration campaign by the Electoral Commission of Libya and *expressed their satisfaction* with the widespread popular demand for registration.

407. The Ministers *welcomed* the efforts of the Government of National Accord to address political and economic bottlenecks, and *urged* all countries to refrain from dealing with parallel bodies, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council in this regard.

### **Tunisia**

408. The Ministers *commended* the peaceful and consensual transition, and *underscored* the exemplary nature of the Tunisian experience, *appealed* to the international community to continue to provide Tunisia with economic and financial support necessary for the consolidation of democracy.

### **Somalia**

409. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

410. The Ministers *welcomed* and *expressed* confidence on the positive political and security developments, and progress made in the Somali Constitutional process, including the appointment of the President and Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia in 2012.

411. The Ministers *commended* the Somali Government's effort at reaching out to those outside the Djibouti peace process and re-establishing security and rule of law in Somalia. They *reiterated their call for* the peaceful resolution of the Somali conflict as the only way to a durable peace and genuine reconciliation; *called upon* all parties that had not yet joined the

political process to do so; and *urged* the Somali stakeholders to take expeditious action and show progress in the accomplishment of the remaining tasks of the transitional period including the drafting and approval of the Constitution as well as expanding the authority of the state, promoting the reconciliation process and improving the livelihood of the population by providing essential services.

412. In recognition of the fact that the development of Somalia can best be undertaken by the people of Somalia, it is important that, with the support of the United Nations, the international community, the sub-region and neighboring countries, refugees be assisted to return to their country and that assistance similarly be provided to internally displaced persons and others in need of humanitarian assistance in order to effectively contribute to peace and development in Somalia and to resume their livelihoods. Likewise, neighboring countries that continue to shoulder the responsibility of hosting refugees should continue to be assisted to ease the burden of the humanitarian crisis.

413. The Ministers *condemned* most vehemently the barbaric acts and human rights abuse by Al-Shabaab on the civilian population, including extra-judicial executions, torture, stoning, decapitation, amputation and floggings, as well as preventing humanitarian aid to reach areas under their control, and hold the leaders of the terrorist group responsible for all the criminal acts committed by their militia.

414. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of re-establishing, training and retention of Somali security forces and welcomed the Secretary General's proposal for a partnership between the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations, AMISOM and other international partners to develop a program of assistance to rebuild Somali Security Forces.

415. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the development of the Somali security forces and institutions to ensure Somalia's long-term security and stability and call upon the international community in coordination with the UN and AMISOM to provide increased support to the Somali Government security and justice sectors.

416. The Ministers *commended* the contribution of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, and *expressed* their appreciation for the continued commitment of troops by Troop and Police Contributing Countries to AMISOM, and *called upon* the members and the international community to provide resources for it to better fulfill its mandate.

417. The Ministers *paid tribute* to the AU Partners and member states for having provided financial and logistical support to AMISOM.

418. The Ministers also *welcomed* the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2036 (2012), adopted by the UN Security Council on 22 February 2012, authorizing an increase in AMISOM's force strength from 12,000 to 17,731 uniformed personnel and also enhancing the UN support package to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), to include the reimbursement of contingent owned equipment including force enablers and multipliers and also imposing an international trade ban on charcoal from Somalia. The Ministers *reiterated* support for AU's call to the Security Council to provide urgently needed logistical support to AMISOM and fully assume its responsibilities towards Somalia and its people, including the imposition of a naval blockade and no-fly zone to prevent the entry into Somalia of foreign fighters and the delivery of ammunitions and equipment to the armed groups opposed to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and to support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia. The Ministers *renewed* their call to the international community as a whole to continue providing the necessary political, financial and technical support to AMISOM, and to the Federal Institutions.

419. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia on 23 February 2012 and *noted* that the steps agreed to at the Conference would go a long way in

furthering peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

420. The Ministers *stressed* the need to maintain the current international momentum in support of the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia including efforts to addressing the country's long-term reconstruction, economic, and social development. They *found equally vital* the need to swiftly establish effective administration to stabilize the areas secured by AMISOM and the Somali Security forces. In this respect, they *welcomed* the outcome of Istanbul Conference on Somalia, which took place from 31 May to 1 June 2012.

421. The Ministers *welcomed* the progress made in the implementation of the Kampala accord, the Political Road Map of September 2011, and the subsequent consultative meetings.

422. The Ministers *expressed* their concern at the continuing acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and Gulf of Aden and *condemned* those acts, which hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia and pose a threat to commercial maritime and international navigation in the region. In this context, they *commended* the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community to fight piracy, while reiterating the need to address the root causes of piracy on the mainland, including the illegal dumping of toxic waste and illegal fishing of the territorial waters of Somalia.

423. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2184 (2014) and *stressed* that this resolution should be implemented in a manner fully consistent with International Law, including the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea. They also *welcomed* the serious efforts by NAM countries and others that have deployed their naval vessels in the territorial waters of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, to assist in countering acts of piracy and armed robbery and further emphasized that peace and stability within Somalia, the strengthening of state institutions, economic and social development, and respect for human right and the rule of law are necessary to create the conditions for a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at the sea off the coast of Somalia, and further emphasizing that Somalia's long term security rests with the effective development by Somalia authorities of the Somalia national security forces, the Ministers emphasized the need to focus attention on the illicit financial flows associated with piracy, with a view to disrupting the financing and planning of piracy attacks.

424. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to focus attention on the illicit financial flows associated with piracy, with a view to disrupting the financing and planning of piracy attacks.

425. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the outcomes of the High-Level Public- Private Counter-Piracy Conference convened under the title "Global Challenge, Regional Responses: Forging a Common Approach to Maritime Piracy" held on 18-19 April 2011, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates with the aim to bringing together concerned parties from governments, private sector, and NGOs in partnership to combating maritime piracy. The Ministers also *welcomed* the outcomes of the pledging conference, co- chaired by the United Nations and the United Arab Emirates, held on 19 April 2011, in support of the "Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia", established by the UN Secretary-General. The Ministers *commended* the United Arab Emirates for convening the said conference for the second year consecutively.

426. The Ministers *welcomed* major progress that has been made within Somalia on security, justice and public financial management since the Somalia Conference in London in May 2013, which nearly US\$ 350 million of new financial support was pledged at the Conference. The Ministers also *noted* the EU-Somalia Conference in Brussels on 16 September 2013 as an important opportunity to sustain the positive momentum in Somalia, and to ensure that the country stays on the path to stability, peace and prosperity.

427. The Conference commended highly the State of Kuwait in hosting a donors' conference to support the education sector of the Federal Republic of Somalia. It affirmed the importance of

supporting and upgrading this sector aimed at guaranteeing security and promoting development and re-construction in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

428. The Ministers *called upon* all actors in Somalia to consolidate the achievements made so far and coordinate their actions to implement Federal Government's strategy and policy for Stabilization & Reconciliation Plan of newly accessed area in line with IGAD's Grand Stabilization Strategy for Southern and Central Somalia as endorsed at the 20th Extra-Ordinary Summit of IGAD's Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa on 27 January 2012.

429. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the attack on African Union Mission peace-keeping troops in Somalia on 2 April 2018 by Al-Shabab terrorists that resulted in the death of 8 troops of Ugandan contingent in AMISOM. The Ministers *extended* their condolences to the Government and people of Uganda. The Ministers welcomed and endorsed the communique of the summit of troop contributing countries to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), that specifically called for the review of UN Security Council resolution 2372 (2017) that called for phased reduction and draw down of AMISOM troops by 2020. The Ministers *supported* and *endorsed* the correctness of the communique of the summit of troop contributing countries to AMISOM. In this regard, the Ministers *encouraged* the NAM members of UNSC to propose a review of UNSC resolution 2372 (2017), with a view to upscaling financial support to AMISOM. The Ministers *expressed* a strong view that the recent attacks vindicate the correctness of the TCC summit that called for the review of UNSC 2372 (2017). The Ministers *called for* adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of AMISOM through UN assessed contribution to facilitate AMISOM effectively implement its mandate.

430. The Ministers *commended* the initiative of the State of Kuwait to host the donors conference to support the education sector in Somalia.

### **The Sudan**

431. The Ministers *reiterated* their commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan.

432. The Ministers *commended* the African Union (AU), the IGAD and the Friends of IGAD for their indispensable role and efforts, which had culminated in the achievement of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 in the Sudan, hence ending one of the longest running wars in the African continent and thereby contributing to regional peace, and *called on* donors to fulfill their commitments made in Oslo in 2005 and 2008 to help implement that agreement. They *welcomed* the signing on 5 May 2006 of the Darfur Peace Agreement in Abuja, Nigeria as a historic step towards lasting peace in Darfur, and further commended the AU for its leading role and efforts in sustaining peace and stability in the Darfur region. They *encouraged* the political process as a priority and *emphasized* the need to focus on developmental assistance in Darfur as peace and development are mutually reinforced. They *expressed* the Movement's resolve, therefore, to support the Sudan as well as the AU and IGAD in their efforts to sustain and reinforce peace in that country, and *called on* the international community to do likewise.

433. The Ministers *noted* with satisfaction the sustained efforts being made by the Government of the Sudan, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations and the State of Qatar to reactivate the political process leading to a lasting peace in Darfur, and *expressed* their support for the Doha peace process on Darfur. They *expressed* their conviction that no action should be taken that could jeopardize the delicate nature of the process underway in the Sudan. In that context, the Ministers *welcomed* the work of the African Union Ministerial Committee on the ICC and *took note* of the decision of the African Union Head of States Summit in January 2018 to refer the question of immunities of Heads of States to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion, therefore request NAM for support when the issue comes to the appropriate forum and *expressed* deep concern over the recent move by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the Honourable President of

the Sudan, and *considered* that this action could seriously undermine the ongoing efforts aimed at facilitating the early resolution of the conflict in Darfur and the promotion of long-lasting peace and reconciliation in the Sudan, and that it could lead to greater destabilization with far-reaching consequences for the country and the region. Therefore, they *decided* to support steps in the United Nations and elsewhere aimed at defusing this new and dangerous situation and preventing its recurrence.

434. The Ministers *commended* the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for respecting its commitments towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

435. The Ministers *welcomed* the successful holding of the election in April 2010 and of the referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan on 9 January 2011. They *commended* the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as the Sudanese people for this achievement, and *called upon* the leaders to continue to demonstrate the same leadership and commitment in resolving the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA.

436. The Ministers *appreciated* the Government of the Republic of the Sudan's approval of a new strategy for Darfur. They *welcomed* the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur between the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement on 14 July 2011 under the auspices of the Government of Qatar, and considered the document a solid foundation for an all-inclusive peaceful and just settlements leading to peace and security in Darfur. In this regard, they *commended* the steps taken in the implementation of this agreement including the establishment of Darfur Regional Authority and commencement of its functions, and called on member states to follow up the implementation of the outcome of the international donor's conference for re-construction and restoration of peace in Darfur. In this regard, they *called for* active participation in programs to support and promote peace in Darfur, in light of the significant improvement and transformation of the situation, as indicated in Security Council resolution 2363 of 29 June 2017. They *urged* the other rebel factions to join the peace process without prior conditions or delay so that a comprehensive solution to the conflict in Darfur can be concluded.

437. The Ministers *welcomed* the lifting of the US sanctions on Sudan and *affirmed* that this commendable step should be complemented by lifting Sudan from the unilateral US list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

438. The Ministers *commended* the initiatives and steps taken by the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to resolve their differences through peaceful means; called for all pending issues between the two countries to continue to be resolved in line with agreements signed under the auspices of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel, for priority to be given to resolving security issues and to agreement on border delineation in accordance with the January 1956 border.

439. The Ministers *affirmed* their support for the efforts to achieve peace, stability and development. In this regard, they *called upon* all States that have debts owed by the Sudan to relieve the debts of Sudan in order to enable the country to meet the challenges and requirements of development, construction and stability.

440. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcome of the National Dialogue that led to the formation of the National Reconciliation Government and the involvement of all political parties. The Ministers *urged* all concerned parties to join this dialogue.

441. The Ministers *appreciated* the role played by the Government of Sudan in hosting millions of refugees from neighboring and other countries and urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility and render support to the Government of Sudan through assistance to refugees and hosting communities who share their meagre resources with them.

### **Central African Republic**

442. The Ministers *noted* that since March 2016, democratic institutions have been set up by the transitional authorities through credible universal votes at national and international level after which a legitimate President of the Republic and a National Assembly have been established with the support of the international community, in particular the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations Organization.

443. The Ministers *called on* Members of the Movement and the entire international community to provide continued support to the national and legitimate authorities of Central African Republic and *welcomed* the establishment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in order to lead to the sustainable peace in the entire country and the protection of civilians. They *underlined* the importance of preserving the unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic.

### **The Great Lakes Region**

444. The Ministers *welcomed* the positive developments in the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) following the end of the M23 rebellion and the signing in Nairobi on 12 December, 2013, endorsed by a joint Communiqué signed by the outgoing Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the incumbent Chair of Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC). The Ministers further *welcomed* the role played by Uganda in particular H.E Yoweri Museveni, outgoing ICGLR Chair in his capacity as Mediator, for his peace efforts and the outcome of the Kampala Dialogue between Democratic Republic of Congo and M23 to ensure Peace, Stability and Development in eastern DRC.

445. The *Head of State or Government* welcomed the decisions of the extraordinary Summits of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the recent Joint Summits of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) which took place in Luanda, Angola in June 2016, and *expressed* appreciation to the Republic of Angola for initiative of convening and chairing the Security Council open debate on the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the Great Lakes Region in March 2016 and the launching of the Regional Strategic Framework.

446. The Ministers *commended* the Government of Angola for its Chairmanship of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and its constructive and leadership role in various initiatives for the promotion of peace and security in the region. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the VI Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to be held in June this year in Luanda, Angola;

447. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment of the ICGLR Regional Training Facility on 18th February, 2014 in Kampala to fight against Sexual Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region.

448. The Ministers *welcomed* the efforts of the region to address recurrent crisis and underlines the need to eradicate armed groups, including, among others, Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) that continue to destabilize the region. In this regard, the Ministers *expressed* deep concern about the refusal of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) to disarm and demobilize voluntarily by 2 January 2015 as decided by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Recalling the *communiqué* of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 23 February 2015; the decisions of the ICGLR Heads of State of 14 August 2014, as well as the decisions of SADC Heads of States of 17-18 August

2014, the Ministers *reiterated* the need and urgency of the effective neutralization of all the negative forces, in accordance the AU decisions, ICGLR and SADC and *underlined* that the swift neutralization of the FDLR, a group that committed genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, is a top priority in bringing stability to and protection of the DRC and the Great Lakes Region;

449. The Ministers *welcomed* the role played by the Republic of Uganda in particular H.E Yoweri Museveni, former ICGLR Chair in his capacity as Mediator, for his peace efforts and the outcome of the Kampala Dialogue between Democratic Republic of Congo and M23 to ensure Peace, Stability and Development in eastern DRC. The Ministers *further* called for the acceleration of the implementation process of the Nairobi Declarations, including aspects related to the amnesty and the voluntary repatriation of M23 ex-combatants;

450. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and MONUSCO in the implementation of their mandates.

451. The Ministers *stressed* the need for continuing the efforts in order to reach an agreement between all Congolese parties within the political process, and to implement the previous agreements in this regard, in order to fulfill the aspirations of the DRC people. They *reaffirmed* the necessity of the international community support against the negative forces in the DRC, and the importance of assisting the neighboring countries that host Congolese refugees.

452. The Ministers *welcomed* the decisions of the extra-ordinary Summits of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the recent Joint Summits of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) which took place in Luanda, Angola in March 2014, and Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) to ensure durable peace and stability in the DRC;

453. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment of the ICGLR Regional Training Facility on 18th February, 2014 in Kampala to fight against Sexual Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region;

454. The Ministers *condemned* the terrorist attacks facing the countries of the Great Lakes region, as well as the human rights violations committed by the terrorist groups. They *stressed* the importance of assisting those countries of the region suffering from terrorism in order to avoid any safe havens for terrorists.

### **Zimbabwe**

455. The Ministers *congratulated* the Government and people of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the peaceful transition to a new leadership and political dispensation for the country in November 2017.

456. The Ministers *welcomed* the pledge by the Government of Zimbabwe to hold free, fair and credible elections in 2018, and *urged* regional bodies to support the country's electoral processes.

457. The Ministers *noted* that the sanctions imposed by some countries against Zimbabwe during the previous political dispensation were stifling and slowing down the country's economic growth and recovery, and *called for* the immediate, total and unconditional removal of the measures.

458. Noting that sanctions imposed by some countries against Zimbabwe were stifling and slowing down the country's economic growth and recovery, the Ministers *called for* the immediate, total and unconditional removal of the measures.

**Mali**

459. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali.

460. The Ministers *welcomed* the commitment of the Malian authorities for a peaceful settlement of the crisis, including in accordance with the 2100(2013), 2164(2014), and 2227(2015) 2295(2016), 2364 (2017) and 2374 (2017) resolutions of the Security Council, and encouraged the international community to support the efforts of the Malian government in the resolution of the crisis.

461. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the support by the international community to Malians authorities and urged it to provide broad support to resolve the crisis in Mali through coordinated actions, including inter-regional cooperation, for immediate and long-term needs, encompassing security, governance, development and humanitarian issues.

462. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong attachment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali and expressed their unconditional support for the restoration of the State authority throughout the Malian territory. In this respect, they *welcomed* the constructive role of the H.E Mr. Mohammed Ould Abdelaziz in his capacity as the then Chairperson of the African Union, in the conclusion of the cease fire Accord and in bringing the concerned parties to the negotiations with a view to achieving a lasting political solution. They also *welcomed* the conclusions of the High-level meeting on the Sahel held in Bamako on 18 May 2014.

463. The Ministers *called* to fully respect the May 2014 cease fire and the relevant declarations signed during the Algiers peace process and *stressed* the importance for the implementation of confidence building measures.

464. The Ministers *welcomed* the signing on 15 May 2015 and 20 June 2015 in Bamako of the Algiers peace accord as a good basis for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to the conflict in north Mali.

465. The Ministers *commended* the efforts of the Government of Mali for the enhancement of peace and security as well as for the measures taken to ensure the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and urges all stakeholders to ensure full implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, by ensuring the effective functioning of the monitoring mechanisms envisaged for the application of the said Agreement.

466. Considering that this Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process is a balanced compromise, taking into account the legitimate concerns of all parties, with due respect for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, as well as for the secular nature, the single State and the republican form of the State, the Ministers *underline* that the signing and the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement by all the Malian parties, with the support of the countries of the region and of the international partners, will contribute to the promotion of lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Mali, acceleration of socio-economic development in the northern regions of Mali, as well as in enhancing the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime both in northern Mali and in the Sahel region in general.

467. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the repeated terrorist attacks against civilians, the Malian defense and security forces, representatives of the Malian authorities and the international forces present on the ground, and recalled that the delay in implementing the peace Agreement endangers the peace and security and favored terrorists and organized

criminals in Mali and the Sahel region. The Ministers also *encouraged* the regional cooperation and initiatives, including the G5 Sahel, to combat terrorism.

468. The Ministers *commended* the role conducted by the countries of the G5 Sahel in combating terrorism, and *welcomed* the international efforts supporting this regional group. They accordingly *requested* the international community to provide further support and assistance to the newly born counter-terrorism force.

469. The Ministers *expressed* recognition of the NAM for peacekeepers that had died in Mali in the line of duty and extended their condolences to their families.

470. The Ministers *urged* the technical and financial partners to honor the commitments they made at the international conference for Mali's recovery and development held in Paris in October 2015.

471. The Ministers *called on* the Security Council, in compliance with its resolution 2374 (2017), to consider appropriate measures, including targeted sanctions, against those who conducted actions through proxies, that jeopardize prospects for peace, resume hostilities, violate the ceasefire and oppose to the implementation of the Agreement.

472. The Ministers *reiterated* deep appreciation of the NAM to the Enlarged Mediation Team led by Algeria and composed of the UN, the AU, the OIC, the EU, ECOWAS as well as Burkina Faso, Chad, France, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and the United States for its contribution, as well as other concerned international actors for their support to the Algiers Process for lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Mali.

### **Western Sahara**

473. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the previous positions of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of Western Sahara.

474. The Ministers *reaffirmed* all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on Western Sahara. They also *reaffirmed* UN General Assembly resolution 72/95, adopted without a vote, and reiterated that, in accordance with the said resolution, they continued to support strongly the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution which will provide self-determination for the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions. The Ministers *recognized* that all available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly Resolutions.

475. Bearing in mind the above, the Ministers *welcomed* the four rounds of negotiation and the subsequent rounds of informal talks held under the auspices of the Secretary General, as well as the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754, 1783 and 1813, 1871, 1920 1979, 2044, 2099, and 2152, 2218, 2285 and 2351 and the success of negotiations. They *took note* of efforts and developments since 2006.

476. They *called upon* the parties and the States in the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary General and his Personal Envoy, and with each other, and *reaffirmed* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara. They *further welcomed* the commitment of the parties to continue the process of negotiations through United Nations-sponsored talks.

### **Comorian Island of Mayotte**

477. The Ministers *reiterated* once again the unquestionable sovereignty of the Union of Comoros over the island of Mayotte. In this regard, they *condemned* and considered null and void the referendum of 29 March 2009, as well as the overall process focusing on transforming the Comorian Island of Mayotte as the 101<sup>st</sup> French overseas department, and *declared* that it has no effects on the Union of Comoros and Members States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

478. The Ministers *urged* the Government of France to abolish the so called “Balladur Visa” which is illegal, and seriously constrains access by the people of Comoros to the island of Mayotte, and is a cause of many losses of lives and missing persons.

### **Djibouti/Eritrea**

479. The Ministers, recalling the principles of good neighborliness, non-interference and regional cooperation, *expressed* their concerns on the situation between the two neighboring countries and *called on* both members to solve their differences through bilateral and collective diplomatic and peaceful means and to engage actively in dealing with Security Council resolution 1862 (2009).

480. The Ministers *welcomed* the agreement concerning peaceful settlement of the border dispute between the State of Eritrea and the Republic of Djibouti, in which they entrust the State of Qatar to undertake mediation efforts to reach a resolution to the border dispute between their countries through peaceful means.

### **Gulf of Guinea**

481. The Ministers *expressed* deep concern about acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and *welcomed* UN Security Council resolution 2039 (2012). They *welcomed* the conclusions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) on maritime piracy, armed robbery and other unlawful acts committed at the Sea in the Gulf of Guinea, held on 24 and 25 June 2013 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, namely, the Political Declaration of Heads of State and Government, the Code of Conduct and the Memorandum of Understanding.

482. The Ministers *requested* the support of members of the Non-Aligned movement, the Secretary General of the United Nations and other partners to accelerate the implementation of the decisions taken during the Summit, including the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Center (ICC) in Cameroon.

### **Asia**

#### **Afghanistan**

483. The Ministers *reiterated* their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and *welcomed* the achievements made since 2002 and welcomed the National Unity Government led by President Ashraf Ghani. They *recognized* that the challenges faced by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its people are enormous. Recognizing the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, they *noted* that sustainable progress on security, development, and governance was mutually reinforcing. They *further recognized* that the establishment of peace and security remains essential for the reconstruction, humanitarian relief efforts and sustainable development in that country.

484. The Ministers *welcomed* the conclusion of Afghanistan’s presidential elections and the

inauguration on 29 September 2014 of the new President of Afghanistan marking the first democratic transition of power in the country's history, *welcomed* also establishment of the Government of National Unity, they *emphasized* the importance of all parties in Afghanistan working together in order to achieve a unified, peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan, they *commended* the courage and determination of the Afghan people who participated in the presidential elections in large numbers despite threats and intimidation by the Taliban and other violent extremist and terrorist groups and commend international partners for the effective and critical support provided to Afghan institutions throughout the elections.

485. The Ministers *welcomed* the achievements of the National Unity Government in the political, economic, governance and social reforms and in the management of transition, underling the need to preserve past achievements, and urging further improvements in this regard, in particular to address poverty and the delivery of services, stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, increase domestic revenue and promote human rights, especially women's rights and the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

486. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/10 of 24 November 2017 which pledges continued international support to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild a stable, secure and economically self-sufficient State, free of terrorism and narcotics and strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2405 (2018) of 08 March 2018, which welcomed the continued role of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

487. The Ministers *welcomed* the signing of the Security and Defence Cooperation Agreement between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Bilateral Security Agreement) on 30 September 2014, as well as the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and NATO on 30 September 2014, as ratified by the Parliament of Afghanistan on 27 November 2014. In this regard, the Ministers *noted* that these bilateral agreements provide a sound legal basis for Resolute Support Mission.

488. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of continued international support for the stable, peaceful and democratic Afghanistan and to further enhance the capabilities and capacities of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) through continued support for the training, equipping, financing and developing of the capacity of the ANDSF to enable them to maintain security and stability throughout the country; they also *welcomed* the achievements of the ANDSF in countering terrorist and extremist groups, including ISIL/Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates, which threaten peace and stability in the country.

489. The Ministers *took note of* the recent terrorist attacks on Afghan National Defense and security forces as well as on civilians and strongly condemned the attacks and called on the international community to take strong steps to continue strengthening in support to the Afghan National Defense and security forces.

490. The Ministers *stressed* the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means to promote security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, *appreciated and recognized* in this regard the importance of the contribution of neighboring and regional partners towards this end, as well as regional organizations, *recalled* the importance of the Kabul Declaration on good-neighborly Relations of 22 December 2002, *welcomed* in this regard the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in Afghanistan, *recognized* international and regional initiatives such as those of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including trilateral and quadrilateral processes.

491. The Ministers *welcomed* and *supported*, in this regard, the outcome of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, launched in Istanbul, Turkey on 2 November 2011, and the follow-up Heart of Asia Ministerial Conferences, held in Kabul on 14 June 2012, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 26 April 2013, and in Beijing, China, on 31 October 2014, in Islamabad, Pakistan on 9 December 2015, in Amritsar, India, on 4 December 2016, as well as the 7th HOA Ministerial Meeting, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 1 December 2017, which furthered the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process whereby Afghanistan and its regional partners, with the support of the international community, affirmed their commitment to strengthen regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan, including through enhanced regional dialogue and confidence-building measures. They also *welcomed* the establishment of the quadrilateral coordination group on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad in December 2015 to revive the peace process. They *further welcomed* Azerbaijan's initiative for hosting the 7th Ministerial Conference in 2017.

492. The Ministers *welcomed* the Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 14-15 November 2017, and they also *expressed their appreciation* to the Government of India for hosting the India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show held in New Delhi in September 2017, which generated potential business and investment deals worth over \$250 million towards promoting and highlighting the role that foreign investment, and private sector development and partnerships involving domestic and foreign companies, can play in stabilizing Afghanistan and contributing to its self-reliance.

493. The Ministers *welcomed* and *underscored* the importance of continued efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through various regional development initiatives, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs in Afghanistan. They welcomed ongoing progress for the implementation of these initiatives, including the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), the Chabahar agreement between Afghanistan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route Agreement and the Turkmenistan-Aqina railway segment, as well as various bilateral and other transit trade agreements, including the transport of the first wheat consignment from India to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port and the establishment of the Afghanistan-India direct air freight.

494. The Ministers also *welcomed* increased efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, its neighboring and regional partners and international organizations to foster trust and cooperation with each other, as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations, including the trilateral summits of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan; the trilateral summits of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Turkey; the trilateral summits of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States of America; the trilateral summits of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates; the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Kingdom; the quadrilateral summits of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, and Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan, as well as those of the Tripartite Commission, the European Union (EU), the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

495. The Ministers *commended* the outcome of the International Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, held on the 8th of July, 2012 and its conclusions, the "Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan: From Transition to Transformation (2015–2024)", at which the international community reaffirmed its sustained support for Afghanistan's sustainable growth and development.

496. The Ministers *emphasized* the Kabul Process as a renewed commitment by the

international community to Afghanistan to secure a strong international engagement for increased Afghan ownership and leadership in the areas of security, governance, developments and effective delivery of commitments made in the London, Kabul, and Bonn Conferences, and reaffirmed at the International Conferences on Afghanistan, in Tokyo 2012 and London (2014) and Brussels, to implement the new Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and its National Priority Programs (NPPs). In this regard, they stressed the importance of complete coordination between political and developmental activities of international organizations active in Afghanistan and channeling international aid and resources through the core budget of the Government of Afghanistan and in greater alignment with Afghan priorities.

