



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**STATEMENT
delivered by Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement
at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
Geneva, 10 December 2019**

Madam Chairperson,

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

The NAM Member States wish to express their appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their tireless efforts in making this Conference a success.

Madam Chairperson,

The main goals and objectives of the policy of non-alignment are based on the ten Bandung Principles of 1955. The scope of these principles includes respect for fundamental human rights, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, refraining from acts or threat of aggression, refraining from threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any country, peaceful solution of all international disputes in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, respect for justice and international obligations.

At the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on 25-26 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, under the theme “Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world”, the NAM Members States expressed their determination to act in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement in the present international environment.

Madam Chairperson,

The 33rd International Conference is taking place in the year when we are commemorating the 70th anniversary of the landmark Geneva Conventions, which aim to limit sufferings of civilians during an armed conflict and restore dignity to all those who are

no longer party to a conflict. And undoubtedly, the existing protracted and erupting new armed conflicts, brutalities committed by aggressors, resulting tragic consequences and sufferings of people affected by the conflicts affirm the relevance of these Conventions today, along with ensuring greater need for respect and compliance with them.

The NAM Member States are committed to respecting international humanitarian law. At the Baku Summit the NAM countries stressed 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. The NAM Member States called upon all parties to international armed conflicts 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.

Madam Chairperson,

The NAM countries urge States to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law 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 stress that all detainees or persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts must be treated by States humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments.

At the Baku Summit the NAM countries recognized that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons in situations of armed conflict, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as to ensure respect, protection, fulfilment, and restoration of their human rights.

Madam Chairperson,

The chosen slogan of the 33rd International Conference, which is "Act today, shape tomorrow" and which stresses the utmost need of taking action today in order to provide for a better tomorrow is commendable. Taking this opportunity, the NAM Member States wish to express their appreciation to ICRC and IFRC, who have been at the forefront of humanitarian response in the course of many years and who know the truth about sufferings of people in the situations of armed conflicts.

The NAM Member States express their readiness to continue collaborating with ICRC and IFRC in improving lives of people affected by armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies.

Thank you.