



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-seventh Session**

**Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation  
to advance the right to education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality  
education and lifelong learning for all**

**Statement**

**delivered by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, First Secretary of the Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International  
Organizations in Geneva on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**Geneva, 12 July 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-president,

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

The NAM expresses its deep concern over the fact that 258 million children and youth remain out of school, and 773 million adults are illiterate, a significant number of whom can be found among persons with disabilities, particularly in the developing world.

The NAM also expresses its deep concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the disruption of education systems, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable and exacerbating pre-existing education disparities.

The NAM further expresses its concern over the digital divide in access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools between developed and developing countries, which negatively affects the right to education. The NAM reaffirms the importance of ensuring universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge relating to ICT and supporting national efforts in developing countries aimed at building, improving and strengthening ICT capacities, in order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities.

The NAM stresses that 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.

The NAM emphasizes that the enhancement of international cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacity of States is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights and implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The NAM recalls that providing advisory services, technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and with a view to supporting their actions and programmes in the field of human rights is one of the responsibilities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office. Technical assistance and capacity-building also constitute an essential component of the work of the Human Rights Council.

In this regard, the NAM is of the view that both the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should increase their efforts in providing advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to States upon their request and according to their national needs and priorities, to ensure the realization of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to education and lifelong learning for all and take practical relevant steps to this end.

I thank you.