497. The Ministers *welcomed* the assumption of full responsibility by Afghan Government in all sectors, including, security, development and governance, welcomed the initiation of the Transformation Decade (2015-2024), consistent with the London, Kabul, Bonn Conferences and the Lisbon, Chicago and the Wales Summit; and the recent London Conference, which aimed at reinforcing the assumption of full responsibility by Afghan Government, they *stressed* the critical importance of continued commitments of international community, including peace, stability and sustainable developments throughout Transformation Decade and they also *welcomed* the process by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnerships and other agreements aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

498. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern at the continued high level of violence in Afghanistan, condemning in the strongest terms all violent attacks and recognizing in that regard the continuously alarming threats to Afghanistan posed by the terrorist activities committed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, Al-Qaida, ISIL/Da'esh and its affiliates and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats.

499. The Ministers *expressed* support for the Government for an inclusive, Afghanistan-led, Afghanistan-owned and Afghanistan-controlled comprehensive process of peace and reconciliation, as recommended by the national Consultative Peace Jirga in June 2010; welcomed the Traditional Loya Jirga in November 2011 to the Government of Afghanistan's reconciliation process; welcomed the continuation of the efforts of all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, through the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation, initiated on 6 June 2017 and the second meeting which took place on the 28 February 2018, in Kabul, under the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan, and commended the efforts of the Afghan Government, including the renewed efforts of the High Peace Council, and the ongoing implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme in the context of its outreach efforts both inside and outside the country; and welcomed, in that regard, the peace agreement signed by the Government of Afghanistan and High peace Council with Hizb-i-Islami on 22 September 2016 as an important development in the overall peace efforts of the Government, and called for its effective implementation; also welcomed the Strategic Plan for Peace and Reconciliation presented by the High Peace Council of Afghanistan and calls upon armed opposition groups, in particular the Taliban, and the Government of Afghanistan to recognize their responsibility for peace in Afghanistan and to enter into direct talks without preconditions.

500. The Ministers *expressed* deep appreciation to countries, in particular the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, for hosting a large number of Afghans; acknowledged the huge burden they have shouldered in this regard; and *welcomed* the outcome of the International Conference on Afghan Refugees in May 2012 in Switzerland and its successful outcomes for the population of Afghan refugees and returnees.

501. The Ministers *expressed* the Movement's resolve therefore to:

501.1. *Express* its appreciation to the government of Afghanistan for its efforts and commitment for holding transparent, credible, inclusive and democratic elections,

and in this regard, welcome the outcome of the presidential election which was held on 5 April 2014 in Afghanistan and the announcement by the Independent Electoral Commission of Afghanistan that parliamentary and district council elections will take place in 2018;

501.2. *Call upon* the International Community to extend its full support for the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact adopted at the London Conference and reaffirmed at the Kabul and Bonn Conferences to fulfill expeditiously its financial commitments announced at the International Donor Conferences for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan, held in Tokyo in January 2002, Berlin in March 2004, London in January-February 2006, Paris in June 2009, Kabul in July 2010, Bonn in December 2011, Tokyo in July 2012 London in December 2014, and Brussels, in October 2016;

501.3. *Strongly condemn* the terrorist and criminal acts committed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, Al-Qaida, ISIL/Da'esh and its affiliates and other extremist groups and illegal armed groups, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations, including abductions, indiscriminate targeting of civilians, attacks against humanitarian workers, and targeting of Afghan and international security forces as well as the assassination of public figures, such as Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, former President of Afghanistan and Chairman of the High Peace Council (HPC), and others. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their conviction that this once again underlined the need for strengthening international cooperation in the global fight against terrorism. The Ministers also *reaffirmed* their conviction that such incidents would not deter the Afghan nation and the international community in their struggle against forces of terrorism in reconstruction and development of Afghanistan;

501.4. *Strongly condemn* the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack that took place in the center of Kabul on 31 May 2017, which resulted in more than 90 deaths and over 490 injured, almost all of them civilians, including women, children and members of the media, as well as diplomatic personnel, and massive damage to the public and private property, as well as foreign diplomatic missions, and underlines the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice, and recalls the fundamental principle of inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their conviction that such attacks once again underlined the need for strengthening international cooperation in the global fight against terrorism. The Ministers also *reaffirmed* their conviction that these incidents and any such incident would not deter the Afghan nation and the international community in their struggle against forces of terrorism in reconstruction and development of Afghanistan;

501.5. *Support* the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its leadership in defending and preserving its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity, including through eliminating the threats to its peace and security;

501.6. *Contribute* to the peace, security, reconstruction, humanitarian relief efforts and sustainable development in Afghanistan, mindful of the concrete measures already taken by Non-Aligned Countries thereof;

501.7. *Support* efforts by the international donor community, including Non- Aligned Countries, geared toward ensuring the successful implementation of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and National Priority Programs (NPPs);

501.8. *Call on* the international community and relevant UN agencies for supporting the Afghan Government's efforts to sustainably return and reintegrate its refugees, including by providing concrete and tangible support for creation of pull factors in the return areas in Afghanistan, and for meeting the needs of the communities hosting refugees in Iran and Pakistan. This should in particular also include the provision of enhanced assistance to the Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate

their voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration into the society of origin so as to contribute to the stability of Afghanistan;

502. The Ministers *called upon* the international community to strengthen international, regional and trans-regional cooperation for demand reduction, and to counter the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, as well as to increase its assistance to enhance the capacity of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to carry out its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at the elimination of production and trafficking of narcotics, and to create alternative livelihoods for the farmers by strengthening the crop substitution programme in Afghanistan, while noting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime titled World Drug Report 2017.

### **Iraq and Kuwait**

503. The Ministers *welcomed* the progress made by the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait towards the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions of the outstanding issues between both countries, and encouraged their future cooperation.

504. The Ministers *expressed* its appreciation and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for rescheduling the payment of cleared payment of compensation for the Republic of Iraq to be concluded in 2021, in view of the difficulties experienced by Iraq during the recent period.

505. The Ministers *expressed* its appreciation and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for providing the humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi families that survived from the hand of the terrorist group of ISIL/Da'esh during the liberation of the city of Mosul and contributing among the donor states that donated two billions and 200 million USD to alleviate the humanitarian suffering in Iraq and among of that 200 million USD of the State of Kuwait.

### **Kuwait's humanitarian activities**

506. The Ministers *praised* the efforts exerted by the State of Kuwait on the humanitarian level and congratulated His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, on having been designated the title of Humanitarian Leader by the UN Secretary General in September 2014 in recognition of HIS highness' significant role in the humanitarian domain, as well as designating the State of Kuwait as a global humanitarian center.

507. The Ministers *appreciated* the efforts of the State of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, in preparation for and hosting the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq, during the period from 12-14 February 2018, according to an innovative vision of a coalition of governments, private and public sectors, and civil society organizations to support and rebuild Iraq and enhance its security and stability.

508. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the State of Kuwait's support towards new global policies aimed at integrating humanitarian relief efforts with developmental efforts through the Kuwait Arabic Development Fund, an entity that has adopted such policies since its inception via its long history and more particularly during the last 3 years through its 15 billion USD contribution in supporting United Nation's plan of Sustainable Development until 2030.

509. The Ministers *commended* the important positive results of the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq and the generous contributions it made to Iraq in terms of loans and investments amounting to 30 billion dollars. They *appreciated* the prominent role played by the countries and the co-chairs of the Conference represented in Kuwait, Iraq, the United Nations, the European Union, and the World Bank Group, and the broad high-level participation from all States, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the Conference.

510. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the prominent role played by the State of Kuwait in the humanitarian framework and its generous contributions to various countries, including but not limited to, the amount of US\$ 200 million for Iraq, US\$ 100 million for Yemen, US\$ 150 million for UNRWA and US\$ 15 million for the Rohingya.

511. The Ministers *praised* the Kuwaiti presidency along with the European Union, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance for the “Pledging Conference for Rohingya Refugee Crisis”, which was held at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva on 23 October 2017, and its positive results, wherein the total of pledges made by the donor states and organizations amounted to US\$ 344 million.

### **Yemen**

512. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation to the State of Kuwait for hosting the UN-led talks between Yemeni parties and *welcomed* the results of the high-level pledging event for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen that took place in Geneva on 3 April 2018.

513. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for accepting to host the conference of Yemeni parties on 18 April 2016 under the auspices of the United Nations. It commended in this regard the efforts of the former Envoy of the UN Secretary General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad and the continuous efforts of the State of Kuwait in support of the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the push to achieve security and stability in this country.

514. The Ministers *urged* all Yemeni parties to engage in good faith in the talks without preconditions and in accordance with the GCC initiative, the outcome of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and all the relevant Security Council resolutions.

515. The Ministers *expressed* their full support for the Good Offices role of the UN Secretary-General and the efforts of his Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths, to put an end to the conflict and resume the political transition process and resolve any differences through dialogue and peaceful means.

516. The Ministers *reiterated* that the solution to the situation in Yemen could only be achieved through a Yemeni-led, peaceful, inclusive, orderly and political transition process that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for peaceful change and meaningful political, economic and social reforms.

517. While recalling Security Council resolution 2216 and expressing their grave concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen, especially the suffering of women and children, the Ministers *urged* all donor countries to maintain and expand their generous contributions to deliver humanitarian aid to those who need it most.

518. The Ministers *commended* Yemen’s all efforts in fighting terrorism and violent extremism, especially the efforts against Al-Qaeda, which pose a genuine threat on the security and stability of the region and the world, and *called upon* the international community to support Yemen in these efforts.

519. The Ministers *commended* the commitment of the international community in supporting the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, stability, and development in Yemen.

### **Myanmar**

520. The Ministers, while expressing their concern over the humanitarian situation in

Myanmar's Rakhine State, *condemned* all the acts of violence, including attacks on Myanmar security forces that resulted in loss of lives and the displacement of large numbers of people. In this context, they *welcomed* the signing of the arrangement on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, and *underscored* the importance of expediting the voluntary return of displaced persons to Myanmar in a safe, secure and dignified manner. They *further stressed* the need to find a comprehensive and durable solution so that the displaced persons and affected communities can rebuild their lives.

### **South East Asia**

521. The Ministers *expressed* satisfaction at the progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in providing the legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN since its adoption in 2007. The Ministers *welcomed* the reaffirmation of ASEAN's commitment made at the 50<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila on 5 August 2017, to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together which sets out the future direction for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly rules-based, people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community. The Ministers *commended* the ongoing work of all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs for positive progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints 2025, the efforts of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the IAI Work Plan III, respectively, and the ongoing efforts to effectively implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, which aims to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of community. The realization of the five strategic areas of MPAC 2025, namely, sustainable infrastructure; digital innovation; seamless logistics; regulatory excellence and people mobility will contribute to the promotion of economic growth; narrowing development gaps; enhancing ASEAN integration and the community building process, enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN; promoting deeper social and cultural understanding and mobility of people and connecting the ASEAN Member States within the region and the rest of the world. The Ministers were also pleased with the efforts and progress in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III, which aims to assist CLMV countries to meet ASEAN-wide targets and commitments to realize the goal of the ASEAN Community and thereby contribute to narrowing the development gap. The Ministers encouraged all Dialogue Partners and other external partners of ASEAN to continue supporting and assisting the implementation of MPAC 2025 and the IAI Work Plan III, including through resource mobilization for infrastructure development and continued engagement with the ACCC. The Ministers welcomed ongoing efforts to enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and looked forward to the Roadmap to promote such complementarities that are in line with agreed priorities. The Ministers welcomed ASEAN's commitment to regionalism and multilateralism as important principles and frameworks of cooperation to promote regional and international peace, stability, prosperity and progress and that the strength and value of this concept lay in their inclusivity, rules-based nature and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect.

522. The Ministers *welcomed* significant developments in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, including the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) in November 2012 and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (RPA-EVAW) and the Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA-EVAC) in November 2015 that reflected the zero tolerance of ASEAN on all forms of violence against women and children and the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in November 2017. The Ministers also *welcomed* the entry into force of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in March 2017. The Ministers congratulated the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on the 5th anniversary of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement

on the Adoption of the AHRD, which are key human rights documents in the region that set the framework for further promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN. The Ministers *noted* with satisfaction, the successful implementation of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Five-year Work Plan 2010-2015, and *welcomed* the progress in the implementation of the AICHR's second Five-Year Work Plan (2016-2020). The Ministers further *encouraged* AICHR to promote the mainstreaming of human rights across all three Pillars of the ASEAN Community through consultations with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.

523. The Ministers reaffirmed that the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) is the key code of conduct governing relations of High Contracting Parties in Southeast Asia and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. They noted the most recent accessions to the TAC and also appreciated the intention of ASEAN to consider applications for accession to the TAC in accordance with the revised Guidelines for Accession to the TAC in Southeast Asia. The Ministers welcomed efforts of ASEAN in preserving Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty), and the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Decision 72/515 on 4 December 2017 on the Bangkok Treaty. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) as an Annex 1 Sectoral Body under the APSC Pillar of the ASEAN Charter and the preparations made by the ASEANTOM to strengthen cooperation on nuclear safety, security and safeguards within ASEAN, as well as its continuing engagement with the IAEA.

524. The Ministers *recognized* ASEAN's central role and leadership in the evolving rules-based regional architecture by promoting the norms and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the TAC, other ASEAN declarations and instruments, as well as those contained in the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles), and the adoption of the "Maintaining and Enhancing ASEAN Centrality: Revised Work Plan" in New York in September 2015. The Ministers reiterated their support for ASEAN as the primary driving force for the maintenance of peace, security, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia through various ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as an inclusive forum in the Asia-Pacific region for fostering constructive dialogue and cooperation among the participants on political and security issues of common interest and concern, and welcomed the growing number of activities related to preventive diplomacy (PD) in conjunction with the strengthening of confidence building measures (CBM), to help advance the evolution of the ARF Process from confidence-building to preventive diplomacy and eventually, towards conflict resolution. The Ministers appreciated the on-going work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) to further promote research and capacity building on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution affecting peace, security and stability in the region, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the AIPR. The Ministers *welcomed* ASEAN's efforts to promote transparency and confidence-building on security-related policies including through the publication of the ASEAN Security Outlook (ASO), which contains ASEAN's collective outlook on the security environment in the region, and would help promote greater understanding of each other's defense policies. The Ministers *welcomed* positive developments in maritime cooperation among ASEAN Member States and appreciated the efforts to strengthen regional maritime cooperation by utilizing existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, where appropriate, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, EAS, ARF, ADMM-Plus, and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). The Ministers *welcomed* the inauguration of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) on 25th May 2016, which serves as a Regional Centre of Excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States, and facilitating cooperation with other countries as well as relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

525. The Ministers *noted* with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations to further advance and intensify the level of cooperation as well as to strengthen the framework of cooperation between ASEAN and the UN. The Ministers were pleased with the adoption of the Resolution 71/255 of 23 December 2016 on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations” by the General Assembly. The Ministers were also *pleased* at the successful outcome of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit on 13 November 2017 in the Philippines. The Ministers welcomed and looked forward to the full implementation of the five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020) to implement the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between the ASEAN and the UN. Through the implementation of this Plan of Action, ASEAN and the UN will work together to support the realization of the ASEAN 2025-Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a complementary manner. The Ministers *took note of* the Joint Report on Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

526. The Ministers *reiterated* the call to solve all sovereignty and territorial disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means without resorting to force and/or the threat to use force, and urged all parties to exercise restraint with a view to creating a positive climate for the eventual resolution of all contentious issues. In this context, they reaffirmed their support for the principles contained in the 1992 ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea, as well as the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and stressed the need for the full implementation of such principles by all concerned. They expressed their hope that all parties concerned would refrain from any actions that may undermine peace, stability, trust and confidence in the region. They further reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over- flight above the South China Sea, as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law. To this end, they welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in July 2011 in Bali and the continued efforts by ASEAN and China to effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea as an important step to achieve a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), which would help to promote international peace and stability in the region. They further welcomed the positive contribution of the ongoing bilateral and multilateral consultations among the parties concerned at the intergovernmental level, the extensive consultations at ASEAN-China dialogues, and the regular exchange of views in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the informal Workshops on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea and encouraged their continuance. They noted the 15th ASEAN-China Summit in Phnom Penh, in November 2012 and the 6th Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) on the Implementation of the DOC and the 9th Joint Working Group (JWG) on the implementation of the DOC on 14-15 September 2013 in Suzhou, China.

527. The Ministers *further noted* the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meetings held on 10 May 2014, 8 August 2014, 4 August 2015, 24 July 2016 and 5 August 2017, and the ASEAN Summits held on 11 May 2014, 21 November 2015, 6-7 September 2016 and 13 November 2017, as well as their respective outcomes.

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

528. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* over the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against the Syrian Arab Republic by the Government of the United States, which are affecting the living conditions of the Syrians. The Minister *reaffirmed* that the so-called “Syria Accountability Act” is contrary to international law and a violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They *called* on the Government of the United States of America to declare that Act as null and void.

529. The Ministers *condemned* the act of aggression committed by forces of the United States of America in Iraq against the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 26 October 2008, which targeted a civilian building in the city of Abu Kamal and resulted in the death of eight Syrian civilians and injured one person. The Ministers considered this act as a grave violation

of international law and Syrian sovereignty and a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They further *expressed* the solidarity of the Movement with the people and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

530. The Ministers *condemned*, in the strongest possible terms, all acts of continued aggression committed by Israel against the Syrian Arab Republic, including the most recent aggressions committed on 02 and 04 December 2017, as well as the Israeli support for the armed terrorist groups designated by the UN Security Council in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan and the convening of an Israeli cabinet meeting in the Occupied Syrian Golan on 17 April 2016, as well as the statements issued then regarding the status of the occupied Syrian Golan. The Ministers *considered* these acts as a grave violation of international law and Syrian sovereignty and a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 1974. The Ministers while expressing their solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and holding Israel accountable for these acts of aggression and its consequences which threatens regional and international peace and security, *request* the security council to shoulder its responsibility by clearly condemning these acts of aggression and taking the necessary measures to prevent its recurrence.

531. The Ministers *took note* of the efforts of the international community to deal with the situation in Syria. They appreciated the efforts of Mr. Staffan de Mistura, the UN Secretary-General Special Envoy, as well as the efforts of the former joint Special Envoys, and invite all parties to engage sincerely in this process to find a peaceful political solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process, based on Geneva *Communiqué* of 30 June 2012, as well as Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015). They *called upon* all parties to allow the safe provision of humanitarian assistance to all those in need in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

532. The Ministers *expressed* concern at the increasing number of refugees caused by the crisis in Syria, and *underscored* their appreciation for the significant efforts that have been made by the host countries of the region, notably Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate Syrian refugees, while acknowledging the enormous political, socioeconomic and financial impact of the presence of large-scale populations in these countries. They *urged* all Member States, based on burden sharing principles, to support the neighboring host countries to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, including by providing direct support, to the host countries. They appealed to the countries that have pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to fulfill their commitment. The Ministers also *welcomed* the pledges totaling \$3.8 billion at the third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, hosted by Kuwait on 31 March 2015 and expressed their appreciation to Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations, which announced pledges in the Conference.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

533. The Ministers *welcomed* the positive political, economic, social changes and achievements in the region, which are contributing to the wellbeing of its peoples and to the reduction of poverty, as well as to the regional solidarity, integration, and cooperation with other regions. In this regard the Ministers *emphasized* that the democratically elected governments must be supported and respected, and *stressed* their rejection of any destabilization attempt against those governments and their democratic systems. The Ministers *recognized* the commitment of the States of the region to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of any state.

### **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States**

534. The Ministers *recalled* the successful and historic founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States which took place in Caracas, Venezuela, on 2 and

3 December 2011 as an important additional step in the quest for integration and unity among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and in the context of the bicentennial celebrations of the struggles for independence of many countries in the region.

535. The Ministers *welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana, Cuba, on January 28 and 29, 2014. They *further welcomed* the political will, reiterated by the Heads of State and Government of the region on that occasion, to continue working together for Latin American and Caribbean integration and union as well as for the consolidation of the Community. They *further underlined* the importance of CELAC as international and regional actor and a contributor to the region's further integration into the international arena.

536. The Ministers *also welcomed* the historic decision adopted by acclamation in January 29, 2014, by the Heads of State and/or Government at the II Summit of CELAC, gathered in Havana, Cuba, on the "Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace".

537. The Ministers *welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Belén, Costa Rica, on January 28 and 29, 2015, in particular the Political Declaration of Belén, that recognized CELAC as the ideal mechanism for the promotion of dialogue and political coordination between the 33 countries of the Community, with a view to strengthen unity in diversity, integration, cooperation, solidarity and the development of national and regional capacities, allowing the Community to move towards greater prosperity and the well-being of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples.

538. The Ministers *also welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Fourth Summit Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States-CELAC held in Quito, Ecuador, on January 27, 2016, in particular the "Political Declaration of Quito – Middle of the World", the CELAC 2016 Action Plan, and the various Special Declarations, having particular importance the one related to the 2025 CELAC Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger.

539. The Ministers *also welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Fifth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States -CELAC held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on January 25, 2017, in particular the "Political Declaration of Punta Cana", the CELAC Summit 2017 Action Plan and the Special Declarations on the return to the Republic of Cuba of the territory occupied by the US Naval Base in Guantanamo; on the Need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba; on the Question of the Malvinas Islands; on the particular challenges of Middle Income Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; on Financing for Development; on Migration and development; on The World Drug Problem; on Nuclear Disarmament; on the Promotion of Gender equality and Equity and eradication of Violence Against Women; on the International Year of Camelids; on the International Year of Indigenous Languages; on the Coca Leaf; on the Rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; on Sustainable Health Systems; on the Inclusion of CELAC member States on lists of non-cooperative jurisdictions; on the Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); on the Graduation criteria within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of El Salvador's Peace Accords; on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Agreements in Guatemala; on Transparency and institutional strengthening to combat corruption in Guatemala; and on the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger eradication 2025 (FSN Plan CELAC 2025).

540. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination. They *underlined* that democracy, sustainable development and the respect of all human rights, civil and political; economic, social and cultural rights, in their universal, indivisible and interdependent character, including the right to development, are all closely related and mutually reinforcing. In this context, they *highlighted* the importance of

adopting measures aimed at promoting and protecting: the rights of people in situations of vulnerability, including indigenous people and people of African descent, migrants and disabled people; women; gender equality, decent work and the eradication of child labor in our region, as part of the measures aimed at prioritizing children and adolescents as subjects of rights.

541. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the historical processes of consolidating, safeguarding and fully exercising democracy in the Latin American and Caribbean region are irreversible, do not admit interruptions or setbacks and will continue being defined by the respect for the essential values of democracy; access to power and its exercise in accordance with the Rule of Law; respect for constitutional prerogatives of the different branches of Government and constructive dialogue among them; holding free, periodic, transparent, informed, universal and secret elections, as an expression of the people's sovereignty; civil participation; social justice and equality; combating corruption, and respecting all civil liberties enshrined in international instruments.

542. The Ministers further *recognized* the great importance and significance of the First Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Santiago, Chile, on 27 and 28 January 2013, which initiated the works of the CELAC, bringing member countries together in a single regional body for dialogue and consultation with the goal of promoting the unity and integration of the region.

543. The Ministers *recalled* the decision of the CELAC Heads of State and Government adopted in Santiago at their First Summit stating that the unity and integration of the region of Latin America and Caribbean must be built gradually, with respect to pluralism and the sovereign right of each of our peoples to choose their manner of political and economic organization. Reiterating that the Community is founded on the unrestricted respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prohibition of use and threatened use of power, respect for self-determination, territorial integrity, non-intervention in the internal affairs of each country, protection and promotion of all human rights, the rule of law at national and international levels and democracy. Likewise, commit to work together for the sake of prosperity for all, in such a way as to eradicate discrimination, inequalities and marginalization, violations of human rights, and transgressions of the rule of law.

544. The Ministers *acknowledged* the decision adopted by the CELAC's Heads of State and Government at its Fourth Summit held in Quito on 27 January 2016, Ecuador, to continue to strengthen consultation and coordination among CELAC's Member States, in the United Nations and other multilateral fora, in order to continue speaking out as a region, where appropriate and without prejudice to existing coordinating groups, on issues of interest and relevance to the Community's Member States, as well as to submit, when feasible and required, joint initiatives adopted by consensus.

545. The Ministers also *welcomed* the reaffirmation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and a region free of nuclear weapons in the framework of the Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, as a significant contribution to international peace and security, along with the ongoing region's commitment to nuclear disarmament, the proscription of weapons of mass destruction globally and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and urged all UN Member States to fully respect the declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, in their relations with CELAC Member States.

546. The Ministers further *noted* the Quito Declaration, resulting from the First Meeting of the Ministers of Environment of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States, held on 3 February 2012 in Ecuador, as a significant step to advance sustainable development in the region and *noted* the issues identified therein for further discussion in the region, including: strengthening of regional financial mechanism and structures, universal declaration on rights of nature as an instrument to ensure good living, the full implementation of the rights of access to information participation and environmental justice, the removal of barriers to access to technological innovation and strengthening of

environmental education and training.

### **Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)**

547. The Ministers *welcomed* the entry into force of the constitutive treaty of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) as a contribution to the cultural, social, economic and political integration of the region, and *welcomed* resolution 66/109 of 9 December 2011, which approved observer status for UNASUR in the United Nations General Assembly.

548. The Ministers *welcomed* the celebration of the VIII Summit of the Union of South American Nations, held in Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador, on 4 and 5 December 2014, on the occasion of the hand-over of UNASUR Pro Tempore Presidency from Suriname to Uruguay, and the inauguration of the new headquarters of this Organization.

### **ALBA – TCP – PETROCARIBE**

549. The Ministers *welcomed and encouraged* original initiatives such as the “Bolivarian Alternative for the People of Our America-People’s Trade Treaty” (ALBA- TCP), PETROCARIBE and the Framework Agreement of the Single System of Regional Payments Compensation (SUCRE, for its Spanish Acronym), which are promoted in this region under the principles of cooperation, complementarity covering energy, social justice, food sovereignty, and monetary and economic sectors; these experiences demonstrate, *inter alia*, that a new international economic order is progressively emerging. They *welcomed* the decision adopted during the VI Summit of Ministers held in Maracay, Venezuela, on 24 June 2009 to transform it into the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of our America-People-People’s Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), with a view to strengthening the cooperation and solidarity among its members.

### **Summits of Arab and South American countries**

550. The Ministers *welcomed* the successful Second Summit of Arab and South American countries, held in Doha, Qatar on 31 March 2009, including its follow-up mechanisms to advance their mutual interests forward. They also *welcomed* the Third Summit of the Arab and South American Countries held in Lima, Peru, on 1 and 2 October 2012, recognized the impetus it gave to the ongoing efforts to strengthen the relations and solidarity and cooperation between the two regions. They welcomed as well the Fourth Summit of Arab and South American Countries held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2015. They *looked forward* to the prompt convening of the Fifth Summit of Arab and South American Countries, with a view to continue advancing in the strengthening of the bi-regional cooperation, and engaging on discussions on matters of mutual interest, including common challenges.

### **Summits of Africa-South American Countries**

551. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of the Second Africa-South America Summit of Ministers (ASA), in Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 26 and 27 September 2009 as an expression of strengthening friendship, solidarity and South-South cooperation between both regions. They *underscored* the importance of this historic Summit as the first to be held following the establishment of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). They also *welcomed* the Third Summit of Africa and South American Countries, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in February 2013.

552. The Ministers *welcomed* the efforts made by the concerned regions and the commitment of the Republic of Ecuador to hold the Fourth Africa-South America Summit of Ministers (ASA), in Quito, Ecuador, as a continuation of the ongoing cooperation between both regions, and *underscored* the importance of this historic Summit as one significant step towards the integration and development of both regions in the construction of a new and better international economic order.

### **Central America: a Mine-Free Zone**

553. The Ministers *welcomed* with satisfaction that Nicaragua was declared a Mine- Free Country on 18 June 2010, thus resulting in the recognition of Central America as the first zone in the world free of landmines.

