



CHAIR OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT VIENNA CHAPTER



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) AT THE 8TH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION
AGAINST CORRUPTION**

Agenda Item 1(f) – General Discussion

Abu-Dhabi, 16 December 2019

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, Non-Aligned Movement Member States express their gratitude to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for excellent organization of the eighth session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption and wish all States Parties successful deliberations.
3. The Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement continue to be concerned about the problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, as well as its negative impact on sustainable development and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. The Movement is convinced that effective measures for the prevention and combating corruption promote rule of law, reinforce trust in public institutions, increase corporate social responsibility, and can lead to enhanced economic growth.
5. The Movement welcomes the ratification and accession of significant number of States to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in this regard urges 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 provisions of the Convention, including through international cooperation aspired by the Convention.

Mr. President,

6. Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan hosted the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement on 25-26 October 2019 where the leaders of NAM countries unanimously adopted comprehensive and ambitious Final Document, a separate section of which was devoted to combating corruption.
7. The Heads of State and Government emphasized in Baku the need to combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, as well as to prevent the acquisition, transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption and to work for the prompt recovery of such assets in accordance with the principles of the Convention, including Chapter V on “Asset Recovery”.



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8. The Heads of State and Government also underlined 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. They, 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.
9. The Heads of State and Government took note with appreciation of the establishment and functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encouraged the State Parties to the Convention to provide full support to the Review Mechanism.
10. The Heads of State and Government expressed their strong condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the Movement, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of nonintervention, self-determination and independence of States, and respect of the territorial integrity of States. In this respect, they reiterated their determination to denounce, and demand the repeal of such measures, which affect human rights and prevent the full economic and social development of the peoples subjected to them.
11. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation and collaboration, in particular through the promotion of best practices in combating and preventing corruption, and underlined the importance of the “Marrakech Declaration on the prevention of Corruption” (Resolution 4/3) in encouraging the integration of anti-corruption national strategies.
12. The Movement stresses that preventive measures are one of the most effective means of countering corruption and avoiding its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and underlines that prevention measures should be strengthened at all levels.
13. Therefore the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement recall the prominence that the Convention gives to the prevention of corruption by devoting its entire Chapter II to measures to prevent corruption in both public and private sectors.
14. The Non-Aligned Movement recognizes that, while the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption is the responsibility of States Parties, promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption are responsibilities to be shared by all sectors of society and stakeholders involved in the fight against corruption in accordance with articles 7 to 13 of the Convention.



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15. The Movement acknowledges the importance of enhancing cooperation and collaboration, in particular through the promotion of successful practices in combating corruption for their further replication.
16. Similarly the Member States of the Movement acknowledge the crucial importance of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, in strengthening structural, institutional and human capacity and thereby facilitating the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention.
17. The NAM underlines that the increased application of innovative approaches and technological innovations can play an important role in reducing corruption by promoting transparency and can improve the environment and tools necessary to foster public access to information on preventing and combating corruption.

I thank you, Mr. President.