### **Zone of Peace: Gulf of Fonseca**

554. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision recently taken by the Heads of States of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to establish a "Zone of peace, sustainable development and security in the Gulf of Fonseca», and *agreed* that this decision constitutes an important step forward to strengthen the integration and unity process of the Central American nations and peoples.

### **Belize and Guatemala**

555. The Ministers *recalled* having *welcomed*, in their previous Declaration, the decision taken by Belize and Guatemala in signing, on 8 December 2008, a Special Agreement to submit the territorial, insular and maritime dispute between them to the international Court of Justice, subject to the approval of their citizens in national referenda, which had been set 6 October 2013; further took note that the planned referenda had been postponed; they welcomed the progress made in the strengthening the bilateral relations since the signing by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Belize and Guatemala of the road map, on 24 January 2014 at signed at the Organization of American States' (OAS) headquarters in Washington D.C. with the OAS Secretary General as witness, and congratulated both countries for the signing of 13 Cooperation Agreements, on 17 December 2014 for the benefit of the population of both countries as well as a Protocol to the Special Agreement in May 2015. The Ministers recognized the continued commitment of the two Parties to strengthen and enhance mutual trust and confidence pending the holding of the required referenda in both countries; they further congratulated both countries for their continued commitment to abide by the Special Agreement to submit the territorial, insular and maritime dispute between them to the international Court of Justice and *called on* the international community to support both countries in these endeavors, with the accompaniment of the OAS. They further called on both countries to avoid future incidents between them, to abide fully by Annex C of the Confidence Building Measures of 2005, and to adopt cooperation mechanisms as soon as possible in the Sarstoon River to normalize the situation.

### **Colombia**

556. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement *welcomed* the ongoing implementation of the agreement adopted between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, to end the conflict that has affected Colombia during the last decades. On behalf of the Movement, they *expressed* their support for the people and government of Colombia in building a stable and lasting peace, which will result in better opportunities for development and prosperity for this nation. In the same way, they *identified* that this historic agreement is an important contribution to the fulfillment of the provisions of the proclamation of Latin American and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. Finally, they *expressed* their appreciation for the important work carried out for the purpose by the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the Kingdom of Norway, guarantor countries, and the governments of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Chile, companion countries.

### **Cuba**

557. The Ministers *welcomed* the historic decision of the Presidents of Cuba and the United States to reestablish diplomatic relations and at the same time, regretted the measures

implemented by the current Government of the United States of America, which strengthen the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and entail a setback in the process of normalization of the bilateral relations. In light of this, the Ministers, once again *reiterated* their call to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba that constitutes the major impediment for its full development. They also *urged* the President of the United States to use his broad executive powers to substantially modify the embargo which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to the principle of neighborliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. They once again *urged* strict compliance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/4, 68/8, 69/5, 70/5, 71/5 and 72/4 of the UN General Assembly, and adherence to the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-interference and non-intervention as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They *expressed* deep concern over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and *rejected* the reinforcement of the financial measures adopted by the Government of United States, aimed at tightening the embargo.

558. The Ministers *stressed* the need to put an end to aggressive radio and television transmission against Cuba, as well as the use, contrary to the principles of International Law, of Information and Communication Technologies, including social networks, to incite subversion against the Cuban constitutional order. They *reiterated* that those measures constitute a violation of Cuba's sovereignty and a massive violation of the human rights of its people.

559. The Ministers *concerned over* the illegal occupation, against the will of the Cuban people, of part of its territory for more than a century, *urged* the Government of the United States to return the territory now occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base to Cuban sovereignty;

### **Panama**

560. The Ministers *recalled* the firm support and solidarity offered by the Movement to the people and Government of Panama in its struggle for the recovery of the Canal and exerts effective sovereignty over all its territory. In this occasion, the Ministers *conveyed* to the Government of Panama their recognition for the efficient operation and administration of the Panama Canal under Panamanian control and *congratulated* the nation for the beginning of the construction of the third set of locks of this strategic pathway serving world trade and communications.

### **Venezuela**

561. The Ministers *expressed* deep concern at the violent actions that have taken place in Venezuela in the last weeks, aimed at destabilizing the democratically elected government of President Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, democratic institutions and the rule of law in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

562. The Ministers *expressed* condolence at the demise of President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, on 5 March 2013, one of the chief promoters and founders of CELAC, a relentless humanist and champion of Latin American and Caribbean unity, who fought against social exclusion and poverty and fostered integral development in the region. They also recognized his outstanding work undertaken in the promotion of peace, political independence, respect to sovereignty, self-determination of peoples, respect for and promotion of all human rights and development, including the strengthening of South-South Cooperation, as well as his firm commitment in the defense of the guiding principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

563. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for the extradition request that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela interposed to the Government of the United States for bringing to justice

those responsible for the terrorist attack on a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October 1976, which caused the death of 73 innocent civilians.

564. The Ministers *urged* the Government of the United States of America to comply with the request to extradite Luis Posada Carriles, indicted for charges of terrorism in Venezuela, or to try him as a terrorist according to its obligations as State Party to the relevant international instrument against terrorism and its relevant domestic laws.

565. In this context, the Ministers also *rejected* the protection given by the United States of America to Venezuelan citizens Raul Diaz Pena, Jose Antonio Colina and German Rodolfo Varela, accused and sentenced for perpetrating terrorist acts in Venezuela, in contravention of relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions related to measures to eliminate terrorism in all its forms, which impedes the efforts of the Venezuelan authorities to bring them to justice.

566. The Ministers *expressed* support for the Constitutional Government of President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who was democratically elected by the majority of the Venezuelan people on April 14 2013. They *rejected* the aggressive illegal policies of the Government of the United States against Venezuela, including the legislative initiative of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee aimed at imposing unilateral sanctions to this country affecting its sovereignty and political independence, in violation of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. They *took note* with appreciation of the political dialogue led by President Nicolás Maduro with all sectors of Venezuelan society aimed at finding solutions to the country's common challenges and to continue its way towards development and well-being which is being fully endorsed and accompanied by UNASUR and the Holy See.

567. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over the increase of the action by the Government of the United States of America, aimed at affecting the stability of Venezuela, including the establishment (in Venezuela) of an office to increase intelligence-gathering and espionage against Venezuela and Cuba.

568. The Ministers *categorically rejected* the decision of the Government of the United States to ratify its unilateral coercive measures against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on March 3 2016, under the Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama, which declares “a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Venezuela”.

569. The Ministers *deplored* these disproportionate measures and reiterated their firm support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in line with the Bandung Principles. In this regard, the Ministers *emphasized* the need to respect international law, including the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

570. The Ministers *urged* the United States Government to derogate such unilateral and interventionist coercive measures that affect the spirit of dialogue and political understanding among nations. The Ministers also *encouraged* the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to engage in a constructive dialogue.

### **Bolivia**

571. The Ministers *expressed* their unwavering support and solidarity to the Constitutional Government of President Juan Evo Morales Ayma and their firm support of the process underway in the Plurinational State of Bolivia aimed at ensuring that the entire population enjoys a real and effective participation in the country's affairs without any kind of exclusion or

discrimination, as well as the exercising of full sovereignty over their natural resources for the benefit of all Bolivians.

572. The Ministers congratulated to the Plurinational State of Bolivia for its election as non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2017-2018, certain that the Bolivian government presided by President Evo Morales will work in the framework of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and the international law.

573. The Ministers *took note* of the Special Declaration on the Coca Leaf of the Heads of State of Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the summit of the community of Latin America and Caribbean States held in La Havana, Cuba, on January 29 2014, that acknowledges the importance of preserving the cultural and traditional practices of indigenous people in respect of their human and fundamental rights and in conformity with the relevant international instruments. In this context, that special CELAC Declaration recognizes Coca leaf chewing (akulliku) as an ancestral cultural manifestation of the people of Bolivia that must be respected by the international community and expresses interest in knowing the results of scientific research conducted by renowned institute of the international community on the properties of the Coca leaf;

574. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the action taken by the United States of America in regards to the "Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015", leading to the implementation of extraterritorial measures, which is in violation of purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter;

### **Ecuador**

575. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their solidarity to Government and people of Ecuador regarding the earthquake that struck that country on 16 April 2016, and reiterated their appreciation for the timely and efficient efforts of the Government of Ecuador in order to bring relief to the affected populations, and recalled to the International Community the need to continue supporting the Government of Ecuador in their ongoing reconstruction efforts.

576. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation to the Republic of Ecuador for its hospitality and efforts as the host country of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016, and they *welcomed* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which reaffirms the global commitment to sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors.

### **Europe**

577. The Ministers *expressed* their regret that in spite of the United Nations Security Council resolutions (S/RES/822, S/RES/853, S/RES/874, S/RES/884) the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains unresolved and continues to endanger international and regional peace and security. They *reaffirmed* the importance of the principle of non-use of force enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and encouraged the parties to continue to seek a negotiated settlement of the conflict within the territorial integrity, sovereignty and the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

## **CHAPTER III** **DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

### **Introduction**

578. The Ministers *associated* themselves with and *reaffirmed* all of the positions of the Group of 77 and China concerning economic, social, and environmental development issues and

other related issues, as contained, inter alia, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, Monterrey Consensus, Doha Declaration and Addis Ababa action agenda on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted under the UNFCCC, and the New Urban Agenda, the outcome documents of the First and Second South Summit held in Havana, Cuba in 2000, and Doha, Qatar in 2005, respectively, the Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, June 14-15, 2013, and the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 and China held in New York on 22 September 2017. Likewise, they *reaffirmed* the Movement's commitment to work towards the full implementation of the decisions and recommendations contained in those documents, and called on the international community, including international financial institutions as well as regional development banks, to support efforts of developing countries, toward that end.

579. The Ministers *renewed their commitment* to achieving sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner of its three pillars: economic development, including sustained and inclusive growth, social development and protection of the environment, according to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, adopted under the UNFCCC, and the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, held from 17 to 20 October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador. They stressed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), which was held in Brazil from 20 to 22 June 2012. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of assessing the implementation gap in achieving sustainable development, and identifying the obstacles and ways and means to address them, and enhancing focus on the overriding priority of poverty eradication, and enhance greater support from developed countries towards means of implementation, and reaffirmed the commitments outlined therein.

580. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions should remain the center piece of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also stressed the need to strengthen ECOSOC in its mandate to review and follow-up the implementation of the outcomes of all the major UN conferences and summits in the social, economic and related fields.

581. The Ministers *reiterated* that the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets in a balanced and integrated manner, providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in line with existing mandates. They *welcomed* the inaugural meeting of the high level political forum, held under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 26 June to 8 July 2015, from 11 to 20 July 2016 and from 10 to 19 July 2017, and commended the Voluntary National Reviews that already took place and will take place.

582. The Ministers *took note* that theme of the 2017 HLPF was “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” and it was the first where individual thematic SDGs were reviewed and started effectively delivering on its mandates<sup>26</sup>. They *also took note* that this

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<sup>26</sup> The 2017 High-Level Political Forum reviewed the following set of 2030 Agenda Goals: Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development that will be considered each year. [Chair proposes addition]

year's theme of the HLPF will be "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", which coincides with the overall thrust of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development<sup>27</sup>.

583. The Ministers *further stressed* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development carry forward and finish the unfinished business of the MDGs. The human development imperatives enshrined in the MDGs, including eradication of poverty and hunger, promoting universal education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases must remain at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

584. The Ministers further *reiterated* that Agenda 2030, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, supported by the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. They also *recognized* that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

585. The Ministers *welcomed* the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the United Nations summit for the adoption of Agenda 2030 (Based on A/RES/72/228, op 27). They *recalled* that the mechanism should address gaps throughout the full technology cycle - research, development, demonstration, market formation and diffusion - as well as all the steps involved in technology transfer, notably: (a) identification of the need and the technology of interest; (b) the potential sources, costs and negotiations for access; (c) the actual transfer of technology; (d) adaptation and learning to operate and maintain the technology; and (e) use and further upgrade of the acquired technologies.

586. The Ministers *recalled* the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and in this regard welcomed the convening of the first and second annual multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held on 6 and 7 June 2016 and on 15 and 16 May 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as the mapping exercise carried out by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, *urged* the operationalization of an online platform as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs, and *called* for voluntary contributions for resources to support the full operationalization of all components of the Mechanism.

587. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the central role of the United Nations in global governance. The Ministers also reaffirmed their view that moving towards a more legitimate and accountable global governance demands the inclusive representation, universal participation and democratic process of the United Nations General Assembly. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture should therefore be seriously strengthened, should be internationally coordinated and should lead to the full participation of developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making and norm-setting. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for a comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, including the enhancement in the voting powers of developing countries in a time-bound manner which would enable greater equity between developed and developing countries;

588. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* over the multiple inter-related and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, the environmental crises, the volatile energy prices, and the challenges posed by

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<sup>27</sup> The 2018 High-Level Political Forum will review the following set of 2030 Agenda Goals: Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; and Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year. [Chair proposes addition]

climate change, which reversed many important developmental gains in developing countries and have undermined the achievement of sustainable development.

589. The Ministers *recognized* that changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in developed countries, is essential for achieving global sustainable development, and stressed the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and well-being of all peoples;

590. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption by the General Assembly of Resolution A/RES/69/233 entitled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection and in this regard, *emphasized* the strategic role of sustainable tourism in socio-economic development of the South and expressed their wish to have a common approach to boost cooperation in tourism strategy and promoting sustainable tourism in member states.

591. The Ministers *welcomed* General Assembly resolution 67/291 entitled "Sanitation for all" in July 2013, designating 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All to draw attention to the need to improve access to adequate sanitation worldwide. In this regard, the Ministers *urged* all member states, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to accelerate progress in order to achieve sustainable Development Goal 6 and other SDGs related to sanitation;

592. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolution 3201 (S-VI)) and the validity of their major principles by which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

593. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the need for the international community, in particular developed countries, to assist developing countries efforts to fully implement all internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs, in particular their efforts to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere by 2030. However, they *noted with concern* that this purpose is still a goal to be achieved. Therefore, they further called on the international community, in particular developed countries to continue supporting developing countries' efforts with enhanced means of implementation aimed at integrating the principles of sustainable development into their national development strategies.

594. The Ministers *stressed* that each country has the sovereign right to determine its own development priorities and strategies, and called upon the international community to categorically reject any conditionality in the provision of development assistance;

595. The Ministers *insisted* on the need for undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels for the full implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. They further *called for* the early and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support for the developing countries;

596. The Ministers *recognized* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges, in particular to developing countries, and *called for* urgent global action to address this challenge in accordance with the principles and provisions of the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the principles of common

but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity. They *reaffirmed* that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and that efforts to address climate change should promote the integration of all three components of sustainable development that is economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner;

597. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encouraged the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

598. The Ministers *emphasized* the need for enhanced policy space for developing countries to allow them to undertake their own development strategies and policies, in accordance with the principle of national ownership and leadership of the development process. In that regard, the Ministers *recognised* that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e. the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment, and industrial development, which is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space, and *emphasized* that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

599. The Ministers *underscored* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, that it has a critical role in achieving development objectives and inclusive economic growth, including through the promotion of job creation and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and that it contributes to the active participation of developing countries in the global economy and facilitates regional economic cooperation and integration, and in this regard called upon developed countries to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment to developing countries.

600. The Ministers *expressed the need* to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign direct investment, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially in the context of the economic and financial crisis, to support their development activities, in line with their national priorities. In this regard, they urged developed countries to take measures to increase investment flows, particularly foreign direct investments, to developing countries and avoid protectionist measures, which impede such flows;

601. The Ministers *emphasized* that economic development, including inclusive industrial development, and policies which seek to enhance productive capacities in developing countries, can generate employment and income for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed development goals,

602. Noting the interdependence of nations and the varying levels of human development world-wide, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the need for a New Global Human Order aimed at reversing growing disparities between rich and poor, both among and within countries including through the promotion of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work, and social integration. In this context, they welcomed the adoption by the

General Assembly of resolution 65/120, 67/230 and 69/202 on the role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order and in particular the request contained therein for a report by the Secretary General on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in the report recommendations on ways and means to address inequality at all levels, in particular within the United Nations framework, as a contribution to ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

603. The Ministers *recognized* that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *stressed* the need to address the persistent and significant disparities between developed and developing countries and inequalities between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban populations. In this context, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of greater consideration of the impact of social and economic inequalities in development, including in the design and implementation of development strategies.

604. The Ministers *encouraged* the use of innovations in information technologies that can further contribute to improving the outreach of traditional media sectors such as printed, audio and visual media, and facilitated the creation of new media platforms such as digital social networking. Such platforms are significant to further promote sustainable social and economic development, overcome the marginalization and lack of development of developing countries, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding of cultural and religious diversity with the aim of contributing to global peace, while expressing concern over the use of such innovations for purposes contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as for incitement to hatred on the basis of religion or belief, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances, terrorism and extremism;

605. The Ministers *underscored* the need for a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies. They emphasized that international cooperation must be enhanced; including fulfillment of commitments of internationally agreed official development assistance, debt relief, market access, capacity building and technical support, including technology transfer.

606. The Ministers *highlighted* the importance of assessing progress, identifying obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the financing for development outcomes, addressing new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as the need arises, and providing policy recommendations for action by the international community, in particular regarding the support of developed countries for developing countries.

607. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the High-Level Meeting on International Cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development, to be held during the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.

608. The Ministers *welcomed* the appointment of the members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on 10 August 2017 with an increased representation of experts from developing countries and jurisdictions, as called for in the outcome document of the second ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development. The Ministers urged the Committee and its subcommittees to fulfill their mandate to consider how new and emerging issues affect international cooperation in tax matters such as, tax evasion, with a view to eventually eliminating tax evasion through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation, taking into account the best practices and lessons learned on tax policy and administration.

609. The Ministers committed to scaling up international tax cooperation and noted with appreciation that, in response to the call of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Republic of India has made a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters, the first such contribution since its establishment, and reiterated their appeal to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters established by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources, and invited the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.

**Impact of the global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis**

610. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern at the global financial and economic crisis and its negative impact on the world economy. They also recognized that the crisis has further accentuated the deficiencies and imbalances in the global financial and economic governance systems. In this context, they *urged* the international community to work on a vigorous, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the crisis, particularly to minimize the negative effects on the development efforts of developing countries and to ensure that development assistance commitments are not compromised, and to undertake immediate actions and initiatives to overcome these challenges. In this regard, they recognized the central role of the United Nations.

611. The Ministers *expressed the need* to enhance regional and sub-regional efforts including, inter alia, through regional development banks, such as the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Bank of the South, the Bank of ALBA, “Corporacion Andina de Fomento” CAF and the Inter-American Development Bank, as part of a global coordinated efficient response to deal with the current economic and financial crisis. In this context they also noted the “Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization” that aims to assist ASEAN+3 countries to address liquidity problems.

612. The Ministers are *convinced* that the international financial and economic crisis and the resulting downturn in global economic growth severely affect in particular the economies of developing countries, inter alia, through decrease in trade and FDI and increased contractions and high costs of credit, thereby negatively impacting on the realization of the right to development, constraining social investment, deepening poverty and raising unemployment rates. The Ministers also *urged* that economic policies adopted by developed countries should not undermine global growth, particularly in developing countries. The Ministers emphasized the need to address the crisis with the goal of promoting human development, including through actions aimed at supporting strong, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increased trade, through enhanced market access and trade financing for developing countries, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

613. The Ministers *recognized* that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine the progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries (PP14 A/RES/72/203). In this regard, the Ministers *urged* the developed countries to fulfill their ODA commitments in a timely and predictable manner, as has been agreed in the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits. They also *underscored* the need for additional financial resources to address the crisis, failure to do so will severely jeopardize the achievement of the IADGs, including SDGs.

614. The Ministers *stressed* that the financial and economic crisis had exacerbated the ongoing global food crisis, and also undermined the efforts of developing countries to achieve food security. They *expressed* their concern that this situation is eroding progress already achieved and is pushing millions of people into poverty and hunger. In this regard, they urged developed countries to fulfill their commitments to support developing countries to face the

crisis;

615. The Ministers further *highlighted* the urgent need for a substantive and comprehensive reform of the international economic and financial system and architecture, including policies, mandates, scope and governance, to better enable it to respond and prevent financial and economic emergencies, effectively promote development and equitably serve the needs of Member States, particularly developing countries. International Financial Institutions in particular must have a clear development orientation. The Ministers *called on* all Member States to participate in an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue for a new international economic and financial system and architecture.

616. The Ministers also *expressed* deep concern at the inadequate voice and representation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods Institutions, including the existing lack of representation of developing countries at the top leadership positions at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

617. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* the urgency of reforming the international financial system, including through an ambitious and expeditious reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly their governance structures, based on the full and fair representation of developing countries, in order to address the democratic deficit in those institutions and improve their legitimacy; and that these reforms must reflect current realities and ensure the full voice and participation of developing countries to support developing countries in the implementation of activities for sustainable development, including through the provision of resources, without conditionalities.

618. In this context, and as one of the main challenges featuring the current international situation since the 17<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit held in Margarita, the Ministers *underlined* their deep concern with the scope and seriousness of the remaining effects of the international financial and economic crisis affecting the world today and its severe adverse impact on development, including the realization of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and sustainable development, particularly for developing countries, as well as for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business, and therefore the Ministers *recognized* the need to work collectively in order to reform the international financial and monetary architecture and economic governance structures with a view to improving the functioning of the international economic system and mitigating the impacts of the crisis on development.

619. The Ministers *stressed*, in that regard, that the recovery of the global financial and economic crisis is uncertain and uneven, and there is no guarantee that the relapse will not occur. The Ministers *underlined* that the systemic problems facing the global economy have to be resolved, including through the full accomplishment of the reform of the global financial system and architecture;

620. The Ministers *expressed concern* at the volatility in currency exchange rates and its adverse impact on international trade, economic growth and development, and *emphasized* the importance of examining this problem including the possibility of evolving to a more stable international monetary system.

621. The Ministers *expressed* concern that the world financial and economic crisis is still threatening the debt sustainability in some developing countries, inter alia, through its impact on the real economy and the increase in borrowing undertaken in order to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis, and in that regard called upon all Governments to promote and contribute to the discussions within the United Nations and other appropriate forums, including the IMF and the World Bank, on the need and feasibility of new sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms that take into account the multiple dimensions of debt sustainability

and its role on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

622. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, held on 24 – 30 June 2009 in New York, the outcome of which was subsequently endorsed by General Assembly resolution 63/303 on 9 July 2009. The Ministers *took note* of the progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic crisis and its Impact on Development and *expressed* their support for extending the mandate of the working group.

623. The Ministers *recalled* that sovereign debt restructuring has been a crucial issue for developing countries in past decades and recent years. The Ministers *noted* the concerns expressed concerning the so-called “vulture funds” and their actions of a highly speculative nature, which pose a risk to all future debt-restructuring processes for both developing and developed countries. The Ministers therefore *stressed* the importance of preventing vulture funds from paralyzing the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries.

624. The Ministers *emphasized* the need for a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries and in this regard *called for* the continued formulation and implementation of initiatives, including addressing significant debt relief for all developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the related discussions at the United Nations by the General Assembly, the Financing for Development process and the Ad Hoc Committee on Sovereign Debt Restructuring and *took note* of the discussions at the IMF and the World Bank, within their respective mandates. They also *welcomed* the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/319 titled “Basic Principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes” on 10 September 2015 as an important step, and *noted* its invitation to all Member and observer states, competent international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to promote the Basic Principles.

625. The Ministers *recognized* the work carried out by International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Paris Club on sovereign debt restructuring. They also *recognized* the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and *encouraged* them to continue to support global efforts towards sustainable development and a durable solution to the problem of the debt of developing countries.

626. The Ministers *expressed serious concern* about the substantial increase in the financial stability risks of many developed economies and, in particular, their high structural fragilities in financing sovereign debt created as a result of transferring private risk to the public sector. In this regard, we *call for* urgent and coherent solutions to reduce sovereign risk in developed economies in order to prevent contagion and to mitigate its impact on the international financial system and on developing countries.

627. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the Third International Follow-up Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development for 2015, in light of the continuity of the crisis and its negative impacts, particularly on the economies of developing countries which negatively affect the efforts of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs.

628. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights, held in Geneva on 20 February 2009, and *encouraged* all States to work for the implementation of the resolution adopted in that session.

629. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over illicit financial flows and related thereto tax

avoidance and evasion, corruption and money laundering, by using certain jurisdictions and practices, with negative impacts for the world economy and, in particular for developing countries. They *maintained* that while there is increasing recognition of the importance of international cooperation on tax matters, there is still no single global inclusive forum for international tax cooperation at the intergovernmental level. There is also not enough focus on the development dimension of these issues. In this context, the Ministers *reiterated* the need to fully upgrade the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental body and to provide adequate resources to the Committee to fulfill its mandate as well as increase the participation of experts from developing countries at its meetings.

630. The Ministers *emphasized further* that industrial development and policies to enhance productive capacities can generate employment and incomes for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed Development goals, including the SDGs.

631. The Ministers *encouraged* regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation as a platform for international industrial cooperation aiming to promote investment and technology transfer, to disseminate good policies and practices as well as to foster job creation, including for youth and women, and in this regard, the efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to assist developing countries in their industrialization objectives must be supported.

632. The Ministers will work towards full and equal access to formal financial services for all. The Ministers will also work for the international system to ensure that the policy and regulatory environment supports financial market stability and promotes financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection. The Ministers *encouraged*, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws and regulations, the use of innovative tools, including mobile banking, payment platforms and digitized payments. The Ministers *looked forward* to strengthening financial literacy and capacity development for developing countries, including through the United Nations development system.

### **Unemployment**

633. The Ministers *expressed their concern* over the serious jobs challenge and widespread deficits of decent work that the world faces, with particular impacts on youth. The Ministers *acknowledged* that according to ILO Global Employment and Social Outlook Trends (2018) the global unemployment rate has been stabilizing after a rise in 2016 expected to have reached 5.6 per cent in 2017, with the total number of unemployed exceeding 192 million persons. Also, almost 1.4 billion workers were estimated to be in vulnerable employment in 2017, and an additional 35 million are expected to join them by 2019, affecting three out of four workers in developing countries. The number of workers living in extreme poverty is expected to remain stubbornly above 114 million for the coming years, affecting 40 per cent of all employed people in 2018. In this regard, they *expressed deep concern* about the increase in inequalities and the insufficient employment opportunities, including quality positions, to maintain the rhythm of a growing labor force, bearing in mind the fundamental importance of equality of opportunities, education and professional development in the context of the effective right of young people to work, underscoring that the full, decent and productive employment of young people plays an important role in its empowerment, and it could contribute, among other things, to prevent extremism, terrorism and social, economic, and political instability. Similarly, they *urged* UN Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the designation of 15<sup>th</sup> July as the World Youth Skills Day, by the General Assembly, as a means to strengthen young people's access to decent work and labor markets.

**Africa**

634. The Ministers *called on* the international community to implement its commitment to address the special needs of Africa, and its resolve to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions; to support the African commitment to ensure that all children have access to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, as well as to basic health care; to support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa.

635. The Ministers *called for* continued support for Africa's development initiatives, including the continental strategic vision framework for socio-economic development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Program for Infrastructure Development for Africa (PIDA).

636. The Ministers *expressed their concern* over the development and scope of the current financial and economic crisis on Africa which continues to slow down economic growth, worsen balance of payment situation and turn around the efforts to achieve the SDGs, and in this regard, *welcomed* the Addis Ababa Declarations on the International Financial Crisis adopted at the 12th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Union Ministers on 3 February 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

637. In this context, the Ministers *supported* and *encouraged* national and regional initiatives in the field of human development, such as the first African Conference on Human Development which was held in Rabat, Morocco, in April 2007. This Conference aimed at combating poverty and vulnerability and enhancing the social and living standards of the most disadvantaged African Nations within the context of achieving the SDGs.

638. The Ministers further *called for* a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including, *inter alia*, cancellation or restructuring for heavily indebted African countries not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that have unsustainable debt burdens; to make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes; to support the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price-risk management; to supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as set out in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as part of an African "Green Revolution"; as recommended by African Ministers at the High Level Meeting on "African Agriculture in the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a sustainable Green Revolution", held in Windhoek from 9 to 10 February 2009.

639. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the political declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008. They *stressed* their commitment to provide and strengthen support to the special needs of Africa and stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. They *underlined* the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, which is pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy. They *recalled* the commitment of all States to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up

on all commitments related to the development of Africa as contained in the political declaration on “Africa’s development needs” and *stressed* that all commitments to and by Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up by the international community and Africa itself. They *underscored* the urgency of addressing the special needs of Africa based on a partnership among equals.

640. The Ministers *recognized* that special attention should be given to Africa, especially that it is the most continent lagging behind in achieving the SDGs. Despite progress made by some African countries, the situation in others remains a grave concern. The Ministers *called for* the full and timely implementation of all commitments made to enable African countries to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

641. The Ministers *stressed* that the special development needs of Africa should be at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed in this context the political declaration on “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008.

642. The Ministers *called for* the full implementation as a matter of urgency of the “Political Declaration on Africa’s Development needs” adopted by GA resolution 63/1 of 22 September 2008, as reaffirmed by the Doha Declaration on financing for development, and of all commitments made to Africa by the international community. The Ministers *expressed* concern that the pledge made by the G8 at Gleneagles to double the Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards Africa from US \$25 billion to US \$50 billion by 2010 was not reached.

643. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that Official Development Assistance remains the main source of international financing for development for many developing countries and that it is essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the 2030 Agenda in accordance with paragraph 246 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“The future we want”).

644. The Ministers *recognized* that the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development along with the Africa Agenda 2063 play a pivotal role for industrialization and mainly the necessity to obtain the required financial resources to achieve it. The Ministers *welcomed* the discussion during the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on financing for development that took place, between the 13 and 16 July 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and which led to the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

645. The Ministers *stressed* the need to strengthen cooperation with African countries through North-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and South-South Cooperation, especially in agriculture, education, health and environment as well as the exchange of experiences and know-how in all these sectors.

646. The Ministers *took note* of the adoption of “Marrakech Consensus on Innovative Financing for Africa’s Transformation”, by the Ninth ECA African Development Forum (ADF-IX), held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 12 to 16 October 2014, which calls for greater partnership between the private and public sector to accelerate Africa’s transformation.

647. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the Declaration of the first Africa Action Summit for Continental Co-Emergence, held in Marrakech in 16 November 2016, and *expressed* their support to the approved set of practical measures aiming at consolidating African respective commitments and Initiatives to tackle the effects of climate change and as a significant contribution to a comprehensive and coordinated response to this serious challenge.

648. The Ministers *welcomed* the recent steps undertaken by the African Countries to achieve

the full integration of NEPAD into the Structures and Processes of the African Union on the basis of the 13- points conclusion of Algiers, Algeria, NEPAD Ministers Implementing Committee (HSGIC), Brainstorming Summit, of March 2007, and the outcomes of the Dakar, Senegal, NEPAD Review Summit of April 2008. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) as a technical body of the AU to replace the NEPAD Secretariat.

649. The Ministers welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution 70/293 proclaiming the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa calling by that for this decade to place the African continent irrevocably on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

650. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the organization on 21 September 2017, in New York, in the margin of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, the high level event, titled “The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa: From political commitment to actions on the ground”. This event was attended by high-level participants from the Continent aimed to reaffirm the commitment of the international community to enhance global partnership to industrialize Africa in a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner.

**Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States**

651. The Ministers recalled the special needs of the least developed countries (LDCs), the small island developing states (SIDS), and the land locked developing countries (LLDCs) within a new global frame work for transit transport cooperation for land locked and transit developing countries, and reaffirmed the need for continued support and assistance for their endeavours, particularly in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020 adopted in the fourth United Nations LDCs Conference held in Istanbul, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)

652. The Ministers reaffirmed the “Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)” adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, which represents the international community’s renewed political commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Ministers further recalled that the SAMOA Pathway also set out new modalities for strengthened action on a range of challenges and priorities concerning small-island developing States and demonstrated how partnerships with different stakeholders could be nurtured and utilized as one of the important means to implement the outcome document and build resilience to the particular challenges faced by SIDS. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/202 establishing the SIDS Partnership Framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges through partnerships for SIDS, as well as to encourage genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS, in accordance with paragraph 101 of the SAMOA Pathway.

653. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, especially the Political Declaration and the Istanbul Programme of Action, 2011-2020, and called for scaled up partnership for development, as well as the necessary comprehensive support architecture to LDCs in their efforts to ensure that at least half of them graduate from that status by 2020. In this regard, the Ministers *called for* effective arrangements for implementation, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the commitments made under the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Ministers *commended* UNCTAD’s contribution to the implementation of the IPoA, and encouraged the Organization to continue its work in ensuring that the economic fundamentals of LDCs are adequately addressed, particularly so that they can harness the developmental benefits of participating in the global

economic system, including world trade.

654. The Ministers have *noted with serious concern* that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to be denied access to concessional finance from international financial institutions based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita criterion established several decades ago. The SIDS thus have serious difficulties in mobilizing financial resources to undertake much-needed infrastructure development projects which require sustainable financing. The Ministers *called upon* the international financial institutions and the UN to address this issue expeditiously including undertaking an urgent review of the GDP per Capita criterion which prevents SIDS from access to concessional finance to fund development projects.

655. The Ministers *called upon* developed countries for the full implementation of the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, including providing enhanced financial and technical support to develop productive capacities, meeting and reviewing quantitative official development assistance targets for the least developed countries, improving the quality of aid, implementing duty-free quota-free market access, enhancing the share of assistance for Aid for Trade, continuing with the provision of debt relief and the consideration of debt cancellation for the least developed countries in view of the impediment that debt constitutes for their development, implementing investment promotion regimes, enhancing transfer of technology, providing enhanced concessional start-up financing for innovative enterprises in the least developed countries and improving governance at all levels.

656. The Ministers also *recalled* the results of the first Summit Meeting of LLDCs on 14 September 2006 in Havana and emphasized the need for greater cooperation of the international community towards the full implementation of the declaration of the Ministers of Land-locked Developing Countries.

657. The Ministers *highly appreciated* UNIDO's initiative in organizing the 7<sup>th</sup> LDC Ministerial Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, on the 23-24 November 2017. The Conference was held in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Decade for Africa, and aimed at supporting the international efforts to help fostering the graduation of the LDCs.

658. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of the mobilization of adequate financial resources and underlined the critical need for addressing expeditiously the renewed and structural challenges, notably eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, hence enabling a considerable number of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation from the category by 2020. The NAM Ministers also stressed the importance of the support of the international community to contribute towards the achievement of the targets for the LDCs.

659. The Ministers *encouraged* United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support to landlocked developing countries and actively contribute to the preparatory review process and the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself.

660. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the special needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by the remoteness from world markets and also the concern that the economic growth and social well-being of land-locked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks as well as the multiple challenges the international community faces including the financial and economic crisis and climate changes.

661. The Ministers *stressed the need* for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them overcome their

vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development. They also *stress* the urgent need to address the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked and transit developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

662. The Ministers *expressed* concern that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action.

663. The Ministers *encouraged* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions and other international organizations, to assist the landlocked developing countries in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks and in developing a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used for early warning purposes.

664. The Ministers *noted* the entry into force of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in October 2017, and underscored the important role of the International Think Tank to support the development efforts of landlocked developing countries and, in this regard, urged those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Agreement at their earliest convenience, and called upon all relevant stakeholders to support the work of the International Think Tank.

665. The Ministers *welcomed* the progress made since the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in Ulaanbaatar to enhance analytical capability within landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

666. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to continue to pay special attention to the situation of developing countries emerging from conflict, in particular LDCs, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, their political, social and economic infrastructures and to assist them in achieving their development objectives.

### **Middle Income Countries**

667. The Ministers *recognized* the important role that Middle-Income Countries play in the promotion of global economic growth and development. However, they still face significant development challenges, especially in the areas of poverty eradication and inequalities, the adverse impact of climate change, and in achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the SDG's. They also *confront* the challenge of making the transition from resource driven growth to productivity driven growth. In this regard, the Ministers *stressed* the need for enhanced support by the United Nations System, the international financial institutions and all other stakeholders, for their development efforts through an appropriate framework for development cooperation with Middle Income Countries, in order to address those challenges, including by working in competent multilateral and international fora and also through bilateral arrangements on measures to enhance international cooperation with MICs and help them meet, inter alia, their socio-economic development and financial technical and technological development requirements.

668. The Ministers *recognized* that middle-income countries still face significant development

challenges and underlined that despite the recent progress achieved and the efforts made by middle-income countries, 73% of the world's poor population lives in those countries. Cooperation aimed at those countries can have a multiplying effect by contributing significantly to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the achievement of full employment and the creation of jobs for the youth, the diversification of their economies, and the development of technologies continue to be huge challenges for middle-income countries.

669. The Ministers *acknowledged* that statistical averages based only on criteria such as per capita income do not reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries, and recognizes that this type of classification fails to recognize the diversity among and with middle-income countries and disregards the multidimensional nature of development and poverty.

670. The Ministers *recognized* the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty (adapted from PP22 A/RES/72/230 "Development cooperation with middle-income countries"). In this regard, The Ministers *committed* to continue promoting the use of criteria that rely on multidimensional indicators beyond Gross Domestic Product per capita, in order to adequately measure the progress of the countries of the movement in promoting sustainable development in its three dimensions.

671. The Ministers *noted with concern* that access to concessional finance is reduced as countries' incomes grow. Middle-income countries may not be able to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their development needs. They *encouraged* multilateral development banks and other stakeholders to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual and to explore ways to ensure that their assistance best addresses the opportunities and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries.

672. The Ministers *called upon* the international community, including international financial institutions, to continue to improve support for the development efforts of middle-income countries through targeted technical cooperation, the provision of resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, while taking into account their national priorities and development policies.

673. The Ministers *acknowledged* that official development assistance is still essential for a number of middle-income countries and that it has a role to play in targeted areas, taking into account the needs and domestic resources of these countries.

674. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the GA resolution 72/230 entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries" and its decision to convene a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly at the beginning of its seventy-third session to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

675. The Ministers *recalled* the international Conferences on Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries held in March 2007 in Madrid, Spain, in October 2007 in San Salvador, El Salvador, and in August 2008 in Windhoek, Namibia, in June 2013 in San Jose, Costa Rica, as well as the regional conferences on "increasing the competitiveness of African Middle Income countries" held in Cairo, Egypt, in March 2008, and "The Middle-Income Countries' Perspective on Sustainable Development in CIS, Eastern and Southern Europe", held in Minsk, Belarus, in May 2013, and "Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries in Europe and Central Asia through innovation and technological learning: needs, potentials and best practices" held in Minsk, Belarus, in April 2015. And in this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of GA resolution 68/222, 70/215 and 72/230 on "Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries". The Ministers once again *emphasized* the need for the UN to conduct a

comprehensive review of existing practices of the international cooperation system, including the UN Funds, programmes and agencies, the international financial institutions and other international organization, including the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, on their development cooperation with middle income countries, with a view to achieving more effective development cooperation and fostering international support for the development of these countries.

### **Low Income Developing Countries**

676. The Ministers further *recognized* that low-income developing countries could also play an important role in the promotion of world economic growth, although they face important development challenges and special needs in the sphere of trade facilitation and the promotion of direct foreign investment flow, resist the adverse impacts of climate change and the eradication of poverty and require the urgent attention of the international community. In this regard, they stressed the need for the United Nations system to enhance its support to Low Income Developing Countries.

### **Trade**

677. The Ministers *underlined* that trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development and they *committed* to overcome development challenges and inequalities between and within countries. In this regard they *recommitted* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as meaningful trade liberalization. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of facilitating the accession of developing countries to WTO, recognizing the contribution that it would make to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system. In that regard, they *urged* the accession process to be accelerated without political impediments and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries that had applied for membership in WTO.

678. The Ministers *expressed* serious concern over the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on global trade through, inter alia, rising protectionism, in particular, in developed countries which negatively affects exports of developing countries. They also *reaffirmed* the central importance of the development dimensions in trade negotiations and they *maintained* that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round launched in 2001 can only be achieved if the outcomes thereof, significantly address the imbalances and inequities in the multilateral trading system, in which the interests of developing countries could be reflected, as well as the need to fulfill of previous commitments.

679. The Ministers called on the EU to adopt a more flexible approach in the EPA negotiations with the concerned ACP Countries and provide the requisite support to finance adjustment costs and build supply capacity to be able to take advantage of the EPA.

680. The Ministers also *reiterated* the importance of fully responding to the concerns raised by developing countries in paragraph 8 of the Doha Plan of Action, in particular, regarding the realization of all areas of the Doha Work Programme, especially in Agriculture, Non-Agriculture Market Access, Services, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Rules as well as operational and meaningful special and differential treatment for developing countries. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of agriculture, as agriculture is the primary sector for the development of many developing countries, in particular LDCs. They also called for action to accelerate the work on the development related mandate concerning the TRIPS Agreement and the implementation related issues in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially on the issues of making intellectual property rules of TRIPS supportive of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as trade-related aspects of the TRIPS and Public Health. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of a strong multilateral trading system in safeguarding trade expansion that serves as a source of economic growth, job

creation, and sustainable development and poverty eradication.

681. The Ministers *stressed* that the substantial increase of non-tariff measures such as technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, private standards, discriminatory measures on non-commercial grounds and the use of agricultural subsidies by developed countries impedes the promotion of agricultural production and exports in developing countries and urged the developed countries to reduce them with a view to eliminate subsidies, non-tariff measures and other market-distorting measures.

682. The Ministers *invited* donors and beneficiary countries to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on the Aid for Trade Initiative established by the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, which aims to support developing and least developed countries in building their supply and export capacities, including development of infrastructure and institutions, and the need to increase their exports, and stressed in this regard the urgent need for its effective operationalization with sufficient additional, non-conditional and predictable funding.

683. The Ministers *emphasized* that the accession process to WTO should be accelerated without political impediments and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries, in particular the LDCs, as well as countries with economies in transition, consistent with objective, clear and transparent criteria with full observance of the principle of special and differential treatment for Developing countries, in particular LDCs and taking into account their development level, bearing in mind paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 55/182 and subsequent developments, and called for the effective and faithful application of the WTO guidelines on accession by the LDCs. .

684. The Ministers *underlined* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, and Vienna Programme of action, and noted that the Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and called upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade. The Ministers further urged developed countries to honour their commitments related to technical assistance and capacity building to enable developing countries to implement the TFA.

685. The Ministers *underscored* the important role of UNCTAD as the focal point within the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and it should conduct research into an analysis of macroeconomic policies, trade, investment, finance, debt, poverty, international migration and emerging issues, and their interdependence, as referred to in the Accra Accord adopted in the 12th Conference of UNCTAD also in the Doha Mandate adopted in its 13th Conference, and the Nairobi Maafikiano adopted at its 14<sup>th</sup> Conference. Such research should be used to help developing countries to meet their development goals including poverty eradication to improve the welfare of their citizens and to address the opportunities and challenges created by globalization. They further reiterated the need to continue the operationalization of UNCTAD's relevant functions in the areas of globalization, policy space and corporate responsibility and the reinvigoration of its intergovernmental machinery.

686. The Ministers *took note* of the UNCTAD-UNDP Creative Economy Report 2010 that provides empirical evidence,–in-depth analysis and new insights showing that the creative industries, linking economic, cultural, technological and social aspects of development at both the macro and micro levels, are among the most dynamic emerging sectors in world trade that could offer to developing countries new opportunities in the world economy. The

Ministers therefore encouraged UNCTAD to develop a technical assistance programme in creative economy in order to enhance and strengthen developing countries capacity to compete in these sectors. The Ministers further encouraged UNCTAD to fulfil its mandates and assist governments on issues related to the development dimension of the creative economy, in line with the three pillars of UNCTAD's work by assisting developing countries and LDCs to enhance their creative economies for trade and development, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

687. The Ministers *agreed* to work towards the full implementation of the recommendations of the XIV session of the UNCTAD's Ministerial Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 22 July 2016.

688. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of NAM countries to support and to ensure that the 45 Development Agenda Recommendations, which was agreed by the World Intellectual Property Organization General Assembly in 2008, are fully implemented. The implementation of such recommendation is important to find balance between the IPRs and the development of developing countries.

689. The Ministers are committed to support and promote mechanisms aimed at enhancing intra/interregional trade, investment and cooperation among developing countries, promoting policy coherence in the countries of the South.

690. The Ministers *recognized* that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and has positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth.

691. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures:

691.1. Continue the coordination and cooperation between the G-77 and China and NAM, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the role of UNCTAD as the UN body in charge of an integrated treatment of trade, development and related matters in the field of finances, technology, investment and sustainable development;

691.2. Continue promoting the rejection of and the adoption of concrete actions against the enforcement of unilateral coercive economic measures at the several multilateral fora where NAM and G-77 and China are involved.

692. The Ministers *expressed* deep concern at the imposition of laws and other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries, imposed by a specific country or a group for political and economic purposes, which violates the Charter of the United Nations, rules and principles of international law and the rules of the World Trade Organization and also severely threatens freedom of trade and investment, and constitutes an interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The Ministers *urged* the ending of such coercive measures.

### **South-South Cooperation**

693. Recognizing the increasing importance of South-South Cooperation and the changing context of North-South interdependence and terms of engagement, the Ministers *called for* a more energetic effort to deepen and enhance South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that such cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

694. The Ministers *noted* the preparations of the High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of

Action (BAPA) to be held in Buenos Aires in March 2019. It will present an opportunity to enhance the current institutional arrangements to effectively support South-South cooperation and promote South-South agenda, hence they *looked forward* to constructive engagement and a fruitful outcome that will further concretize and strengthen the solidarity among developing countries. In this context, the Ministers *strongly recommended* the consolidation of existing mechanisms of South-South cooperation and reiterated their call for the establishment of a United Nations specialized agency for South-South cooperation to be located in a developing country.

695. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitments to fully implement the Havana Programme of Action, the Marrakech Plan of Implementation of South-South cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action that taken together represent a comprehensive framework for intensified cooperation among developing countries.

696. The Ministers *reiterated* their support to the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation held from 1 to 3 December 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, which was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, and looked forward to its full and effective implementation.

697. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the High-level Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9-10 March 2016, in accordance with the relevant mandate of the Second South Summit. They welcomed the Panel's Conclusions and Recommendations on the Future Landscape of South-South Cooperation as an important contribution to the further development of the Development Platform for the South. The Ministers also reiterated the framework and principles of South-South cooperation endorsed by their Forty-First Annual Meeting held in New York on 22 September 2017.

698. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of strengthening the current institutional mechanisms for South-South Cooperation and expressed their support for the principles on which South-South Cooperation is based, which were adopted by the G77 and China in its different Summits and Conferences including at its annual meeting in New York on 26 September 2014.

699. The Ministers *recalled* the decision of the HLC in 2012 to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), hosted by the UNDP, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis. In this context, they *recommended* the development of collaborative arrangements between the funds and programs and the Office of South-South Cooperation, including with a clear division of tasks and roles, as well as clear lines of reporting and accountability.

700. The Ministers further *recommended* that the UNOSSC should be enabled to participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in keeping with its status as a separate entity within the UN for global coordination and promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation for development on United Nations system-wide basis in accordance with UN General Assembly resolutions. In this context, they also took note with appreciation of the UNOSSC Strategic Framework for 2014-2017, which was prepared in accordance with its General Assembly's mandate, consistent with the principles, priorities and objectives set by Member States in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Nairobi Outcome Document and other relevant General Assembly resolutions and South Summits' outcomes, taking into consideration the outcome of the review of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations system (A/66/717), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary-General's operational guidelines on UN support to South-South cooperation, and other UN entities' strategic plans.

701. The Ministers *reiterated* their position that South-South Cooperation is a collective

endeavor among peoples and countries of the South based on the principles of solidarity and on the premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and as such South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document and the Development Platform for the South of the G77 and also that South-South Cooperation is a complementary tool and not a replacement for North-South Cooperation.

702. The Ministers *stressed* that the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is the central multilateral policy-making body in the UN system to review and assess global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South development cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and to provide overall guidance on future directions. In this regard, this policy making body could be complemented by other relevant South-South cooperation initiatives and dialogue platforms.

703. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the role of South-South cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism, as a continuing process vital to confront the challenges faced by the South and as valuable contribution to development, and the need to further strengthen it, including through enhancing the capacities of the institutions and the arrangements that promote such cooperation.

704. In this context, the Ministers recalled the holding of the Third Africa-South America Summit in February 2013 in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea which reaffirmed the commitment made in the second and first African South American Conference held in Marrakech, Morocco, to foster South-South Cooperation as a major objective of both regions.

705. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of further strengthening coordination and cooperation at the regional, sub-regional, interregional and bilateral levels, particularly in the context of the negative impact of the current financial and economic crisis.

706. The Ministers *evoked* the successful conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade preferences by the adoption on the 15th of December 2010 of the Sao Paulo Protocol, and invited all the parties involved to ratify its agreement as soon as possible, and encouraged other developing countries to consider acceding to the GSTP and its protocols.

707. The Ministers *welcomed* the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in its sixty-sixth session to rename the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as the "Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation"; as well as to change, as of 2012, the observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation from 19 December to 12 September, to mark the day in 1978 when the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

708. The Ministers *reiterated* General Assembly resolution 60/212 in which it designated the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, "as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation." To this end, they also *supported* efforts to upgrade the UN Fund for SSC into a fully functioning voluntary trust fund, and expand the core resources of the G-77 Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and South Summit decisions.

709. The Ministers *noted* with satisfaction the signing, on November 28, 2013, of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNITAR and G77 and China (Chapter Geneva) on training and capacity building for representatives of member countries of the G77 and China. They *welcomed* the substantial financial support granted by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in creating a fund within UNITAR dedicated to scholarships for training to

representatives of countries of G77 and China.

710. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the signing on 06 September 2017 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to establish a cooperation framework between both agencies to promote South and Triangular cooperation in areas of common interest.

711. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to further reinforce the following measures, among others:

711.1. Strengthen national capacities in order to enhance the individual and collective resilience of Non-Aligned Countries, which could be achieved particularly through expanding, deepening and enriching South-South cooperation in all areas of relations among them, including through undertaking concrete projects and programmes, pooling of resources, and tapping the contributions of eminent personalities and institutions of the South. In this regard, the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance established by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China could greatly contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of South-South cooperation;

711.2. Encourage Member States to elaborate South-South cooperation arrangements, including sectoral cooperation arrangements, and other partnerships that promote South-South cooperation;

711.3. The Ministers *reiterated*, as laid out in the Nairobi Outcome document, that South-South Cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. They also *requested* the United Nations development system to enhance its support in implementing projects of South-South cooperation, *inter alia*, in the areas of capacity-building, regional integration, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, experiences, good practices, technological innovations and technology transfer;

711.4. Promote on a voluntary basis trade and investment agreements among developing countries as a tool for strengthening South-South economic cooperation;

711.5. Promote and strengthen regional and sub-regional integration through groupings and other arrangements on the basis of mutual benefit, complementarities and solidarity among developing countries with a view to facilitating and accelerating the economic growth and development of their economies;

711.6. Recognize the positive contribution of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC)<sup>28</sup> in Indonesia to the efforts of organizing training programmes and enhancing the capacity of the Non-Aligned Movement Member Countries in achieving the Internationally Agreed Developments Goals, including the SDGs;

711.7. Encourage the Centre to continue working with development partners to *provide* training and capacity building programs for *developing countries*, and in this regard, further encourage member states of NAM to provide necessary assistance on a voluntary basis to the Centre towards achieving its established goals and objectives;

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<sup>28</sup> Information concerning the NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, initiated by Indonesia, and located in Jakarta, Indonesia, can be obtained from its website at [www.csstc.org](http://www.csstc.org).

711.8. Recognize the positive contribution of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries located in India, and express support for its strengthening in the context of South-South cooperation in the field of science and technology;

711.9. Strengthen the capability of developing countries to evaluate international economic issues, through the establishment of a NAM network of coordination and cooperation between academic and specialized centers of research and economic studies;

711.10. Reaffirm the central role of the South Centre as the think tank of the countries of the South, and emphasize its importance in enhancing South-South Cooperation through promoting solidarity and mutual understanding among the countries and peoples of the South; as well as providing the intellectual and policy support required by developing countries for collective and individual action in the international arena. In this context, the Members of the Movement are called upon to further support the South Centre, and the Centre should establish South-South networks among relevant institutions to facilitate the exchange of programmes, academia, and in supporting the Joint Coordinating Committee in the negotiating processes of major United Nations Conferences in the Economic and Social fields;

711.11. Encourage the NAM Business Forum on South-South Cooperation, consistent with its terms of reference, to continue with its initiatives to enhance South-South trade and business relations. In this context, they recalled the success of the Second NAM Business Forum and the General Meeting of the NAM Business Council for South-South Cooperation, held in Havana, Cuba, on November 2007;

711.12. Encourage UN Member States to support international development funds aimed at financing the implementation of South-South Cooperation projects, such as the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

712. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in support of national development priorities. The Ministers invited the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to take concrete measures to further strengthen UNOSSC, as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system, as mandated by the General Assembly Resolution 71/243 on QCPR, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation.

713. The Ministers *reiterated* their strong support to the mandate of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and stressed that the Office is the articulator of South-South cooperation in the United Nations system. They *appreciated* the countries of the South who have stepped up their cooperation with UNOSSC which has also enhanced its role and impact by up-scaling it in terms of financial, human and budgetary resources in order to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

714. The Ministers *welcomed* the cooperation initiatives and the substantial financial contributions made by some NAM countries, including inter alia OPEC countries based on solidarity and principles of friendship among states, which are conducive to the realization of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development, as well as initiatives for scientific and research programs on energy, environment and climate change, as decided at the OPEC Summit in Riyadh in November 2007. In this regard, they encouraged member states to consider supporting and engaging in those mechanisms of cooperation or other relevant regional or sub-regional arrangements of a cooperative nature.

715. The Ministers also *welcomed* regional initiatives of South-South cooperation by some NAM members in the field of sustainable development and in this regard, they took note, inter alia, of the Mesoamerica Project on Integration and Development.

716. The Ministers noted the High Level Event of the UN General Assembly on “Contributions of South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation and information and communication technologies for development to the post 2015 Development agenda” held on 21-22 May 2014, and reiterated the significance of North-South cooperation in supporting the development of the developing countries and South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among the peoples and countries of the south.

717. The Ministers also *took note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its nineteenth session, the decisions taken at that session, in particular decision 19/1, and the decisions taken at the Intercessional meeting of 8 September 2015 and reiterated the need for strengthening the UNOSSC, in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly Resolution 67/226 on QCPR.

718. The Ministers also *took note* of some regional cooperation initiatives in the financial and economic fields, such as those undertaken by some countries of the Latin American region, like the Bank of the South, as well as initiatives of ALBA countries such as the Bank of the ALBA, the Common Reserve Fund, the Common Account Unit, and the use of the SUCRE as their currency unit.

719. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of The First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo in Doha, Qatar from 18-20 February 2014, hosted by the government of the State of Qatar and co-organized by the UNOSSC and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States, which aimed at showcasing and scaling up the impact of successful evidence-based solutions crafted and tested by countries in the Arab States region in addressing development challenges pertinent to the needs and aspirations of the region.

720. The Ministers *recalled* the holding of a Ministerial Conference of NAM Member states on Science, Technology and Innovation held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22-24 February 2015 aimed to increase the effectiveness of the Movement and benefiting from science and technology to enhance the socio-economic well-being of peoples of NAM Member States. They also welcomed and endorsed the Declaration issued at the end of this meeting,

721. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop on Mineral Processing and Beneficiation organized by the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries in Harare, Zimbabwe from 11-14 September 2014. The Ministers further *welcomed* the offer by the Government of Zimbabwe to host the proposed Non-Aligned Movement Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Minerals Processing and Beneficiation in Zimbabwe.

722. The Ministers *welcomed* the First and Second Ministerial Meetings of the Latin American States Affected by Transnational Interests held in Guayaquil, Ecuador on 22 April 2013, and Caracas, Venezuela on 10 September 2014 and took note of their decision to create a state-funded international observatory, which would have several tasks including reporting on the state of international litigation by transnational corporations against states. In this regard, they *noted* these efforts towards tackling disputes between states and transnational corporations.

### **Food Security**

723. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern at the high volatility in global food prices which directly challenges the fundamental human right to food. The resulting and ongoing food crisis poses a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as to the

efforts by developing countries to attain food security and achieve Goal 2 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and its related targets. The Ministers also *underlined* the need to address the issues that impede food supply chain and distribution of food which is a major setback taking into account that much has been achieved in efforts to increase global food production. In addition, it was agreed that there is also a need to address the issue of food loss, including through capacity building and transfer of technology to developing countries, as well as the issue of food waste, in particular in developed countries. The Ministers also *took note* of the limited progress that has been made in reducing hunger in the world. However, structural problems continue to sustain the widespread hunger, food insecurity and nutrition and poverty. The continuing international economic and financial crisis further put serious hindrances in the global effort to fight against hunger as it reverberates throughout the global system through trade, aid and financial links. The multiple and complex causes of this crisis require a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained response by the international community. The Ministers also *emphasized* the importance of strengthening the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture and the Committee on Food Security to help addressing and preventing recurrence of food crisis.

724. The Ministers *underlined* the need to address the economic, social and environmental challenges to sustainable agriculture, and emphasized that achieving food security would require strengthening and revitalizing the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of small and medium scale local farmers and fishers, developing of appropriate technologies, providing technical and financial cooperation, providing access to and transfer of technology, strengthening weather-forecasting, enhancing investment in postharvest technology and infrastructure including food processing capacity building and exchange of data, information and experience as well as infrastructure development. The Ministers also emphasized the implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the UNCCD, as well as the Ten Year Strategic Plan (2008-2018) as a basis for our collective efforts to combat desertification and land degradation to addressing food security.

725. The Ministers *underlined* the seriousness of the global food crisis and underscored that subsidies and other market distortions by developed countries have severely harmed the agricultural sector in developing countries, thereby limiting the ability of this key sector to contribute meaningfully to poverty eradication and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development, food security and nutrition and rural development. The Ministers, therefore, called for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries. The Ministers also *urged* the developed countries to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and political will to address meaningfully these key concerns of developing countries that are part of the remaining issues of the Doha Round of Trade Negotiations.

726. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to revitalize the agriculture sector and promote rural development with the view to ensuring food security and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries.

727. The Ministers *expressed their support* for improving food security and nutrition in Least Developed Countries, through the exchange of experiences, know-how and best practices.

728. The Ministers *recognized* the need to mitigate and reduce the negative impacts of food price volatility and recommended the use of national and local social safety nets and local purchase mechanisms, whenever appropriate for the delivery of food aid and Humanitarian assistance for ensuring the implementation of effective social safety nets must include, inter alia, emergency aid measures to enhance capacity and effective delivery of food aid and ensure greater financial support to developing countries, particularly for food purchases.

729. The Ministers *called for* improving transparency, information sharing, as appropriate, and financial regulations, with a view to contributing to markets stability and minimizing excessive price volatility and to prevent speculative investment in food markets by considering food supply chain to be accessible.

730. The Ministers recalled that food security and nutrition are essential aspects of sustainable development and expressed concern that developing countries are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change further threatening food security. The Ministers *stressed* that the attainment of food security and the move towards sustainable agriculture, including increased food production and agricultural investment, enhanced productive capacities and improved agricultural management and development and support for family farming and smallholder farmers in developing countries, are crucial issues for developing countries.

731. The Ministers *recognized* the need to strengthen efforts to enhance food security and nutrition and to focus efforts on smallholders and women farmers, as well as agricultural cooperative and farmer networks, supported by measures to improve access to markets, enable domestic and international environments and strengthen collaboration across the many initiatives in this area, including regional initiatives.

732. The Ministers, therefore, *called upon* the Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO- in collaboration with relevant UN entities and regional and sub-regional organizations to continue addressing global and regional food security, in particular, through the full and timely implementation and operationalization of short-term responses. In this regard, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the central role of the Committee on World Food Security CFS of FAO for agriculture, food security and nutrition;

733. The Ministers *expressed* the conviction that South-South and triangular cooperation, including investment in agriculture and food security is more needed today than ever. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the South-South and triangular initiatives to enhance and expand exchange of human resources, experiences and know-how in these areas to support agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture to increase the availability of food.

734. The Ministers *called upon* Member States to continue actively engaged in the promotion of the realization of the right to food in all countries. In this regard, they welcomed the holding, at the initiative of NAM, of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council in 2008 on “The negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused inter alia by the soaring food prices” and urged all Member States to pay special attention to the implementation of UN resolutions on the right to food adopted yearly by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

735. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. They reiterated the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. In this context, they recognized that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and stressed that integrated and sustainable agriculture including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture as well as rural development approaches are therefore essential to achieving enhanced food security and nutrition in an environmentally sustainable way.

736. The Ministers also *reiterated* that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. They reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and solidarity as well as the necessity of refraining from undertaking such unilateral coercive measures that affect the trade related to food that endanger food security impacting specially groups in vulnerable situations and are not in accordance with international law and the UN

Charter.

737. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security (13-17 November 2006), the Second International Conference on Nutrition (19-21 November 2014), and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, including the goal of achieving food security and nutrition for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries.

738. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Declaration of the World Food Summit on 15 November 2009, and the importance of the Second NAM First Ladies Summit, convened by Egypt, at the FAO headquarters in Rome in view of its role in addressing many aspects of hunger and malnutrition and identifying concrete steps that NAM First Ladies could initiate to address these issues, including through the exchange of national experiences in ensuring women access to resources, particularly land and finance, as well as human capital and knowledge.

739. The Ministers *noted* the results of the Group of Eight Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2009, and called for the immediate implementation of the commitments made by the countries represented at that Summit towards a goal of mobilizing 20 billion United States dollars over three years.

740. The Ministers *welcomed* the International Year of Quinoa 2013, and High Level Panel on Food Security and Nutrition, at the sixty seventh session of the General Assembly on the United Nations, held on 20 February 2013, which constituted the first step in an ongoing process to focus world attention on the Quinoa's important role. The quinoa's biodiversity and nutritional value make it central to providing food security and nutrition and to poverty eradication, as well as of promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development, and to share good practices on the implementation of activities the Year, as indicated in the master plan of activities for the Year, entitled "A future sown thousands of years ago", in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Sustainable Development Goals.

741. The Ministers *took note* of the need to further examine various concepts such as "food sovereignty" and its relation to food security and the right to food, taking into account the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all peoples at all times.

742. The Ministers *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's Resolution 66/222, adopting the Philippine initiative for the declaration of the year 2014 as the UN International Year of Family Farming and also Resolution 72/239 on UN Decade of Family Farming and the efforts to raise the profile of family and smallholder farming on its significant role in alleviating hunger and poverty in rural areas. They also *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's Resolution 72/173 on Right to food and Resolution 72/238 on Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition.

743. The Ministers *endorsed* the outcome document of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN- 2), organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), that took place in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014 to approve the food security, food system and the nutrition policy framework for the coming decades and priorities for international cooperation in the field of nutrition in the short and medium term.

744. The Ministers *supported* the organization of the International Committee for the Coordination of the International Year of Quinoa, which will promote programs and activities to ensure the success of the International Year of Quinoa.

745. The Ministers *recognized* the efforts made by Andean peoples to promote Quinoa as a nutritious food during its International Year, which attracted world attention on the role of this crop as an alternative for those countries suffering from food insecurity.

746. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision of the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to appoint H.E. Mr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as Special Ambassadors of Quinoa, for a second year, recognizing his leadership and commitment in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, through the promotion of the special benefits of quinoa and its important role in the consecution of food security worldwide.

747. The Ministers *recognized* the initiative of the Dominican Republic President H.E. Leonel Fernandez Reyna regarding addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets, and reiterated their support to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly in this respect entitled excessive international financial market speculation.

748. The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's commitment to the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition through initiatives and public policies taking into account the principles of the World Summit on Food Security held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2009 and, for those countries that recognize the concept, "Knowing how to Eat in order to Live Well", and considering that in order to live well it is required that food security and nutrition be promoted in harmony with nature, generating conditions for individuals and society to develop their full potential.

749. The Ministers *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 68/232 on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils. They also *invited* Member States to promote programmes and activities to observe 5 December as the World Soil Day and 2015 as the International Year of Soils, so as to raise awareness on the importance of this natural resource.

750. The Ministers recalled the decision of the Human Rights Council 21/19, of September 27, 2012, in which the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group was created to negotiate, finalize and submit to the Human Rights Council a draft Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas and took note of the first meeting of the "Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group", held from 15 to 19 July 2013, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The Ministers *also took note* of the decision taken by the Human Rights Council in its 36<sup>th</sup> session (September 2017), by virtue of which the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas shall hold its fifth annual session before the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council (June 2018). They urged the working group that the discussion on the draft declaration needs to take into consideration the existing international obligations and national priorities of States and requested the working group to submit an annual report on progress made to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly for their consideration. In that sense, they invited all States to continue the discussion, debate and negotiation on the proposed United Nations Declaration, for they recognize that rural communities play an important role in economic, social and environmental development.

751. The Ministers recognized the constant efforts promoted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to contribute with the eradication of hunger and poverty in the region and, in this respect, highlight the work undertaken by ALBA-TPC and PETROCARIBE, as the cornerstone of important regional cooperation projects aimed at guaranteeing the implementation of the human right to food, with a sustainable development approach.

752. The Ministers, conscious of the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under 5 years of age and anemia in women and children, among other

micronutrient deficiency, as well as reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases in all age groups, *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/RES/70/259 by the UN General Assembly which, inter alia, decides to proclaim the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025.

### **Housing and sustainable urban development**

753. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the outcome document, entitled "New Urban Agenda", by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016, a meaningful outcome which will guide the international community towards sustainable urban development and human settlements in the next twenty years and provide an opportunity to promote a positive, mutually reinforcing relationship between cities and their surroundings, across the human settlements continuum. They expressed their firm belief that sustainable urban development and human settlements are key drivers of sustainable development in national and sub-national development plans including the participation of local governments and relevant stakeholders. The Ministers *reiterated* their political support unwavering commitment to the implementation as well as the follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly from 5 to 6 September 2017 to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of the UN-Habitat in this regard, and noted the report from the evidence based and independent assessment UN-Habitat.

### **International Migration and Development**

754. The Ministers recognized the importance of the issue of migration as a phenomenon of global proportions which is forecasted to grow in importance due to a number of wide ranging factors.

755. The Ministers *underlined* the importance of addressing the complex and varied root causes of migration including through addressing the development dimension in international migration policies. They *also underlined* the need for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions, regardless of the level of development.

756. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the responsibility of Governments, at all levels, to safeguard and protect the rights of all migrants in accordance with international and domestic laws, including applying, and where needed, reinforcing existing laws against all illegal or violent acts; in particular acts, of and incitement, to ethnic, racial, sex and religious discrimination as well as crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups against migrants, especially in the context of the global economic crisis that increases the vulnerability of migrants in host countries.

757. The Ministers *agreed* to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as with obligations and commitments under all relevant international instruments to which they are party. They *also noted* that the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Migrant Workers of 13 January 2007 needs to be supported as a positive step in safeguarding the fundamental rights and dignity of migrant workers, and in this regard, welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers of 14 November 2017 as well as the development of its action plan.

758. The Ministers *acknowledged* the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 3 October 2013, which decides, inter alia, to work towards an effective and inclusive agenda on international migration that integrates development and respects human rights; to address

the opportunities and the challenges that international migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination; and calls upon all stakeholders, within their respective mandates, to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation to better and fully address the issue of international migration and development, in order to adopt a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach; and to consider migration issues in the preparatory process that will establish the post-2015 development agenda; and in this regard, they called for the UN system to elaborate a global agenda on international migration and development.

759. The Ministers *welcomed* the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016, by virtue of which, the General Assembly decided to develop an intergovernmental process towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which started in April 2017. The Ministers *took note with appreciation* of the results of the meetings held during the consultation and stocktaking phases, on 2017 and welcomed the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 10-11 December 2018. They *encouraged* all States to participate at the highest possible level in this Conference.

760. The Ministers *underlined* the importance that this process shall result in an intergovernmental negotiated and agreed outcome. According to the General Assembly resolution 71/280 on the “Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration”, they also *underlined* that relevant stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, parliaments, local authorities, the private sector and migrants themselves, are able to contribute to the process, under the principle that the intergovernmental nature of the negotiations should be fully respected.

761. The Ministers *underlined* that the issues of migration and development must be addressed comprehensively, mindful of the economic, social and environmental dimensions and include a cultural and human perspective. We recognize the need to address this issue through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive, balanced, coordinated and coherent approach, recognizing the role and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and their families, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status.

762. The Ministers *expressed* concern at the legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices, that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, and reaffirmed that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants. In this regard, the Ministers also *acknowledged* that special measures in the treatment of migrants should be implemented specially in the cases of the elderly, women and children. Furthermore, they acknowledged the need for increased cooperation and partnership between North and South for the protection of all migrants, and for enhancing their contribution in achieving development.

763. The Ministers *recognized* that trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants continue to pose a serious challenge to humanity and require concerted international response, based on cooperation and sharing of information, as appropriate. The Ministers also *recognized* the importance of cooperation and responsibility sharing among countries of origin, transit, and destination in addressing the problem of smuggling of migrants, as appropriate; and to that end, urged all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, or sexual or commercial exploitation, violence and sexual abuse.

764. The Ministers *recognized* that effective action to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air including by using a third country, requires a comprehensive approach, at the national, regional and international levels; and to that end, urged all States to adopt effective measures, inter alia, protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and national laws.

765. The Ministers *highlighted* the importance of awareness campaigns to change the negative public perception towards migration in the framework of the efforts to protect migrants and their rights and in this regard encouraged States to acknowledge the important social, economic and cultural contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, eradicating poverty in all its forms as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development.

766. The Ministers *recalled* the convening of the Sixth Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, organized by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Australia, held in Bali, 23 March 2016. The Meeting further promoted dialogue and practical cooperation on trafficking in persons, people smuggling, irregular migration and related transnational crimes amongst its participating States, encompassing source, transit and destination countries. The Meeting adopted Bali Declaration to reinforce members' commitment to tackle the complex challenges of recent unprecedented levels of displacement and mobility seen globally. The Ministers highlighted the signature of the Declaration of Principles and General Guidelines of the South American Conference on Migration and the South American Human Development Plan of Migration, as well as the commitment of the members of this Conference to applying effective and swift mechanisms of regularization to the citizens of the region, in the Tenth South American Conference on Migration, celebrated on the 25 and 26 October 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The Ministers *recalled* the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative (AU-HOA) launched in 2014, in Khartoum, Sudan, in response to the rise of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the region. This initiative is underpinned by the African Union's increasing focus on providing in-depth understanding of the configurations, dynamics and policy challenges in respect to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, whilst having closer consideration of the intersection between migration and inclusive development.

767. The Ministers *recognized* the implications of the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education, and semi-skilled persons from developing countries; and further underscored the need for the international community to address these implications, in particular the negative impact that the migration of those persons from many developing countries has on the development efforts of their country of origin.

768. The Ministers *acknowledged* the importance of bilateral and multilateral labour migration agreements as an effective tool in fostering a secure, regular and orderly process of migration.

769. The Ministers *took note* of the initiatives undertaken by Member States, relevant regional and international inter-governmental organizations at the regional and international levels to promote dialogue and cooperation on international migration and development, including their contribution to comprehensively address international migration.

770. The Ministers *took note* of the first Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 9-11 July 2007, which focused on the central theme of "Migration and socio-economic development"; of the Second Meeting of the Global Forum, held in Manila, the Philippines, from 27 to 30 November 2008, which focused on the central theme of "Protection and Empowerment of Migrants for Development"; in recognition of the importance of this issue, of the third Meeting of the Global Forum held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009 with the overarching theme of "Integrating

Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All”; of the fourth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 10 November 2010 with the central theme “Partnerships for Migration and Human Development: Shared Prosperity – Shared Responsibility”; of the Fifth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1-2 December 2011 with the overall theme of “Taking Action on Migration and Development: Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation”, of the sixth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Pailles, Mauritius, on 19-22 November 2012 with the theme of “Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States” as well as of the Seventh Meeting of the Global Forum held in Stockholm, Sweden from 14-16 May 2014 with the theme: “Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development” and of the Ninth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Dacca, Bangladesh, with the theme of “*Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda*”.

771. The Ministers *welcomed* the first joint co-chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development by Morocco and Germany for the years 2017 and 2018, and further welcome the holding of the 10th Summit of the Forum in Berlin, on 28-30 June 2017, on the theme “Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development” and looking forward to the 11<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Forum under the overarching theme, “Honouring international commitments (the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration) to unlock the potential of migrants for development”, which will take place in Marrakech, in Morocco, on 05-07 December 2018.

772. The Ministers *acknowledged* that the Global Forum meetings have an important role to play in bringing all the stakeholders in an attempt to harness the full developmental benefits together of international migration. They also recognized that the exchange of expertise, consultation and closer cooperation between the GFMD and the United Nations system could have a positive impact.

773. The Ministers *recognized* the relationship between international migration, the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and development.

774. The Ministers *encouraged* efforts of Member States and the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration. In this regard, the Ministers requested all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration.

775. The Ministers, recognizing the critical linkages between international migration and development, *reiterated* the importance of effective initiatives to promote safe migration and facilitate free movement of labour. In this context, they emphasized that the Doha Development Round should conclude with a comprehensive solution to the concerns expressed by developing countries, taking into account their interests and objectives regarding the positive impacts of labour migration both in countries of origin and destination.

776. The Ministers *welcomed* the programmes adopted by some host countries that allow migrants to integrate fully into their societies, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment; and urged States to consider, as appropriate, adopting similar programmes, and, in case of repatriation, to ensure that the mechanisms they implement allow for the proper identification of nationalities, to be in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, and to ensure the principle of the best interest of the child and family reunification.

777. The Ministers *noted* that efforts of full integration of migrants in the host countries

should be encouraged, including family reunification in accordance with the laws and the specific criteria of each member state. Furthermore, the Ministers encouraged destination countries to facilitate the links of migrants with their countries of origin, including on economic, cultural and human levels.

778. The Ministers *acknowledged* the important role of all migrants in the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, and the need to enhance protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. They *encouraged* all States to consider reducing the costs related to migration such as the fees paid to recruiters, where applicable, lowering the transfer costs of remittances, enhancing the portability of social security entitlements and other acquired rights and promoting the mutual recognition of the educational and professional qualifications and competencies of migrants, as well as promoting harmonization and compatibility of National Qualification Frameworks. They also *emphasized* the need for countries of destination of migrants to adopt policies that promote conditions for faster, cheaper and safer remittances by migrants to developing countries without any bias or discrimination. They further *highlighted* the need to support migrants in maintaining their links and contributions to the development to their countries of origin, including by taking specific measures to reduce the transaction costs of remittances below 3% of the amount remitted, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.

779. The Ministers *underlined* that remittances cannot be considered as a substitute for foreign direct investment, ODA, debt relief or other public sources of finance for development. They are typically wages transferred to families, mainly to meet part of the needs of the recipient households. A large portion of migrants' incomes is spent in destination countries of migrants and constitutes an important stimulus to domestic demand in the economies of destination countries of migrants. Furthermore, the disposal of remittances and deployment thereof is an individual choice.

780. The Ministers *invited* all states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by General Assembly Resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, as a matter of priority, and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted by General Assembly Resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.

781. The Ministers *called upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and sub-regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, in a more coherent and comprehensive way, within the broader context of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Water**

782. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of clean water and sanitation for social, economic and environmental development, and that water is a key to sustainable development. They recalled what was agreed by the 13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005 and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in November 2002 that recognized the importance of water as a vital and finite natural resource, which has an economic, social and environmental function, and acknowledged the right to water for all.

783. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of integrated water resources management and its sustainable use at all levels, including at basin level.

784. The Ministers *called for* increased assistance to developing countries by the United Nations, Multilateral Development Banks, Regional Organizations, developed countries and

other donors in their efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the principle of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome of Rio+20, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

785. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to improve clean water resource management and scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research, and for this purpose, reiterated the need to encourage and promote knowledge-sharing and provide capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in favorable terms, including remote-sensing and satellite technologies, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

786. The Ministers *stressed* the need to intensify water pollution prevention to reduce health hazards and protect ecosystems by introducing technologies for affordable sanitation and industrial and domestic wastewater treatment, by mitigating the effects of groundwater contamination and by establishing, at the national level, monitoring and control systems and effective legal frameworks.

787. The Ministers *recognized* the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and welcomed in this regard the adoption of resolution 68/157 and 70/169 of the General Assembly, they also encouraged all member states to put forward actions that allow its full implementation;

788. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of the first Ministerial Forum on Water of the Group of 77 held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 23-25 February 2009, and noted the Muscat Declaration on Water adopted by the meeting. The Ministers also noted that the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was hosted by the Republic of Korea in April 2015, as well as the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Forum to be held in Brasilia, Brazil, on March 2018.

789. The Ministers *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 71/222 on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, which will have greater focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programs and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Desertification**

790. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that desertification, land degradation and drought represent serious concerns for developing countries. International action is, therefore, urgently required to address these challenges. The Ministers *emphasized* the great importance for all regions of the world of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in Africa, stressing that desertification, land degradation, and drought undermine the three dimensions of sustainable development. We reiterate that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought enables countries to deal with several global policy challenges, such as food security, adaptation to climate change and forced migration. They also *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolutions 69/221, 70/206, 70/195, 71/229 and 72/220 on Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or 599. Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

791. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September

2017, and further *welcomed* the adoption of the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, including a new strategic objective on drought, and target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

792. The Ministers underlined the need to address the economic, social and environmental impact of climate change, desertification and land degradation in Africa and highlighted the importance of supporting, as appropriate, the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing agriculture resilience in Africa, in particular initiatives launched under the leadership of the African Union Commission such as “The Great Green Wall” and “The Land Policy Initiative”, as well as other initiatives launched by African countries such as the “Adaptation of African Agriculture”, and the “Security, Stability and Sustainability in Africa”.

793. The Ministers welcomed the General Assembly Resolution 72/225 entitled combating sand and dust storms in which the GA invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant entities of the United Nations system to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms, including a situation analysis, a strategy and an action plan, which could result in the development of a United Nations system-wide approach to addressing sand and dust storms in which can be used as an inter-agency framework for medium or long-term cooperation and division of labor. They also welcome the convening of the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and took note of the Ministerial Declaration and the technical recommendations of the Conference.

794. The Ministers reiterated the need for strengthening cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels. In this regard, we invite States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information and forecasting and early warning systems.

795. The Ministers stressed the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention.

796. The Ministers *expressed their concern* that dust and sand storms in the last few years inflicted substantial damages to the socio-economic situation of the inhabitants, especially in Africa and Asia. They recognized efforts and cooperation of member states at the regional international levels to control and reduce the negative effects on human settlements in vulnerable regions. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed various initiatives by member countries to increase and facilitate the cooperation on the prevention and management of dust storms and sandstorms, including the outcome of the regional Ministerial environmental session held on 29 September 2010, in Tehran, in which Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syrian Arab Republic, and Qatar agreed to cooperate to bring dust and sand storms in their region under control over the next five years.

797. The Ministers *appreciated* the establishment of the SPI as the scientific advice body, under the UNCCD to enhance policy directives under the Convention.

798. The Ministers *expressed their appreciation* to the Republic of Ecuador for its commitment to host the global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, on 17 June 2018.

799. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. (op 2 of the GA resolution 72/420).

### **Biological Diversity**

800. The Ministers *highlighted* that we live in a planet with limited resources and intense human activities, in particular, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption especially in developed countries, are affecting the functioning of Earth's systems. In this regard they expressed that the land, forests, rivers, wetlands, sea, biodiversity, atmosphere, glaciers and other components are vital parts of those systems that need to be preserved, and regenerated to maintain the balance of life;

801. They *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 72/221 on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development.

802. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of Strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and just international regime on access and benefit sharing that respect the sovereign rights, of States over their natural resources and promotes the fair and equitable benefit sharing from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional and local knowledge in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and *welcomed* the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on 12 October 2014. The Ministers also *took note* with appreciation of the outcome of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Biodiversity held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016, and the second meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

803. The Ministers also noted with appreciation that the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 10 to 22 November 2018, as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol Biosafety and the Third Meeting of the Conference to the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Nagoya Protocol and recognizing that the outcomes of the meetings may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

804. The Ministers welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions A/RES/71/285 and A/RES/71/286 on 27 April 2017, on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the Quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020, commending its linkages in fostering the implementation of related SDG's and targets in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

805. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD and called for urgent actions to effectively slow, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, and accordingly called for the necessary means of implementation for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Lima Plan of Action 2016-2025 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

806. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of access and benefit sharing in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized the need for adequate means of implementation, especially through significant mobilization of resources from developed countries for financing, capacity building, and transfer of technologies in favorable conditions to developing and least developed countries in this regard.

807. The Ministers encouraged the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede their full implementation.

808. The Ministers *called upon* the international community to support developing and least developed countries in their efforts to conserve and manage their biological resources including all types of forests on a sustainable basis, through international financial mechanisms, as well as through technical assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology in favorable conditions, and in this regard stressed the need to create a global fund on forests to provide predictable adequate financial resources, without conditionality and fully respecting their sovereign right over their resources. In this regard, the Ministers called on the United Nations Forum on Forests to establish a Global Forest Fund;

809. The Ministers *also took note* of the role of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development, taking into account different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and took into account the rights of nature in the context of promotion of sustainable development.

810. The Ministers *welcomed* the Cancun Declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for wellbeing, adopted in the framework of the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2016.

811. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of measures to ensure the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including fish stocks, which contribute to food security and poverty eradication efforts, including through ecosystem approaches to ocean management, and to address the adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity;

812. The Ministers *recognized* that millions of the world's inhabitants depend on the health of coral reefs and related marine ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, as they are a primary source of food and income, and also provide protection from storms, tsunamis and coastal erosion;

813. In this regard, the Ministers *took note* of regional initiatives on the protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape Project, and the Indian Ocean Challenge, West-African Conservation Challenge and the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs for the Americas Region.

814. The Ministers *requested* developed countries parties, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to developing and least developed countries, to enable them to take all necessary actions including comprehensive for the coastal zones management and protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems. They called on all countries to promote and cooperate in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information related to the protection of coral reefs and related marine ecosystems.

815. The Ministers *took note with appreciation* of the sixth plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held in Medellin, Colombia, from 17 to 24 March 2018, which aimed at providing policy-relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a view to assist decision makers, including through its regional and sub-regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem

services and its thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration.

816. The Ministers *acknowledged* the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of all these instruments.

817. In this perspective, the Ministers *welcomed* adoption of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for 2014-2018, and encourage further participation of all member states, in particular representatives of developing countries, in contributing to the scoping process for the global and regional commitments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

### **The Dead Sea**

818. The Ministers once again *expressed concern* over the continuous deterioration and degradation of the unique ecosystem of the Dead Sea and emphasized the importance of working progressively towards reversing this environmental catastrophe. They drew attention of the international community to the need for international action to protect the Dead Sea and prevent any further environmental degradation of its ecosystem through concessional grants.

### **The Caribbean Sea**

819. The Ministers *reiterated their concern* over the continued shipment of hazardous wastes through the waters of the Caribbean Sea. In recognition of the cooperative efforts of Caribbean States to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development of the oceans and seas, they welcomed the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/224 entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generation”, and stressed the importance to continue working on the implementation of the declaration of Mauritius (January 2005). In this regard, they expressed support for the regional initiatives aimed at having the Caribbean Sea declared a “special area”, and they pledged their support to assist in promoting the sustainable development of this group of especially vulnerable countries, for which international cooperation continues to be an essential factor, and drew the attention of the international community to the need for international action for the Caribbean Sea to be considered as a special area within the context of sustainable development.

### **Illegal Fishing and Dumping of Toxic and Hazardous Waste**

820. The Ministers decried in the strongest terms, and expressed deep concern over the continuing acts of illegal fishing and dumping of toxic and hazardous waste in the lands and territorial seas of African states, other developing and least developed countries. The Ministers *demand*ed an immediate end to these practices and called on all governments to act in accordance to their legal obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and all relevant international instruments;

### **Lake Chad and the River Niger**

821. The Ministers *expressed serious concern* over the phenomenal drying-up of Lake Chad and the shrinking of the River Niger, largely due to climate change and rapidly growing population, thereby posing serious danger to biodiversity, as well as threatening food security and the livelihood of the peoples living within the vicinities of the Lake and the River in the West and Central African sub-regions. They acknowledged the concerted efforts by

the affected countries to reverse the trend and redress the challenges posed, and therefore called on the international community and development partners to intensify their support, through concrete financial and technical assistance, for the collaborative frameworks of action by the affected countries, aimed at rescuing Lake Chad and River Niger.

### **Energy**

822. The Ministers *expressed their concern* that about 1.2 billion people worldwide do not have access to energy services, and underlined the importance of access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development. They emphasized the need to diversify energy by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, and their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms in order to promote sustainable energy systems with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national initiatives and priorities and voluntary targets, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end. In this regard, the Ministers *took note* of the celebration of 2012 as the "International Year of Sustainable Energy for All", as part of the UN SG Initiative on Sustainable Energy for All. The Ministers further *urged* developed countries to honour their commitments made to developing countries in this regard in the various international fora.

823. The Ministers *took note* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 72/224 on Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

824. The Ministers *stressed the importance* of enhancing international Cooperation through partnership in all forms of energy including clean and renewable Energy. They *called upon* the developed countries to transfer more efficient and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, and for the United Nations to promote and facilitate this.

825. The Ministers *emphasized the need* to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, new and renewable energy technologies as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms. The Ministers *stressed* the need for shaping the comprehensive United Nations energy agenda with a focus on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on eradicating poverty, elaboration and adoption by the General Assembly of recommendations, including those related to the global intellectual property rights system, that facilitate dissemination, deployment and transfer of advanced energy technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as the establishment of an international center for the transfer of advanced energy technologies, a database of advanced energy technologies and a fully supported multilateral fund to finance development, transfer and application of advanced energy technologies as well as capacity building. The Ministers called for effective international measures to develop, transfer, disseminate and deploy such technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Moreover, the Ministers *encouraged* accelerating enhanced cooperation on the above matters in the United Nations among UN Member States and other relevant international and regional stakeholders.

826. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the choice of the United Arab Emirates as the headquarters of the Agency. They also welcomed the seventh session of the Assembly that took place on 14 and 15 January 2017 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. They also encouraged Member States of NAM, and other countries who have not yet done so to consider joining IRENA. The Ministers *expressed* their aspiration to see IRENA in the near future playing an important and positive role towards promoting the sustainable use of different forms of renewable

energy. In this context, the Ministers welcomed IRENA's participation in the work of the United Nations General Assembly as Observer Organization.

827. The Ministers *welcomed* the establishment of the International Solar Alliance, a coalition of solar resource rich countries, as a tangible contribution to the ongoing collective efforts by the international community to achieve SDG7 by promoting the use of renewable energy towards Climate Action and to facilitate universal access to affordable and sustainable energy for all.

828. The Ministers *called upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas.

829. The Ministers *noted* the challenges to development that exist for a number of member states of the Movement in relation to the international energy market. They *also took note* of the various and varied complex destabilizing factors in the energy market and appreciated the efforts of NAM countries to stabilize it for the benefit of all. In this context, they supported efforts to improve the functioning, transparency and information about energy markets with respect to both supply and demand, as well as the reduction in the offer of fossil crude oil by member States of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Non-OPEC, with the aim of achieving greater stability and predictability in the interest of both energy producing and consuming states. They *agreed* to enhance cooperation with a view to improving access to all environmentally safe and clean energy sources including alternative sources of energy by developing countries. They *underscored* the need for increased North-South collaboration as well as continued South-South Cooperation as part of a long-term strategy towards sustainable development. They *also underscored* the sovereign right of States over their energy resources and the energy transportation routes and transmission lines in state territory. They *welcomed* the progress of the dialogue between energy producing and consuming countries, in particular, within the International Energy Forum (IEF) and supported all efforts to strengthen such dialogue. They *welcomed* the signing of the Charter of the IEF in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 2011.

830. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions A/RES/71/285 and A/RES/71/286 on 27 April 2017, on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the Quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020, commending its linkages in fostering the implementation of related SDG's and targets in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

831. The Ministers *called for* disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and poverty eradication and to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks, while recognizing that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and sustainable development cannot be achieved without adequate investment in disaster risk reduction.

832. The Ministers *also emphasized* the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster risk reduction, including through preparedness, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters and build resilience towards natural disasters, and recognized the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities and resources in this regard.

833. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over the human suffering and economic impact caused by the natural disasters throughout the world, in particular the tragic loss of life caused by natural disasters in countries such as Nepal, the Philippines, Haiti, Pakistan, Chile, Caribbean countries and many parts of the African continent. They encouraged the international community, national authorities, private sector, as appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, to promote closer cooperation to reduce the impact of natural disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction, mitigation and preparedness and disaster mitigation such as through risk mapping, early warning systems and exchange of information at all levels.

834. The Ministers *invited* governments at all levels as well as relevant subregional, regional and international organizations to commit to adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities. In particular, the Ministers encouraged donors and the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of disaster risk reduction in developing countries, through technical assistance, technology transfer, capacity-building and training programmes.

835. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery, and long-term development planning, and called for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions, in order to reduce risk, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recover and development.

836. The Ministers *encouraged* the United Nations System to make every effort to accelerate its full integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk-reduction into all its programmes and activities to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Furthermore, the Ministers acknowledged the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction and the growing demands on the Secretariat of the Strategy and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the Strategy; and in this regard requests that the SG consider how best to support implementation of the disaster risk reduction strategy taking into account the important role played by the ISDR Secretariat, with a view to ensuring adequate resources for the operationalization of the Strategy by the Secretariat.

836.1. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the outcome documents of the Third International World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, from 13-18 March 2015, and emphasized the importance of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

836.2. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held on 3-6 July 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on the main theme Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development, and *encouraged* all the invited parties to participate actively in this important regional forum.

836.3. The Ministers *took note* of the efforts made by UNESCO and its Member States to mobilize efforts and respond to Haiti's post-disaster situation, resulting from Hurricane Matthew, within its spheres of competence, through the adoption of the decision entitled "Plan of Action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation: Together for Haiti" (201EX/34; 201EX/DG.INF; 201EX/41), and hopes that similar measures be taken to respond to these phenomena in other Small Island Developing States (SIDSs) affected by natural disasters.

### **Climate Change**

837. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our

times, threatening not only the development prospects of developing countries and their achievement of sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies, and expressed profound concern that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. They expressed concern about the increased adverse impacts of climate change particularly on developing countries, which are severely undermining their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Ministers also underscored the fact that developing countries continue to suffer the most from the adverse impacts of climate change, and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the impact of response measures, even though they are the least responsible for climate change.

838. The Ministers *welcomed* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 72/219 on Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind.

839. The Ministers *noted* the findings of the IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, including that the scientific evidence is unequivocal that the climate system is warming and that further warming will bring long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.

840. The Ministers *affirmed* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. In this regard, we stress that the international response to climate change must fully respect the principles, provisions and ultimate objective of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

841. The Ministers *affirmed* that combating the effects of climate change is necessary to achieve sustainable development and equity, including poverty eradication as stated in the IPCC 5th Assessment Report.

842. The Ministers *affirmed* that the impacts of climate change are an obstacle for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and for enabling economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, therefore they highlighted that the vulnerability of countries to the impacts of climate change challenges, the losses and damage related to these impacts impedes the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

843. The Ministers *called for* cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, taking into consideration that the historical responsibilities of developed countries warrants that they take the lead in addressing this challenge in accordance with UNFCCC principles and provisions, particularly in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as social and economic conditions recognizing the development priorities of developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers reiterated that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol remains the central multilateral framework for cooperative action to address climate change. The Ministers further stressed that the process of work under the UNFCCC must be open, party-driven, inclusive and transparent and strengthen multilateralism through concrete decisions on remaining work under the Bali Action Plan, a Plan of Work under the Durban Platform, the Doha Outcome, the Warsaw outcome, the Lima outcome and a Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol and its ratification and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement.

844. The Ministers *noted* the progress made towards addressing climate change at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP20/CMP10) in Lima, Peru, and welcomed the Lima Call for Climate Action, the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising, and the reaffirmation of

the establishment of the Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts including the advancement of the Durban Platform and the operationalization of the Warsaw Mechanism on loss and damage, and *invited* developed country Parties to provide developing country Parties with finance, technology and capacity-building support, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

845. The Ministers further took note of decision 1/CP.20 specifying that all Parties should communicate their INDCs “well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended nationally determined contributions”. The decision further reiterates that developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so should provide support for the preparation and communication of the INDCs of developing countries parties that may need such support as well as the pledges made by developed and developing countries for the capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

846. The Ministers *stressed* the need to urgently close the ambition gap, and expressed their concern with the lack of fulfillment of commitments by developed countries. In addressing this gap, focus must not only be limited to mitigation but also include gaps relating to adaptation, finance, technology and support for capacity building. They emphasized the importance of the Second Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol and underscored that developed countries must take robust and ambitious mitigation commitments, with ambitious quantitative emissions limitation reduction targets, as required by science and mandated by the Convention. The Ministers *further encouraged* all parties to the Kyoto Protocol to ratify and implement the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

847. The Ministers *welcome* the decision 2/CP 20 on the “Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impact”, and welcoming the progress made in Lima, Peru towards the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impact and call for the effective implementation and invite developed countries Parties to provide developing country Parties with finance, technology and capacity-building, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

848. The Ministers *called* for the full consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform of the negative socioeconomic consequences of Response Measures, in an integrated and complementary manner and shall include economic diversification and resilience, the reshaping of policies for transition, and the promotion of a supportive and open international economic system.

849. The Ministers *further stressed* that the future multilateral rule-based climate regime to be agreed by COP21 is under the Convention and in accordance with its principles and provisions, and that it should address the concerns of developing countries, especially the principle of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

850. The Ministers *congratulated* the presidency of Morocco and Fiji of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, and in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017, respectively, for hosting successful, transparent and inclusive conferences.

851. The Ministers *congratulated* Morocco for hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP22), the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. They welcomed the momentum created by the COP22 favoring the highest political and action-oriented commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority.

852. The Ministers *welcomed* in this regard the adoption, during COP22 High-Level Segment, of the “Marrakech Action Proclamation for our climate and sustainable development” which calls, in particular, for further climate action and support, well in advance of 2020, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, the least developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

853. The Ministers *underscored* the importance of ensuring compliance of all pre-2020 commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, including those towards developing countries regarding financing.

854. The Ministers *welcomed the* entering into force of the Paris Agreement, on 4 November 2016, adopted on 12 December 2015, in the framework of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, held in Paris in 2015. The Ministers also *acknowledged* that the aforementioned Agreement constitutes the broadest consensus of the International Community to face climate change. Consequently, the Ministers *rejected* the withdrawal of the United States of America from the Paris Agreement, considering it as an act that will aggravate global warming.

855. They *noted* the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit and welcome its contribution to the existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change.

856. The Ministers *took note* of the Government of Ecuador’s initiative on the concept of Avoided Net Emissions as an alternative mechanism of reducing CO2 emissions, in addition to carbon market mechanisms, under the voluntary mitigation of the UNFCCC.

857. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that urgent measures are needed to support adaptation, nationally appropriate mitigation actions and the intended nationally determined contributions undertaken by developing countries, in accordance with their national capabilities and circumstances as well as the level of support they are receiving, and to strengthen cooperation at the global level to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the implementation of response measures, especially on the countries referred to in Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC.

858. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that developed countries’ commitments to provide developing countries with financing and the transfer of technology for climate change should be carried out under the UNFCCC and its Conference of the Parties, and in this regard *welcomed* the decision to continue the work programme on long-term finance and to convene a biennial high level ministerial dialogue on climate finance starting in 2014 and ending in 2020. The Ministers further *called* on developed country Parties to demonstrate how they would reach their target of mobilizing USD100 billion per year by 2020 and called for the full capitalization of the Green Climate Fund. They *welcomed* the initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund and *called* for its further capitalization.

859. The Ministers *encouraged* the intensification of South-South cooperation to support developing countries in addressing the impacts of climate change through technical cooperation and capacity building programs;

860. The Ministers *emphasized* that oceans and coasts provide valuable resources and services to support humankind and that the sustainable use of marine ecosystems will enhance global food security and increase resilience to climate change for present and future generations; they further emphasized the need to develop comprehensive adaption measure to address climate related impacts on oceans and coasts, including through greater capacity building, enhanced scientific monitoring activities and to promote environmentally sound policies for integrated coastal and ocean management;

**Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**<sup>29</sup> —

861. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, as follows:

861.1. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the significant importance the Movement attaches 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, other core International Human Rights instruments, as appropriate, and international law. They further reaffirmed that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized and non-selective 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, they reiterated 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, as well as violent acts and activities that infringe upon their full enjoyment;

861.2. The Ministers also *reaffirmed* their opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, including those measures used as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, which violates the Charter of the United Nations, rules and principles of international law. They *reaffirmed* that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. The Ministers further *expressed* their concern at the continued imposition of such measures which hinder the well-being of population of the affected countries and that create obstacles to the full realization of their human rights;

861.3. The Ministers *welcomed* the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/21 to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and invited the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

861.4. The Ministers further *reaffirmed* that, bearing in mind the UN Charter, economic and financial sanctions always have a negative impact on the rights recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in particular the realization of the right to development. They often cause significant disruption in the distribution of food, pharmaceuticals and sanitation supplies, jeopardize the quality of food and the availability of clean drinking water, severely interfere with the functioning of basic health and education systems, and undermine the right to work, and they are serious obstacles to development of the targeted States;

861.5. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the Biennial Panel Discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights held at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council and *took note* of its outcome;

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<sup>29</sup> This section should be read in conjunction with the section on Democracy under Chapter I of the document

861.6. The Ministers *expressed concern* that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, neglecting the restrictions clearly articulated in the relevant human rights instruments including paragraph 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including in this regard the relevant recommendations of the treaty bodies, and stressed the need for all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions, and emphasizing that States, regional organizations, non-governmental Organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion and belief. They reaffirmed the obligation of all States Parties to the Covenant under article 20 which prohibits the advocacy of racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. They also expressed their support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the Right to freedom of opinion and expression as revised by the HRC resolution 7/36;

861.7. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the freedom of thought, expression and dissemination of ideas and information, are fundamental for the exercise of democracy. They further expressed that these freedoms should be exercised with responsibility in a way of respecting national dignity and the ideas and sentiment of other countries' people in accordance with the relevant national legislative framework, and relevant International human rights instruments;

861.8. The Ministers *affirmed* that while it is necessary to harmonize guidelines on reporting procedure of human rights treaty bodies, greater efforts should be made to ensure that their work would be more effective, objective, transparent and accountable, as well as to ensure a more balanced membership therein, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, representation of different legal systems as well as ensuring that members nominated to serve with the treaty bodies will serve in their personal capacity, of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality, and possess competence in the field of human rights;

861.9. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption by the General Assembly of Resolution 66/254 on 23 February 2012 establishing an open-ended intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system in New York and took note of the conclusion of the process through the adoption of the GA resolution 68/268 and also expressed appreciation for the work of Indonesia and Tunisia as the co-facilitators of the process;

861.10. The Ministers *expressed concern* at the non-representation and under-representation of Non-Aligned Countries in the staffing of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), membership of the treaty bodies as well as special procedures of the HRC, and stressed the need for ensuring the adequate representation of NAM countries in such bodies and procedures on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

861.11. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should discharge his duties on the basis of impartiality; in compliance with the mandate established under the UNGA Resolution 48/141, including reporting annually to the General Assembly, the universal organ of the United Nations;

861.12. The Ministers *re-emphasized* that the exploitation and the use of human rights as an instrument for political purposes, including selective targeting of individual Countries for extraneous considerations, which is contrary to the Founding Principles of the Movement and the UN Charter, should be prohibited. They urged that, in the discussion on human rights, adequate attention be given to the issues of poverty,

underdevelopment, marginalization, instability and foreign occupation 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;

861.13. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that democracy and good governance at the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Adoption, for any cause or consideration, of coercive unilateral measures, rules and policies against the developing countries constitute flagrant violations of the basic rights of their populations;

861.14. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that hunger constitutes a violation of human dignity and called for urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination. They also reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food consistent with the right to food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of food security for the realization of the right to food for all. They also stressed that it is essential for states to promote efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1);

861.15. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* at the negative impact of extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights;

861.16. The Ministers *took note of* the adoption of resolution HRC/28/16 by the Human Rights Council aiming to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, with the purpose of identifying best practices on the right to privacy and to make recommendations to ensure its promotion and protection, including with a view to particular challenges arising in the digital age;

861.17. The Ministers recalled the recommendation to States contained in the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted by consensus in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, to consider adopting national action plans to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, and encouraged Non-Aligned Countries to adopt such plans as framework for strengthening their national ownership in this field;

861.18. The Ministers *renewed* their concern at the gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life and the right to development, resulting from terrorism and violent extremism including those perpetrated by foreign occupying powers in territories under foreign occupation, and reiterated their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions;

861.19. The Ministers *underlined* their growing concern and dismay at the flagrant disregard for life and the accompanying wanton destruction of property, as recently evidenced in Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and Lebanon. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, whereby it decided to include the "Human Rights Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab territories" as a permanent agenda item in the Council;

861.20. The Ministers also *welcomed* the recent resolutions adopted at the regular and Special sessions of the Human Rights Council and the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special session of the General Assembly on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip;

861.21. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the right of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to struggle for national liberation and self-determination;

861.22. The Ministers *reiterated* the need for efforts to further strengthen and promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and for the establishment of democratic institutions and sound economic policies responsive to the needs of the people. In this context, they *reiterated* the need for the core principles, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including partnership and commitments in the international financial, monetary and trading systems, and full and effective participation of developing countries in decision-making and norm setting;

861.23. The Ministers *underscored* the importance of cooperation between states in the provision of advisory services, technical assistance and capacity building activities in the field of human rights, which must be provided upon request, in consultation with and with the consent of the Member States concerned;

861.24. The Ministers *welcomed* the increasing representation of women at the highest political levels and in elected Assemblies, including the recent examples in NAM Member states, and in this context underlined the importance of promoting equal participation of women in the political systems of NAM Members, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 5. In this regard, the Ministers noted with great interest the United Nations policy to enhance women participation in leading UN senior officials' structures;

861.25. The Ministers *welcomed* the Tenth Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held in New York from 13-15 June 2017, and expressed their commitment to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis for persons with disabilities. The Ministers *invited* all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol;

861.26. The Ministers also *welcomed* the outcome document of the high-level meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: "The Way Forward, a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond" held in New York on 23 September 2013, as an effort to promote disability-inclusive development and the commitment of the international community to the advancement of the rights of all persons which is deeply rooted in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Ministers *recognized* persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development and acknowledged their contribution to the realization of the millennium development goals as well as to the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals with persons with disabilities;

861.27. The Ministers *thanked* with appreciation the work made by H.E. Mr. Lenin Moreno as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, appointed on 1 January 2014, and welcomed the appointment of the new Special Envoy, Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas, on 20 June 2017, and look forward to continue supporting her mandate, which represents a substantive contribution to the United Nations ongoing efforts towards a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities.

861.28. The Ministers also *welcomed* the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print

Disabled signed in Marrakesh in 27 June 2013;

861.29. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* over the “Common Standards and Procedures for returning illegally-staying Third-Country Nationals”, known as the return directive, adopted by the European Parliament on June 18, 2008. They emphasized the view that this Directive constitutes a serious violation of relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant ILO conventions. They also *underscored* the discriminatory nature of this Directive, which has the effect of criminalizing migration and exacerbating social tensions, racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and entail mistreatment of migrants and their families;

861.30. The Ministers *underscored* the need for all States to address the issue of international migration through a cooperative dialogue on an equal footing, and in this regard, strongly urged the European Union and its member States to refrain from taking any type of measures that stigmatize certain groups or individuals, including third-country nationals and their families and invite all States to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;

861.31. The Ministers *expressed* concern at legislation and its interpretation, practices and measures adopted by some States, as well as legislative initiatives, that may lead to a discriminatory treatment and restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

861.32. The Ministers strongly *condemned* the manifestations and acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urged States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit xenophobic and racist acts;

861.33. The Ministers also *reaffirmed* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women, and children, regardless of their immigration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party;

861.34. The Ministers *urged* States, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to address the irregular migration of children, including adolescents, from a human rights and a humanitarian perspective, taking into account the principle of the best interest of the child while promoting and protecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and *called upon* States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to adopt measures to give effect to the rights enshrined therein;

861.35. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* at the increasing cases of human rights violations and abuses by some Transnational Corporations and reiterated the need to ensure that appropriate protection, justice, and remedies are provided to the victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from the activities of transnational corporations;

861.36. The Ministers *emphasized* that transnational corporations have a responsibility to respect all human rights and recognized that transnational

corporations should refrain from violating human rights and fundamental freedoms;

861.37. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 26/9 to establish an open ended intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights, whose mandate is to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and business enterprises, which held its third session in Geneva from 23 to 27 October 2017, and urged all Member States to participate actively and constructively in fulfillment of the Working Group's mandate in the fourth session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group, to be held in 2018.

862. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of Human Rights Education and training for the promotion and protection of human rights, and in this regard, welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 66/137 pertaining to the United Nations declaration on human rights education and training.

863. The Ministers *took note* with appreciation of the adoption of the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the General Assembly, as a positive and important step towards realizing equal treatment of all human rights.

864. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures and initiatives, among others, to:

864.1. *Promote* and *protect* all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all peoples, in particular the right to development, and to provide an effective framework thereof including remedies to redress grievances on or violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the relevant Founding Principles of the Movement, the UN Charter and international human rights instruments, consistent with the obligations of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems;

864.2. *Consider* acceding to the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights;

864.3. *Promote* the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

864.4. *Urge* developed countries to engage in effective partnerships such as the NEPAD and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, for the purposes of the realization of their right to development including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

864.5. *Stress* adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to the Founding Principles of the Movement, and oppose and condemn selectivity and double standards in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as all attempts to exploit or use human rights as an instrument for political purposes;

864.6. *Reaffirm* the need to preserve the mechanism of Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council from politicization and double standards, and to prevent its misuse and manipulation in order to preserve the cooperative approach in the Human Rights Council;

864.7. *Reinforce* the presence of the Non-Aligned Movement by advancing its position during the deliberations taking place in the main international fora, particularly the Human Rights Council, the ECOSOC, and the Third Committee of the

UN General Assembly as a contribution to the enhancement of the coordination and cooperation among the above mentioned UN entities in the promotion and protection of all human rights;

864.8. *Update* and introduce at the Third Committee of the General Assembly and at the Human Rights Council, as appropriate, draft resolutions on: the Right to Development; Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures; the promotion of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, and Enhancement of International Cooperation in the field of human rights, and consider sponsoring and introducing other initiatives that promote respect for the principled positions of the Movement in this field of the international cooperation;

864.9. *Promote and protect* all universally recognized human rights, in particular the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms as it was highlighted in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2016 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development;

864.10. *Reaffirm* the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone as set out in the UN Millennium Declaration, in the UN Declaration on the Right to Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and give due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral economic and financial coercive measures on the realization of the right to development;

864.11. *Urge* all States to ensure greater protection for their populations in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, and in this regard, further urge all States to ensure that their national laws or legislations particularly concerning the combat against terrorism do not limit individual rights and that these are not discriminatory or xenophobic;

864.12. *Urge* all States to ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism, including the use of armed drones, complies with their obligations under UN Charter, international law, in particular international human rights, refugees and humanitarian law; in particular, the principles of distinction and proportionality;

864.13. *Encouraged* States, while countering terrorism, to undertake prompt, independent and impartial fact-finding inquiries whenever there are plausible indications of possible breaches to their obligations under international human rights law, with a view to ensuring accountability (op18, a/res/68/178);

864.14. *Strive* for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, urge all States to undertake at the national level necessary policy formulation and institute measures required for the implementation of the right to development as a fundamental human right, and further urge all States to expand and deepen mutually benefiting cooperation with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, in the context of promoting an effective international co-operation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level as well as equitable economic relations and a favorable economic environment at the international level;

864.15. *Urge* the UN human rights machinery to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a Convention on the Right to Development by the relevant machinery, taking into account the

recommendations of relevant initiatives;<sup>30</sup>

864.16. *Propose* and work towards the convening of a United Nations-sponsored High-Level International Conference on the Right to Development;

864.17. *Mainstream* the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the UN and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds as well as in policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, taking into account in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment to the issues of concern to the developing countries arising out of political or other non-economic considerations;

864.18. *Advance* the common positions and improve the coordination of the Movement at the relevant inter-governmental fora, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as well as the Human Rights Council, with the aim of strengthening international co-operation and coordination in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

864.19. To *consider* convening a NAM meeting on the issue of protecting the Human Rights of civilians in international armed conflict;

864.20. *Encourage* the existing independent national human rights institutions, including Ombudsmen where they exist, to perform their constructive role, on the basis of impartiality and objectivity, in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in their Countries, and request in this context, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide greater assistance, upon request, by interested Governments in the establishment and operations of their national institutions. The Ministers also welcomed the adoption by consensus at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of General Assembly of the resolution 72/186 entitled “the role of the ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights”;

864.21. *Call upon* the NAM members Countries and the international community to support the objective and effective functioning of the Human Rights Council established as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN, and emphasize the strong need to ensure that the work of the Council will be devoid of any politicisation, double standards and selectivity; and

864.22. *Took note* of the Egyptian initiative on the right to work and the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution HRC/RES/34/14 by consensus, and the inclusion of the promotion of sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all as a proposed stand-alone goal in the report of the Open Working Group on SDGs and also recognized the right of all individuals to enjoy a just and favorable work conditions;

864.23. *Defend* and *promote* NAM positions in the context of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and to that end:

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<sup>30</sup> The recommendations of relevant initiatives include the High-level Seminar on the Operationalization of the Right to Development (Geneva, February 2004) held under the framework of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development, and the High-level Task Force on the Operationalization of the Right to Development, as well as the recommendations of the 8th session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development regarding the “roadmap”, endorsed by the HRC through its Resolution 4/4, adopted by consensus in its 4th session

- a) Continue holding the meetings of NAM Labour Ministers within the framework of each International Labour Conference, and in this regard the Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the Meeting of the NAM Ministers of Labour on the margins of the 106 session of the ILO on June 2017;
- b) Continue to promote transparency and a more democratic participation of all actors in ILO mechanisms and procedures;
- c) Follow up and underpin the agreements contained in the two Declarations of NAM Ministers of Labour, adopted at the Ministerial meeting held in Geneva in the context of the 96th International Labour Conference, in June 2007, regarding the reform of the working methods of the Committee of Application of Standards and the expansion of the Committee on Freedom of Association;
- d) Reaffirm their determination and commitment to the full implementation of the NAM Declarations adopted at the meeting of the NAM Ministers of Labour, held on 15 June 2009, in Geneva, regarding the follow up of the two NAM Declarations of June 2007 above mentioned, and the "90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Labour Organization and the International Financial and Economic crisis";
- e) Welcome in this respect the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the 98th Session of the International Labour Conference held in June 2009 particularly its emphasis on the social dimension of the current global financial and economic crisis and by highlighting a social approach to the crisis by placing employment and labour issues, together with social protection at the heart of stimulus packages and other relevant policies to confront the crisis.

865. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/36/4 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they *expressed their appreciation* for the labour of Mr. Alfred de Zayas, Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, and *pledged* their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

866. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of A/HRC/RES/26/6 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they *expressed their appreciation* for the labour of Mr. Idriss Jazairy, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and *pledged* their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

867. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/35/3 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they *expressed their appreciation* for the appointment of Mr. Obiora C. Okafor as Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, and *pledged* their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

868. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/33/14 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they *expressed their appreciation* for the appointment of Mr. Saad Alfarargi as Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on the Right to Development, and *pledged* their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

869. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/36/09 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they *expressed their appreciation* for the labour of Mr. Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, and *pledged* their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

### **Racism, Racial Discrimination and Slavery**

870. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their condemnation of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the platforms and activities

related thereto, which constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as impede equal opportunity. They *reminded* the international community to preserve its recognition that slavery and slave trade, including trans-Atlantic slave trade, are crimes against humanity, and that the legacies of slavery, slave trade, colonialism, foreign occupation, alien domination, genocide and other forms of servitude have manifested themselves in poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities for the developing world.

871. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 61/19 and 62/122 related to the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its consequences, as well as General Assembly resolutions 63/5, 64/15, 65/23966/114 67/108, 68/7, 69/19 and 70/7 related to the Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

872. The Ministers welcomed further the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 65/239 and recalled the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and reaffirmed the importance of the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery, relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encouraged continued action in this regard. They commended the erection of a Permanent Memorial to the victims of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, to be prominently placed at the United Nations Headquarters. They also welcomed the establishment of a fund for this purpose, and expressed appreciation to those of its members that made contributions towards it.

873. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* at the negative effects on human rights and development posed by contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons and at the increasing exposure of States to such crimes. They *reaffirmed* the need to work collectively to combat contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons.

874. The Ministers *expressed dismay* at instances of religious and cultural prejudices, misunderstanding, intolerance and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief or different systems, which undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and hinder the promotion of the culture of peace. Pluralism, tolerance, dialogue and understanding of religious and cultural diversity are essential for peace and harmony. Acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, as well as racial, religious and sectarian profiling are affronts to human dignity and equality, and should be condemned. Respect for democracy and human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by governments as well as between and among differing groups are central to the promotion and protection of human rights. They *reaffirmed* that States have the duty to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination in all forms and in full equality before the law.

875. The Ministers *welcomed* the positive contribution made by the new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through rapid and wide-reaching communications and recognized the potential to increase the use of the new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, especially by national educational institutions, to create educational and awareness-raising networks and programs against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, both in and out of school, as well as the ability of the Internet to promote universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedom, including the right to development, and also respect for the diversities of political, economic, social, cultural and religious systems.

876. The Ministers *called upon* States to initiate discussions aimed at proclaiming a United

Nations decade for interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding, tolerance and cooperation for peace.

877. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 68/237 on the Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent which proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, which was launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and further *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 69/16 on the Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

878. In recalling the Movement’s opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and expressing serious concern on the resurgence of contemporary forms of such abhorrent crimes in various parts of the world, the Ministers *commended* the ongoing progress made by States at the national, regional and international levels, focusing on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. To this end, the Ministers *urged* the Human Rights Council, through the Intergovernmental Working Group established to that effect, to finalize the elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

879. The Ministers *further welcomed* the launch of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Culture (2013-2022), which the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization will implement in consultation with Member States to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding;

880. The Ministers *recalled* the adoption of the political declaration by the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durban Declaration and program of action, and reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and program of action of 2001, and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference in 2009. In this regard, they reaffirmed the validity of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) as it was adopted at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, as the instructive document which constitutes a solid foundation on the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

881. The Ministers *reiterated* the call on developed countries, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as international financial institutions, to honour the commitments contained at Section IV of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action entitled “Provision of Effective Remedies, Recourse, Redress, and Other Measures at the National, Regional and International Levels”.

882. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world, including all those under foreign occupation.

883. The Ministers *noted* the resolve of the Durban Review Conference to, as stipulated in art. 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, fully and effectively prohibit any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and implement it through all necessary legislative, policy and judicial measures.

884. The Ministers *called on* all Member States, including those that did not participate at

the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) as well as the Durban Review Conference (2009), to fully and effectively implement all the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference to fight the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

885. The Ministers *called on* all Member States to devote the highest priority to educational programs that promote dialogue and tolerance among communities in order to curb the scourge of hate speech. They *stressed* in this regard international cooperation and initiatives that help promoting mutual understanding between communities.

### **International Humanitarian Law**

886. The Ministers *urged* that due priority should continue to be given to promoting knowledge of, respect for and observance of States Parties' obligations assumed under International Humanitarian Law instruments, in particular those of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their 1977 Protocols, and encouraged States that have not yet done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the two 1977 Additional Protocols. In this regard, while taking into account the magnitude and persistence of the violations and breaches of International Law, including International Humanitarian Law, being committed by Israel, the Occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian territory, the Ministers *welcomed* the most recent Declaration adopted by the High Contracting Parties on 17 December 2014, which, *inter alia*, *called once again* on Israel, the occupying Power, "to fully and effectively respect the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", and which *emphasized* that "all serious violations of international humanitarian law must be investigated and that all those responsible should be brought to justice".

887. The Ministers *called upon* all parties to international armed conflict to redouble their efforts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of precautions against the effects of attacks, proportionality and distinction, by, *inter alia*, prohibiting the targeting of civilian populations, civilian property and certain special property during an armed conflict, and obliging parties to any conflict to ensure general protection against dangers arising from military operations for civilian installations, hospitals, means of transportation and relief materials, and distribution of such relief materials;

888. The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's condemnation of the increasing attacks on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and urged the Governments of UN Member States to ensure respect for the protection of the personnel of humanitarian organizations in conformity with the relevant international law. Humanitarian agencies and their personnel must respect the International Humanitarian Law and the laws of the countries they work in and the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance set forth in the General Assembly resolution 46/182 and its Annex and non-interference, as well as cultural, religious and other values of the population in the countries where they operate.

889. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the intentional destruction of historic sites and cultural heritage by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) in Iraq and Syria that are in breach of the international law and international humanitarian law.

890. The Ministers *recalled* the protection granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments to persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts.

891. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

891.1. *Invite* those States, which have not yet done so, to consider ratifying the 1954

Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Additional Protocols;

891.2. *Urge* States to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular as provided in the Geneva Conventions, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and further urge the international community and the relevant organizations within the UN system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians under foreign occupation; and

891.3. *Stress* that all detainees or persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments.

### **Humanitarian Assistance**

892. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the provision of humanitarian assistance must not be politicized and must be in full respect of the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as set forth in General Assembly Resolution 46/182 and its annex as providing the guiding principles for the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and emphasized that all UN humanitarian entities and associated organizations must act in accordance with their respective mandates, international humanitarian law and national law. They further *reaffirmed* that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the UN Charter. In this context, they stressed that humanitarian assistance should be provided under the principle of request and consent of the affected country.

893. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's commitment to enhance international cooperation to provide humanitarian assistance in full compliance with the UN Charter and mindful of the relevant UN resolutions, where applicable, in particular 46/182 and in this regard, they reiterated the rejection by the Movement of the so-called "right" of humanitarian intervention, which has no basis either in the UN Charter or in international law.

894. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, noted in this regard the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so.

895. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the affected state has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of Humanitarian Assistance within its territory, while underlining the need to avoid diversion of the humanitarian aid, and to ensure that the populations in need of humanitarian assistance are the sole beneficiaries of such aid.

896. The Ministers *emphasized* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and *reaffirmed* the need, in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with national law, international law, including humanitarian law, and in full respect of the principles set for in General Assembly Resolution 46/182.

897. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to respect international refugee law, preserve the civilian and humanitarian nature of the refugee camps, and called upon host States to ensure the demilitarization of refugee camps;

898. The Ministers *stressed* that the affected State has the responsibility first and foremost in responding and assisting the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring in its territory. Furthermore, the affected state has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory.

899. The Ministers *recognized* the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement to coordinate its positions on humanitarian assistance, and in this regard they requested the Coordinating Bureau to operationalize the NAM Contact Group on humanitarian affairs as decided at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana in 2006 as well as to consider the establishment of a NAM Working Group on humanitarian assistance and to discuss, agree and determine the terms of reference of such a Group as soon as possible. The Ministers agreed on the importance of strengthening mechanisms to provide aid and assistance to affected member states of the Movement.

900. The Ministers *call upon* UN Member States, in this regard, to comply fully with the provisions of the international humanitarian law, in particular as provided in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian and other assistance and support to civilians under foreign occupation.

901. The Ministers *called upon* the international community to provide full support, including financial resources, for emergency humanitarian assistance at all levels and stressed the need to maintain the follow-up, oversight and review by the General Assembly of the activities undertaken by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to ensure its functioning according to the agreed principles contained in the relevant UN resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 46/182. They reaffirmed the importance of the prompt allocation of CERF's resources as part of the emergency humanitarian assistance to the affected country.

902. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations humanitarian entities must continue to work in close coordination and collaboration with national Governments and in line with national policies and programmes being implemented for the provision of assistance to affected populations. The Ministers also reaffirmed that the United Nations humanitarian entities must coordinate their work of providing humanitarian assistance to affected civilians living under foreign occupation in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

903. The Ministers *urged* the need to enhance the level of cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the governments of the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

904. The Ministers also *expressed their concerns* about the capacity and coordination limitation constraining the international humanitarian response system to the challenges posed by large magnitude of some of the most recent natural disasters,

905. The Ministers further *encouraged* States to implement commitments related to assistance as well as sharing of experience and expertise, for developing countries, that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken states in disaster risk reduction and disaster response and recovery. The transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for disaster risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes.

906. The Ministers *expressed their support* to provision of education on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies to all affected populations, including in order

contributing to a smooth transition from relief to development.

907. The Ministers *reiterated* the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and to take into account the needs of affected populations, including persons with disabilities and the older persons;

908. The Ministers *requested* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific humanitarian needs of all components of the affected population, in particular girls, boys, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, including in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and recovery programming and, as appropriate, post-humanitarian emergency reconstruction, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming and emphasizes the importance of full participation of, in particular, women and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response; 673 or 674

### **Information and Communication Technology**

909. The Ministers *reiterated their conviction* that a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society based on information and communication technology could contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and address new challenges faced by humankind.

910. The Ministers *stressed* that a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, and addresses new challenges faced by humankind. They also *underlined* the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of the countries and the welfare of their people, in particular, in developing countries. Meanwhile, they further call for an end to the use of information and communication technologies, including social network, in contravention of international law and in detriment to the interests of the Member States.

911. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that in order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities, these activities should ensure the imperative of universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge related to ICT, and should result in supporting national efforts in developing countries in the area of building, improving and strengthening capacities to facilitate their genuine involvement in all aspects of the information society and knowledge economy. They *encouraged* all the States to contribute actively to ensuring that the Information Society is founded on and stimulates respect for gender equality and women empowerment, cultural identity, cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and ethical values.

912. The Ministers *expressed concern* over the digital divide in access to ICT tools and broadband connectivity between developed and developing countries, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in areas such as, inter alia, government, business, health and education, climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, and further expressed concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, especially those in unique circumstances such as the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, MICs, and Africa. The Ministers therefore *underscored* the importance of promoting capacity building and ICT literacy through regional and international cooperation to bridge ICT gap between developed and developing countries.

913. The Ministers *called for* the responsible use and treatment of information by the media

in accordance with codes of conduct and professional ethics Media in all their forms have an important role in the Information Society and ICTs should play a supportive role in this regard. They *reaffirmed* the necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills.

914. The Ministers *highly commended* Malaysia for chairing the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-VI), and highly commended the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for successfully hosting the 7th Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-VII), held in Isla Margarita, 2-4 July 2008 and for the substantive outcome document and Programme of Action, adopted by the Conference and they expressed the Movement's resolve and commitment to implement the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

915. The Ministers *concurred* on the importance of strengthening and consolidating the work of the NAM News Network (NNN), with a view to further highlighting and make visible the activities carried out by the Movement. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation to Malaysia for launching and supporting the NNN since its inception in 2003.

916. The Ministers *stressed the importance* of voluntary financing to the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature open to interested stakeholders with the objective of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities for the developing world by focusing mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and seeking new voluntary sources of "solidarity" finance. The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society, which should continue to be fully utilized to fund the growth of new ICT infrastructure and services.

917. The Ministers *reaffirmed their concern* over the use of media as a tool for hostile propaganda against developing countries aimed at undermining their governments and *stressed the need* to promote alternative, free, pluralistic and responsible media and communication sources, that reflect the realities and interests of the peoples of the developing world.

918. The Ministers *expressed their opposition* to the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries. In this regard, they *strongly supported* the efforts for establishing a special coordination of the Movement that articulates successful experiences of alternative media, such as "The new south TV"- (TELESUR), with a view to coordinate a communicational policy of non-aligned countries and to further advance towards the revitalization of the Broadcasting Organizations of Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC), considering such as effective media for transmitting factual news of events of the developing countries to the world.

919. The Ministers *stressed the need* for the implementation and follow up of the outcomes of the both phases of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva and Tunis. In this context, they stressed the importance of the contribution of the Non-Aligned Countries toward achieving the development oriented outcomes of the Summits, the Tunis commitment and the full implementation of the agenda for the Information Society, and urged UN Member States, relevant UN bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and private sector in implementation of the outcomes.

920. The Ministers *reiterated their support* for Tunis Agenda for Information Society, especially its development content and stressed the importance of effective participation of equitable and effective representation from developing countries in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS process, including for the Internet Governance Forum and for Enhanced Cooperation.

921. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the centrality of the role of the General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) adopted in December 2015 by the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly. In this regard, they also reaffirmed the centrality of the General Assembly in this process and acknowledged that the overall review by the UNGA shall take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, address potential ICT gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as address challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harness information and communications technologies for development.

922. The Ministers *underlined* the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society that internet governance, carried out according to the Geneva principles, constitutes a core issue of the Information Society agenda and that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and invited the Member States, to maximize their participation in decisions regarding Internet governance, in order to reflect their interests in related processes. They also *reaffirmed* the WSIS conviction on the need for enhanced cooperation, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. The Ministers *expressed their deep concern* over the long delay in starting the process towards enhanced cooperation by the UN Secretary General, as referred to in paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the second phase of the Summit. They therefore, once again, *strongly urged* the UN Secretary General to start this process urgently.

923. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures and initiatives, among others:

923.1. Work for the full implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and in this context, promote effective and equitable participation of NAM countries in this process;

923.2. Increase cooperation to promote a New World Information and Communication Order, based on universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge relating to ICT, as an essential requirement to reduce the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

923.3. Consider holding a NAM workshop on the appropriate use and management of the Internet to share best practices and lessons learned in this area;

923.4. Call for an immediate end to the misuse of media for inciting and launching campaigns against NAM members, including, inter alia, the hostile use of radio and electronic transmissions contrary to the principles of the International Law, as well as the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events in developing countries, and campaigns that defame religions, cultures and symbols;

923.5. Recognize that the illicit use of ICT's could have a detrimental impact on a members State's infrastructure, national security and economic development (Res 174 Guadalajara 2010-ITU), and stress the need for international efforts to address this issue;

923.6. The Ministers *expressed* their concern for the potential use of ICT's in international conflicts, covert and illegal operations, and attacks to third countries by individuals,

organizations and states through the use of computer systems of other nations. The Ministers further *expressed* their concern on the expressed ability of some Governments to respond to such attacks with conventional weapons, and reiterated that the most effective ways to prevent and address these new threats is through the joint cooperation among all States, and preventing the cyberspace to become a theater of military operations;

923.7. The Ministers *called upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

923.8. Support and strengthen the implementation of the Isla Margarita Declaration and Programme of Action;

923.9. Coordinate NAM efforts in the issues related to communication and information at the United Nations and relevant international organizations and agencies, including UNESCO, particularly in the context of the Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC) and the Information for All Program (IFAP), with a view to debate on the development of media and the development of community media through the promotion of multilateral cooperation;

923.10. Support and strengthen the role of ITU in assisting its Member States, particularly developing countries in building their ICT capacities.

### **Advancement of Women**

924. The Ministers *welcomed* the progress made towards the full implementation of the BDPA through concerted policy action and *recommitted* the Movement to the implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and *reaffirmed* their full support for the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”.

925. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of the Political Declaration of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

926. The Ministers *recognized* that no country in the world has fully achieved gender equality and expressed deep concern that progress has been slow and uneven and that major gaps and obstacles remain in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action. They *reaffirmed* their political will and firm commitment to tackle challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all twelve critical areas of concern.

927. The Ministers *noted with concern* that women’s unequal access to economic resources and the feminization of poverty continues to impede progress towards the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

928. The Ministers *stressed* that the violence against women and girls, including manifestations of extreme violence, continues to be a major obstacle to the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women. In this regard, they *reiterated* their firm commitment to join efforts and continue combating all forms of violence against women and girls until its complete elimination, recognizing the importance of engaging men and boys.

929. The Ministers *expressed their resolve* to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child especially in situations of armed conflicts and foreign

occupation, including the systematic use of abduction and rape, including as an instrument of war, as well as the trafficking in and victimization of women and girls. They expressed their abhorrence at the continuation of such acts. In this regard, they *called upon* States to take the necessary measures against the perpetrators of such acts and to ensure adherence to international law and domestic legislation, including legislating the protection of women and the girl child in situations of armed conflict and bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring access to justice for survivors.

930. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the Human Rights Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women that has a broad mandate covering all dimensions related to women's development, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

931. The Ministers *recognized* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfillment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and invited States, which have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

932. The Ministers *acknowledged* that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

933. The Ministers *recognized* the central and coordinating role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in cooperation with other relevant UN entities within their respective mandate, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system, and to support all states efforts in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this regard, the Ministers *called upon* the United Nations system, in particular UN-Women, within its mandate, to continue to support national efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review and appraisal at the international, regional, national and local levels.

934. The Ministers *recalled* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action encouraged men to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, and particularly reiterate the importance of engaging men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women.

935. The Ministers *reiterated the request* to the Executive Director of UN Women to pay special attention to the situation of women living under foreign occupation and their suffering by, inter alia, appointing a focal point to address their situations in full conformity with international law including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

936. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment, in collaboration with the Organizations of the United Nations System and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations' Conferences and Summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls, in their national, regional and global development strategies.

937. The Ministers, in order to promote the human rights of women, *expressed their resolve*

to take appropriate measures at the national, regional and international levels to improve the quality of life and achieve gender equality and empowerment of women, to foster economic and social contribution of women to the well-being of the family and society, to promote social significance of maternity and paternity, through *inter alia* adopting proper socio-economic strategies and programmes and provisions of government services to all women particularly women with disabilities and women in rural areas, including access to healthcare services, education, justice services, transportation and housing, as well as economic empowerment and strengthening family well-being;

938. The Ministers *expressed their appreciation* for the significant role played by Egypt in the field of the advancement of women and women's empowerment. In this regard, they *welcomed* Egypt's initiative to invite for NAM First Ladies summits as a main forum to discuss women issues;

939. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of resolution E/RES/2014/8, entitled "Observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond" during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Social Development (11-21 February 2014) focusing on the importance of the role of the family in the society and the resolution A/RES/72/145 entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International year of the Family and beyond" recognizing that those initiatives provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action strengthen family-centered policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development.

940. The Ministers *emphasized* that the family, as the basic social unit for upbringing and protection of children, and social coherence and integration plays an important role in achieving sustainable development including but not limited to contributing to eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The Ministers *emphasized* the role the family plays as a vital contributor to genuine and effective sustainable development and therefore to the internationally agreed development goals. The Ministers *stressed* the need to promote and enhance national family policy as well as the family focus in the activities of the UN system and other relevant international organizations;

941. The Ministers *emphasized* that consideration of the family issues at the international level should pay due attention to the national laws, traditions, religious and cultural background related to the family and its role in the society.

942. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of investing in a variety of family-oriented policies and programmes, as important tools for, *inter alia*, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity.

943. The Ministers *expressed concern* over the current demographic, social and economic changes that affect families and called upon the international community to undertake appropriate actions to meet the needs not only of individual members of the family but also of the family as social institution, contributing to overall development efforts, to advance the institution of the family and rebuild the family culture in society, to promote the value of the family among youth. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the holding on 16 May 2016 of a Special High-Level event: "Uniting Nations for a Family Friendly World" to mark the international day of the families at the United Nations. They also *stressed* the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large.

944. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a

gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, in all political, economic and social spheres, ensuring full representation and full and equal participation of women as critical partners in the eradication of poverty.

945. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the significant role played by Algeria in the field of women's political participation and in this regard they expressed gratitude to the Government of Algeria for its initiative to convene an International Conference on Effective and sustainable participation of women in elected Assemblies, held in Algiers on 10 and 11 December 2013. They welcomed the adoption of the Algiers Declaration emanating from the Conference and recognized the validity of its recommendations, including the one related to the establishment of an International Network of women parliamentarians in all regions, in order to enhance their effectiveness and performance as parliamentarians and to ensure regular interaction and continuous collaboration as well as reinforce the women's parliamentary diplomacy;

946. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their commitment to the Doha Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Third NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women in a challenging world *held in Doha, Qatar, on February 2012 and* stressed the need for its implementation;

947. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Marrakesh Declaration adopted during the international conference on gender responsive budgeting held in Marrakesh from 9 to 10 November 2012. The Ministers also *commended* the progress achieved by many countries in terms of integration of the gender dimension in their respective policies.

948. The Ministers *expressed their appreciation* for the functioning of the NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women in Kuala Lumpur (NIEW) and reaffirmed their continued support to its activities. The Ministers *encouraged* NAM Member States to enhance their cooperation with the Institute and its regional offices, including through financial contributions, in order to strengthen their work and activities.

949. The Ministers also *expressed their appreciation* for the efforts of Guatemala to launch the NAM regional office of the NAM Institute on the Empowerment of Women in Guatemala City, and looked forward to the commencement of its activities at the earliest possible date.

950. The Ministers *took note* with appreciation of the launch of NAM regional office of the NAM Institute on the Empowerment of Women in Cairo, and looks forward to the commencement of its activities, and extend our gratitude to the Government of Egypt for its efforts in this regard.

951. The Ministers *encouraged* NAM Member States to enhance their cooperation with the Institute and its regional offices, including through financial contributions, in order to strengthen their work and activities;

952. The Ministers *took note with appreciation of* the adoption of the Resolution 72/148 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and recognized the important role played by rural women in sustainable development. In this regard they reaffirmed the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, as well as resolving to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, equal access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology.

953. The Ministers *also recognized* the importance of promoting, protecting and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, including the right to development.

954. The Ministers *recalled* with appreciation the adoption of Jakarta Declaration during the Fourth World Conference on the Role of Women in Development of the OIC Member States held in Jakarta from 4 to 6 December 2012 that focused on the increased roles and participations of women in economy and development, and Baku Declaration of the Fifth World Conference on the Role of Women in Development of the OIC Member States in Baku on 20 to 21 October 2014 which discussed the roles of women in sustainable development.

955. The Ministers *recalled* with appreciation the adoption of the Resolution 72/149 on Violence against Women Migrant Workers to reaffirm provisions concerning women migrant workers. In this regard, the Ministers *reiterated* the shared responsibility of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers.

956. The Ministers affirmed the importance of achieving the full realization of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by 2030, and in this regard welcomed the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective into the 2030 Development Agenda through gender-sensitive targets and indicators, in accordance with the resolution 68/309 of the General Assembly.

### **Indigenous Peoples**

957. The Ministers *recalled* the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly. Likewise, they *reiterated* their support for the need to promote the economic, political and cultural rights of the indigenous peoples and their commitment to give special attention to the efforts made at the national and multilateral levels in order to improve their living conditions through civil participation. Likewise, in face of the need to protect and preserve the traditional knowledge of indigenous people undue appropriation and use of the traditional indigenous knowledge, they *agreed* to promote the defence of the bio-cultural collective heritage to allow indigenous peoples to have appropriate legal instruments on intellectual property so that their traditional knowledge is duly protected against unauthorized or inappropriate use by third parties.

958. The Ministers *recalled* with appreciation the high level event of the General Assembly to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held on 10 April 2017, during the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on indigenous Issues, with the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, as set out in resolutions 66/142, 66/296, 67/153, 68/149, 69/159, 70/232, 71/178 and 72/155 adopted by consensus

959. The Ministers *also welcomed* the decision of holding the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on indigenous Issues on April 2018, with the theme "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources".

960. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 71/178 of 19 December 2016 which decided to proclaim 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, to draw world attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels.

961. The Ministers *stressed* the importance for all UN mechanisms dealing with the issues relating to the rights of indigenous peoples to undertake their respective work in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant international human rights instruments, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as well as with their respective

mandates.

962. The Ministers also *took note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary- General in July 2009 on Midterm assessment of the progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which stressed that further efforts must be made to transform initiatives at the policy level into effective action for and with indigenous peoples.

963. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of the high level plenary meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, entitled as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 65/198. They *recalled* the High Level Meeting as an important platform to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

964. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and urge Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples through their representatives and institutions to implement, when necessary, appropriate measures, concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and other measures to realize the commitment made in the outcome document.

965. The Ministers *recalled* the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect all human rights, and to operate transparently in a social and environmentally responsible manner, and in this regard, *underlined* the need to take further steps to prevent abuses of the rights of indigenous peoples by transnational corporations.

966. The Ministers *stressed* that all cultures have the right to exist and to preserve their traditional knowledge and practices that are inherent to their identity. In this context, they *acknowledged* the right of the Andean and Amazonian indigenous peoples to fully enjoy their traditional and millenarian rights, and *took note* of the right of the government of Bolivia to defend and protect these practices for its peoples. In this context, the Ministers *noted* the ongoing discussions on some of these traditional practices, which may require scientific evaluation and the participation of the indigenous people, in this regard.

### **Illiteracy**

967. The Ministers *expressed* their deep concern over the fact that around 57 million children of primary school age remained out of school, had no access to primary education, 774 million adults are illiterate and a significant number of whom can be found among persons with disabilities, particularly in the developing world. Without accelerated progress towards education for all, national and internationally agreed targets for poverty reduction would be missed, and inequalities between countries and within societies would widen. They also *called* on all partners, including the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to sustain and expand the gains achieved during the UN Literacy Decade through additional technical and financial support.

968. The Ministers *stressed* the need to use all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve concrete results in the eradication of illiteracy.

969. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment, in collaboration with United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, to sustain their collective efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments and to contribute to shaping the Global Alliance for Literacy within the framework of lifelong learning into an effective platform for synergistic action at the global, regional, national and community levels.

970. In this context, the Ministers *decided* to give priority attention to the development of cooperation schemes among NAM Members States, as well as to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to effectively address and eradicate illiteracy. The Ministers *acknowledged* the progress made in the implementation of various literacy initiatives recognized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), including the “YO SI PUEDO” and “YO SI PUEDO SEGUIR” literacy method.

971. The Ministers *decided* to create literate communities and societies, eradicating illiteracy, including among women and girls and eliminating the gender gap in literacy, inter alia, by intensifying efforts to follow-up to the 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) for Education and Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

972. The Ministers *noted* with appreciation the significant role played by the United Arab Emirates in the area of women’s education, especially for girls, and *welcomed* the outcome of the UNHRC’s panel discussion initiated by the UAE on “Realizing the Equal Enjoyment of the Right to Education by Every Girl”, held in June 2015

973. The Ministers also *decided* to continue to give adequate attention through inter alia the education systems to the cultural diversity of minorities, indigenous peoples, people in vulnerable situations, in particular persons with disabilities, as well as to design and deliver high-quality literacy programmes for youth, adults and older persons.

**Health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases as well as NCDs**

974. The Ministers *expressed* their concern at the global threat posed by health epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, Hepatitis, Ebola Virus Disease and other communicable diseases. In this context, they *called on* the Member States of the United Nations to enhance their cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to confront and combat these scourges. They *stressed* the need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of halting and reversing the global threat posed by health epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

975. The Ministers *expressed* their grave concern about the unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and its adverse impact on the affected countries, and underscored that the control of major epidemics require proper early warning, preparedness, resilience-building, cross-sectoral action and greater national, regional and international collaboration, and, in this regard, *stressed* the continued need for a coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak, including through support for the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. The Ministers *commended* the efforts made by the most affected countries, namely Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the support and assistance provided by the international community, including various NAM countries, in controlling and overcoming this epidemic.

976. The Ministers *recognized* that the spread of HIV/AIDS constitutes a global emergency and poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of their respective societies and the world at large, and requires an exceptional and comprehensive global response. They *took note* of the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS of the United Nations General Assembly held on 8 – 10 June 2016; *reaffirmed* their commitment to the implementation of the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDs of 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016; *called on* Member States of the United Nations to significantly scale up their efforts towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and towards putting an end to AIDS epidemic by 2030; *called upon* all States,

especially developed countries to implement fully these commitments; and *urged* international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the business sector to support national efforts and priorities.

977. The Ministers *acknowledged* HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting issue impacting on sustainable development. They reiterated their strong concern over calls to have the pandemic discussed in the context of the UN Security Council. They called on Member States of the UN to promote the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for people living with HIV/AIDS within the mandate of the relevant United Nations system organs, agencies and programs

978. The Ministers *recognized* the achievement of South-South cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS and *decided* to give priority attention to the development of cooperation schemes among NAM Member States, as well as to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to effectively address HIV/AIDS in the fulfillment of SDG 3. In this regard, they recalled with appreciation the organization of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in New York, from 8 to 10 June 2016.

979. The Ministers *welcomed* the outcomes of the First WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era, held in the Russian Federation on 16 and 17 November 2017, and look forward to the first UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, scheduled to take place in September 2018. The Ministers *appreciated* the efforts by Member States to implement commitments made to eradicate the scourge of Tuberculosis in order to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO's End Tuberculosis Strategy which share a common goal of ending the global Tuberculosis epidemic.

980. The Ministers further *welcomed* the adoption of UN resolution A/RES/71/325 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries particularly in Africa by the year 2030 and further welcome the Global Technical Strategy for malaria 2016-2030 of the World Health Organization, adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2015.

981. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a challenge for all humankind. The Ministers *reiterated* that addressing AMR must not in any way hinder affordable and equitable access to existing and new medicines, vaccines, and diagnostic tools, taking into account the needs of all countries, in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR.

982. The Ministers *reiterated* their grave concern over the slow progress being made in reducing maternal and child mortality and improving the health of women and children, especially in Africa. The Ministers *welcomed* global commitment to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health; further *encouraged* all efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address this challenge; and *called on* all partners to meet their obligations in that regard. The Ministers *welcomed* the report of the United Nations Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health entitled "Keeping Promises, Measuring Results" and *called on* all partners to consider its recommendations towards ensuring rapid progress in maternal and child health. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of giving appropriate consideration to women and children's health in the discussion on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

983. In this context, the Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the significant role played by the United Arab Emirates in the field of maternal and child health and took note, with appreciation, of the outcome of the experts meeting on "From Principles to Practice: Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health: Implementing the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health hosted in Abu Dhabi from 4-5 April 2016, with the purpose of formulating the 5-year implementation strategy for the Everywhere work stream for the Global Strategy for the United Nations Secretary-General's "Every Woman

Every Child” initiative.

984. The Ministers *expressed* concern over the threat posed by the emergence and spread of pandemics, including Ebola Virus Disease, swine flu A (H1N1) and the Avian Influenza, which have the potential to produce a severe impact not only on public health worldwide but also on the global economy. They *reiterated* that it is imperative that concerted actions be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to address and deal with this challenge in an effective and timely manner.

985. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 64/57 on pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccine and other benefits. They *underlined* the importance of cooperation at the global level in implementing the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework.

986. The Ministers *appreciated* active participation in the Tenth Meeting of NAM Ministers of Health, held on 23 May 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland, on the margins of the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, and their determination and commitment to fully implement their decisions and recommendations and consistently follow up on these issues, as well as on those contained in previous NAM Declarations related to Strengthening the International Health System: Reinforcing Global Solidarity against Pandemics, Addressing Health System and Financing and Universal Coverage, as well as Combating Non-Communicable Diseases” (2011); strengthening the international health system and reinforcing the global solidarity against pandemics (2010); Health and Financial Crisis (2009); and Migration and Training Qualified Health Personnel, Diseases disproportionately affecting developing countries, and Responsible practices at the international level for sharing of avian influenza viruses and ensuring benefits sharing (2008), on an equal footing, in ways that would protect the interest of developing countries.

987. The Ministers *considered* the adoption of the “Code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel” as a positive development that requires further consolidation through practical measures to address the effects of the migration of the health workers from developing countries.

988. The Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the UNGA Resolution proclaiming the International Day of Yoga on 21<sup>st</sup> June, with a wide cross regional support of 177 Member States as co-sponsors. Noting the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health, they *noted* that Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and wellbeing and looked forward to the annual celebration of the International Day of Yoga on 21 June, at the United Nations.

989. The Ministers underscored the need for concerted action and a coordinated response at the national, regional and global levels in order to adequately address the developmental and other challenges posed by non-communicable diseases, in particular the four most prominent non-communicable diseases namely cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed their support to the Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases by the high-level meeting of the GA on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York, as well as its comprehensive review and assessment of the progress, held in New York on 10 and 11 July 2014. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

990. The Ministers *recognized* the challenge posed worldwide by mental disorders and the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response from health and social sectors and *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly resolutions A/RES/62/139 titled “World Autism Awareness Day”, which designated 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day and A/RES/67/82 titled “Addressing the socioeconomic needs of individuals, families and societies affected by autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities”. The

Ministers further *expressed* their appreciation to Jamaica and Belgium for their work in co-facilitating the modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment, which are detailed in General Assembly resolution 68/271.

991. The Ministers furthermore *emphasized* the importance of sustained multi-sectoral, cost-effective and population-wide interventions in order to reduce the impact of the common non-communicable diseases risk factors through the implementation of, inter alia, national policies and plans as well as international agreements and strategies and education by involving all relevant stakeholders.

992. The Ministers also *acknowledged* the contribution of international cooperation and assistance in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and, in this regard encouraged the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agenda's and initiatives.

993. The Ministers *expressed* concern at the adverse impact of the re c u r r i n g international economic and financial crisis on the health systems in developing countries. In this context, they *called upon* donor countries to honour their commitments to allocate 0.7% of their gross domestic product as official development assistance, and urged donors to support international cooperation programmes on health, including those aimed at supporting the achievement of the SDG's and strengthening national health systems through capacity building and technology transfer. The Ministers *reiterated* the need to make full use of the flexibilities available under the WTO TRIPS Agreement, including those recognized by the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and the WTO decision of 30 August 2003, in order to address the public health needs of their populations. They further *recognized* that South-South cooperation does not substitute, but compliments North- South cooperation; and, in this regard, *reaffirmed* their determination to exploring more effective South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, allowing for the mobilization of additional resources necessary for the implementation of health-related development programmes, including.

994. The Ministers welcomed the evolving partnerships between a variety of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels aimed at addressing the multifaceted determinants of global health and the commitments and initiatives to accelerate progress on the health-related internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

995. The Ministers *recognized* the close relationship between foreign policy and global health and their interdependence, and in that regard also *recognized* that global health challenges require concerted and sustained efforts by the international community. The Ministers *recalled* the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/98 and A/RES/69/132, A/RES/70/183, A/RES/71/159 and welcomed the adoption of resolution A/RES/72/139 on Global Health and foreign policy and looked forward to continuing discussions on the subject, especially the impact of non-health issues on global health as well as the social determinants in health. In this context, the Ministers *noted* with satisfaction the adoption of the 2009 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health". The Ministers *appreciated* the commitments made by Member States in the context of resolution A/RES/71/159 to increase awareness on the common vulnerabilities of national health systems and the impact of non-health issues on global health as well as the social determinants of health as well as their commitment to continue implementing and advancing universal health coverage that comprise equitable access to quality health services and ensure affordable and quality service delivery, especially through primary health care and social protection mechanisms, with the support of the international community and with a view to providing access to health services for all in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized situations.

**Transnational Organized Crime**

996. The Ministers *reiterated* the Movement's commitment to co-ordinate the efforts and strategies at national, regional and international levels against transnational crime and to develop the most effective methods in preventing and combating crime of this nature.

997. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that organized criminal activities adversely affect development, political stability and social and cultural values.

998. The Ministers *highlighted* the importance of socioeconomic development when formulating comprehensive crime prevention strategies.

999. The Ministers *reiterated* that responding to the threats and challenges posed by transnational organized crime requires close cooperation at international level. They *renewed* their commitment to fight all forms of transnational organized crime by strengthening national legal frameworks, where applicable, and cooperation mechanisms, in particular through the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance and extradition in accordance with domestic law and international instruments as appropriate.

1000. The Ministers *recalled* that the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and the 2005 Bangkok Declaration recognized that comprehensive crime prevention strategies must address, inter alia, the root causes and risk factors of crime. The Ministers *acknowledged* that relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime could serve as a strong foundation to build close cooperation at the international level in preventing and combating transnational organized crime.

1001. The Ministers *expressed* their concern over the loss, destruction and removal of the cultural property and the increased involvement of organized criminal groups in trafficking in looted, stolen or smuggled cultural property. The Ministers *underlined* the importance of national, regional and international initiatives for the protection of cultural property, in particular the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, and *stressed* the importance of fostering international law enforcement cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property and in particular the need to exchange information and experiences in order to operate in a more effective way; They also *welcomed* the adoption of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences by the United Nations General Assembly during its sixty-ninth session.

1002. The Ministers *expressed* concern about the growing involvement of organized criminal and terrorist groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

1003. The Ministers *deplored* damage to the cultural heritage of countries in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, and those affected by terrorist acts, in particular recent attacks on world cultural heritage sites, calls for an immediate end to such acts, and reminded States parties to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of the provisions contained therein to safeguard and respect cultural property and to prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism directed against cultural property.

1004. The Ministers *condemned* the destruction of the cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria particularly by ISIL and ANF, whether such destruction is incidental or deliberate, including targeted destruction of religious objects; and *noted* with concern that ISIL and ANF and other individuals, groups, undertakings and other entities associated with Al-Qaida are generating income from engaging directly or indirectly in the looting and smuggling of the cultural heritage

items from archeological sites, museums, libraries and other sites in Iraq and Syria which is being used to support their recruitment efforts and strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks.

1005. The Ministers furthermore *urged* States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to enhance broad cooperation in preventing and combating criminal offences against cultural property, especially in returning such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and in coordination with the UNODC, and *invited* States Parties to exchange information on all aspects of criminal offences against cultural property, in accordance with their national laws, and to coordinate administrative and other measures taken, as appropriate, for the prevention, early detection and punishment of such offences”;

1006. The Ministers also *expressed* their concern over the gravity of cybercrime and the misuse of information and telecommunications technologies in multiple forms of crime as set in the UN General Assembly Resolutions A/69/197, A/RES/70/178, A/RES/71/209 and A/RES/72/196 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 26/4 of 26 May 2017 on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime, in which the “*open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime*” is requested to continue its work and is encouraged to develop possible conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Commission.

1007. The Ministers further convinced that transnational organized crime at sea is a global problem that threatens security, stability and the rule of law, undermines economic prosperity and sustainable development and threatens the environment, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential. The Ministers emphasized that all States, in particular the parties to the various relevant conventions, have responsibility to take steps to counter the threat of transnational organized crime committed at sea, and the importance of international cooperation at all levels to fight all forms of transnational organized crime at sea, in accordance with applicable international legal obligations, including the United Nations Charter, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

1008. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions, the Ministers *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

1008.1. Take necessary steps at the national and international levels for the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the international instruments against illicit drug trafficking, where appropriate;

1008.2. Call for adequate financial and technical assistance and cooperation to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement those treaties;

1008.3. Strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance for capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, upon their request, for effective implementation of the obligations set forth in existing international crime prevention instruments;

1008.4. Adopt further measures and strengthen international cooperation in order to prevent, combat, punish and eradicate all forms of transnational organized crime more effectively, in accordance with international law;

1008.5. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the responsibility of States to cooperate with one another, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including with respect to

the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of intolerance;

1008.6. The Ministers *reiterated* that North-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for the sustainable development of the countries of the South, including through the transfer of technologies, on favorable, preferential and concessional terms;

1008.7. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the High-Level Panel of the Human Rights Council, in February 2018, on the promotion and protection of human rights in light of the Mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review;

1008.8. Strengthen coordination and cooperation, as well as the formulation of common strategies with the Group of 77 and China, through the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), on issues relative to transnational organized crime to address the collective concerns and promote the common interests of developing countries in international fora;

1008.9. Express appreciation for convening the special High Level Debate of the General Assembly on transnational organized crime held in New York on 19 June 2017, which reaffirmed the political commitment of the international community to tackle transnational organized crime;

1008.10. Take note of the Doha Declaration adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 19 April 2015;

1008.11. Take note of the outcome of Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014, as well as the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to develop a mechanism or mechanisms to assist the Conference in reviewing implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

1008.12. The Ministers *expressed* their concerns regarding the growing links between transnational organized crime including but not limited to illicit trafficking in firearms, small arms and light weapons, ammunitions, drugs, cigarettes, cultural heritage and trafficking in persons in the Sahel-Saharan region where the hostage-taking, involving ransom payments, and terrorist acts are a threat to regional security;

1008.13. The Ministers *emphasized* the importance of regional, inter-regional, and international coordination in addressing the security threats in the Sahel region. In this context, the Ministers *welcomed* the outcome of the Regional Ministerial Conferences on border security between Sahel and Maghreb States held on 11-12 March 2012 in Tripoli, Libya, and on 13-14 November 2013 in Rabat, Morocco, as a significant contribution to a comprehensive and coordinated response to the scourge of drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime in the region;

### **Trafficking in Persons**

1009. The Ministers *reiterated* their concern that trafficking in persons remains a global challenge affecting all countries around the world, despite a significant intensification of international efforts, and cooperation in combatting this crime and requires a concerted national and international response. They stressed the importance of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

1010. The Ministers *reiterated* their view that this crime requires a concerted national and international response and *urged* all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of Trafficking in Persons. In this regard, they welcomed the progress that countries have made, inter alia, in introducing national legislation criminalizing these crimes and providing a legal framework for its combatting, including through the provision of measures to assist victims.

1011. The Ministers *recognized* that slavery and trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To that end, they *urged* all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of slavery and trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims and to bring perpetrators to justice.

1012. The Ministers also *recognized* that 2015 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations convention for Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing protocols, particularly the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), and in this regard recalled the outcome of Luxor International Forum "End Human Trafficking Now: Enforcing the UN Protocol", co-organized by Egypt and the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in December 2010, with the aim to promote dialogue, highlight priority issues, and mobilize the highest level of political support to engage in concrete actions that will assume complementarily between the legal and cooperation frameworks and participation of private sector, civil society, and NGOs in order to combat trafficking in persons.

1013. The Ministers also *welcomed* the Implementation Guidelines to the Athens Ethical Principles: Comprehensive Compliance Programme for Businesses (Luxor Protocol), signed by the private sector in order to enhance their contribution to the eradication of human trafficking worldwide, as well as the launch of the E-learning Tool against Human Trafficking, an electronic training program to raise awareness of businessmen around the world in cooperation with UN.GIFT and Microsoft.

1014. The Ministers *reiterated* their invitation to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and following its entry into force, to implement the Protocol effectively, including by incorporating its provisions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems. They *expressed* the Movement's resolve to strengthen the capacity of the UN and other international organizations to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, in implementing the Protocol.

1015. The Ministers *recalled* the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution on Improving the coordination efforts against trafficking in persons A/RES/68/192, A/RES/70/179 and A/RES/72/195 and also of the United Nations Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, by the UN General Assembly in resolution 64/293 on 30 July 2010, and *acknowledged* the role of NAM Member States in leading the negotiations process to implement the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration in this regard.

1016. The Ministers *stressed* the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action by all Member States and international organizations, and *encouraged* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, in line with their existing mandates, to continue to implement the Global Plan, including by elaborating in cooperation with Member States a list of concrete measures as stipulated by the resolution A/RES/68/192. They also *expressed* their commitment to extend further cooperation with all relevant United Nations entities in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

1017. The Ministers *welcomed* the holding of the High-Level Meeting of the General

Assembly on the Appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held during its 72<sup>nd</sup> Session, from 27-28 September 2017, in New York, to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action in reference, and also welcomed adoption at that time of the Political Declaration, as a testimony of the strong political will to take decisive and concerted action to end this heinous crime, wherever it may occur. They further welcomed the pledges made to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was established in 2010 in compliance with the Global Plan of Action.

1018. The Ministers also *welcomed* the designation by the UN General Assembly of 30 July from 2014 on, as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, and recognized that its annual observance pursuant to UNGA resolutions 68/192, 70/179 and 72/195 on “Improving the coordination efforts against trafficking in persons” by all Governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society would serve, inter-alia, as a reminder and an opportunity to honor and restore the dignity of the affected and to intensify efforts to eliminate the crime of trafficking in persons.

1019. The Ministers also *emphasized* that the creation and work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established in 2010 in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, significantly contributed to raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance such as governmental, intergovernmental and non- governmental organizations. In this regard, they *encouraged* all States, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to contribute to the trust fund, as well as to the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

1020. Bearing in mind the increased development of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, the Ministers *invited* the States to prevent and fight this phenomenon by the reinforcement of the legislation in this field raising awareness and the setting up of national and local institutions dedicated to the fight against this scourge.

1021. The Ministers *drew attention to the need to address* the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies that are being used to facilitate trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of exploiting women and children, and to recruit and control victims.

1022. Recognizing that all countries are affected by trafficking in persons, the Ministers *urged* all States to encourage national efforts being made to combat this crime and to work together in a collaborative manner and within a regional and international framework without imposing unilateral requirements on other States.

1023. The Ministers *reiterated* their concern about the seriousness of trafficking in human organs and the increasing involvement of organized criminal groups in this crime and they agreed to coordinate their efforts to fight it.

1024. The Ministers *welcomed* significant progress achieved under the “Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and related Transnational Crime”, particularly the strengthening of regional and sub-regional cooperation in addressing irregular migration challenges. In this respect, the Ministers commended the continued commitment of the Bali Process members and observers to increase efforts to combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons, including by enhancing and implementing national legislation to criminalize these activities, strengthening interagency coordination, building greater consistency in legal regimes and processing of irregular migrants, and strengthening law enforcement mechanisms and cooperation, as well as immigration systems in the prosecution of these crimes. They also *took note* of the Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related

Transnational Crime which was adopted during the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime which was held on 23 March 2016 in Bali.

1025. The Minister reaffirmed that implications of trafficking in persons can be addressed through adopting multi-dimensional development approaches, incorporating information about trafficking in persons into school curricula and training programs to educate children and young adults about the risks of human trafficking.

1026. The Minister reaffirmed also that responding to human trafficking requires the partnership with various stakeholders and bilateral and regional processes and initiatives.

1027. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, in Khartoum, from 13 to 16 October 2014, organized by the African Union in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, in this regard they took note with appreciation of the outcome document of the Conference, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and called for its implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building by the United Nations and the International Community.

1028. The Ministers *welcomed* the convening of the Trilateral Meeting between the representatives of the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative, the Khartoum Process, and the Rabat Process that took place in Luxor, Egypt, from 8th to 9th November 2017. In this regard, they took note of the fruitful discussions between the representatives of all Processes on the matters of migrant smuggling and trafficking of people, focusing on unaccompanied minors, where participants agreed to enhance operational synergies, advance joint efforts in addressing the common challenges, and expedite information flow between the processes.

### **Drug Trafficking**

1029. The Ministers *expressed* grave concern at the worsening problem of illicit drug trafficking worldwide on account of its transnational and global nature. They *reiterated* that more effective measures must be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the world drug problem in all its aspects. They further *recognized* that no single government can combat this menace alone successfully, given that criminal organizations linked to drug trafficking operate collectively in the territory of several countries and are multiplying trafficking routes and distribution methods, therefore cooperation, coordination and committed action by all countries are essential to curb this crime. The world drug problem constitutes a threat to public health, to sustainable socioeconomic development and to the stability of States.

1030. The Ministers *underscored* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

1031. Consistent with the said position, the Ministers *reiterated* that the fight against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be tackled in a multilateral framework and that can only be dealt with effectively through meaningful international cooperation, and it demands an integrated and balanced approach and should be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other provisions of international law, in particular the respect for national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in their internal affairs, based on the principles of equal rights and mutual respect. Likewise, the Ministers *expressed* concern over the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), while noting the resolutions and decisions adopted during the

previous sessions of the Commission on Narcotic drugs in Vienna, Austria, in this regard.

1032. The Ministers *called for* increased efforts to prevent and combat all aspects of the world drug problem, including reduction of the demand and supply and addressing public health concerns in conformity with member states' human rights obligations. They also *recognized* the importance of appropriate or suitable strategies, international cooperation, capacity building, collection of accurate and reliable drug data and increase sustainable alternative development programmes and strategies, in tackling the world drug problem while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

1033. The Ministers *welcomed* the progress made by Member States in implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the 2016 Outcome Document of the 30th United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", and recognized that these documents for addressing and countering, in a balanced manner, the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

1034. The Ministers encouraged the continued contribution of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard welcomes the discussions conducted in Vienna from 27 to 30 June 2017, Hurghada, Egypt, from 18 to 22 September 2017, Guatemala City from 2 to 6 October 2017, Beirut from 13 to 17 November 2017 and Bangkok from 27 to 30 November 2017.

### **Corruption**

1035. The Ministers *stressed* that corruption practices, including lack of sound international corporate governance, bribery, money laundering and transfer abroad of illegally acquired funds and assets undermine the economic and political stability and security of societies, undermines social justice and severely endangers the efforts of developing countries for sustainable development. They *recognized* that the UN Convention against Corruption provides universally accepted norms to prevent and combat corrupt practices, establishes the principle of asset recovery and transfer of assets of illicit origin and mechanism for international cooperation in this regard.

1036. The Ministers *welcomed* the significant number of States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in this regard urged all States, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and calls upon all States parties to fully implement the Convention as soon as possible, including through international cooperation as outlined in the Convention.

1037. The Ministers *welcomed* the on-going second review cycle which covers Chapters II on "Preventive Measures" and Chapter V on "Asset Recovery" of the Convention and is convinced that the review of these two chapters would produce tangible and useful results to support the efforts of all States Parties to effectively and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

1038. The Ministers *underscored* the necessity to preserve the intergovernmental character of all subsidiary Organs/Working Groups in Vienna emanating from the Conference of States Parties in Accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference. In this regard, they welcomed the compromise reached during the Fourth Session of the conference of States Parties held in Marrakech, Morocco contained in Resolution 4/6 entitled "The Non-Governmental Organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the

United Nations Convention against Corruption”.

1039. The Ministers *reiterated* the importance of developing and promoting effective policies and practices aimed at the prevention of corruption, and in this regards stressed the need to enhance effort in accordance with chapter II of the Convention. They also underlined the importance of the Marrakech Declaration on the prevention of corruption 4/3 in encouraging the integration of anti-corruption national strategies and welcomed resolution 7/6 entitled “Follow-up of the Marrakech Declaration on the prevention of corruption”.

1040. Consistent with the aforementioned positions, the Ministers *stressed* in particular the implementation of the provisions on asset recovery contained in Chapter V of the UN Convention against Corruption, which require States Parties to return assets obtained through corruption. The Ministers *emphasized* that one of the high priorities in the fight against corruption is to ensure the return of illegally acquired assets to the country of origin. The Ministers, therefore, *urged* all States Parties and relevant international organizations, consistent with the principles of the Convention, in particular Chapter V, to strengthen their cooperation at all levels in order to facilitate the quick return of such assets, and to assist requesting States to build human, legal and institutional capacity to facilitate tracing, confiscation and recovery of such assets;

1041. The Ministers also *urged* to continue working with all stakeholders on domestic and international financial markets to deny safe haven to assets illicitly acquired by individuals engaged in corruption, to deny entry and safe haven to corrupt officials and those who corrupt them, and enhancing international collaboration in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery of proceeds of corruption.

1042. The Ministers *took note* with appreciation of the establishment and functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encouraged State Parties to the Convention to provide full support to the Review Mechanism;

1043. The Ministers *acknowledged* the importance of both the public and private sectors in preventing and combating corruption and in promoting a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability consistent with the “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, adopted during the 4th Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Marrakech from 24 to 28 October 2011.

1044. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of enhancing cooperation and collaboration, in particular through the promotion of best practices in combating corruption and welcomed the outcomes of the Seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption which took place in Vienna, Austria, from 06 to 10 November 2017.

**Annex I: Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (120)**

Afghanistan	Colombia	Haiti	Mozambique	Singapore
Algeria	Comoros	Honduras	Myanmar	Somalia
Angola	Congo	India	Namibia	South Africa
Antigua and Barbuda	Côte d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan	Cuba	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Nicaragua	Sudan
Bahamas	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Iraq	Niger	Suriname
Bahrain	Djibouti	Jamaica	Nigeria	Swaziland
Bangladesh	Dominica	Jordan	Oman	Syrian Arab Republic
Barbados	Dominican Republic	Kenya	Pakistan	Thailand
Belarus	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kuwait	Palestine	Timor-Leste
Belize	Ecuador	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Panama	Togo
Benin	Egypt	Lebanon	Papua New Guinea	Trinidad and Tobago
Bhutan	Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho	Peru	Tunisia
Bolivia	Eritrea	Liberia	Philippines	Turkmenistan
Botswana	Ethiopia	Libya	Qatar	Uganda
Brunei Darussalam	Fiji	Madagascar	Rwanda	United Arab Emirates
Burkina Faso	Gabon	Malawi	Saint Kitts and Nevis	United Republic of Tanzania
Burundi	Gambia	Malaysia	Saint Lucia	Uzbekistan
Cambodia	Ghana	Maldives	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Vanuatu
Cameroon	Grenada	Mali	Sao Tome and Principe	Venezuela
Cape Verde	Guatemala	Mauritania	Saudi Arabia	Vietnam
Central African Republic	Guinea	Mauritius	Senegal	Yemen
Chad	Guinea Bissau	Mongolia	Seychelles	Zambia
Chile	Guyana	Morocco	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe

**Annex II: The Founding Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement**

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations, large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, and abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and co-operation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

**Annex III: The Principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 14th NAM Summit in Havana**

- a. Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.
- b. Respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.
- c. Recognition of the equality of all races, religions, cultures and all nations, both big and small.
- d. Promotion of a dialogue among peoples, civilizations, cultures and religions based on the respect of religions, their symbols and values, the promotion and the consolidation of tolerance and freedom of belief.
- e. Respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the effective implementation of the right of peoples to peace and development.
- f. Respect for the equality of rights of States, including the inalienable right of each State to determine freely its political, social, economic and cultural system, without any kind of interference whatsoever from any other State.
- g. Reaffirmation of the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination.
- h. Non-interference in the internal affairs of States. No State or group of States has the right to intervene either directly or indirectly, whatever the motive, in the internal affairs of any other State.
- i. Rejection of unconstitutional change of Governments.
- j. Rejection of attempts at regime change.
- k. Condemnation of the use of mercenaries in all situations, especially in conflict situations.
- l. Refraining by all countries from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law or is in any way incompatible with it, for the purpose of coercing any other State to subordinate its sovereign rights, or to gain any benefit whatsoever.
- m. Total rejection of aggression as a dangerous and serious breach of International Law, which entails international responsibility for the aggressor.
- n. Respect for the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
- o. condemnation of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and systematic and gross violations of human rights, in accordance with the UN Charter and International Law.
- p. Rejection of and opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. In this context, terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.
- q. Promotion of pacific settlement of disputes and abjuring, under any circumstances, from taking part in coalitions, agreements or any other kind of unilateral coercive initiative in violation of the principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations.
- r. Defence and consolidation of democracy, reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social, and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their life.

- s. Promotion and defence of multilateralism and multilateral organizations as the appropriate frameworks to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind.
- t. Support to efforts by countries suffering internal conflicts to achieve peace, justice, equality and development.
- u. The duty of each State to fully and in good faith comply with the international treaties to which it is a party, as well as to honour the commitments made in the framework of international organizations, and to live in peace with other States.
- v. Peaceful settlement of all international conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
- w. Defence and promotion of shared interests, justice and cooperation, regardless of the differences existing in the political, economic and social systems of the States, on the basis of mutual respect and the equality of rights.
- x. Solidarity as a fundamental component of relations among nations in all circumstances.
- y. Respect for the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of countries and peoples.