



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



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

Panel Discussion on the impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights

Statement

delivered by Mr. Kamran Seyfullayev, Third 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, 8 July 2020

Madam President,

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

The Movement welcomes convening this panel discussion while the impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development are on the rise.

The NAM stresses that a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented digital technologies contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and addresses new challenges faced by humankind.

The NAM expresses its concern over the digital divide in access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools between developed and developing countries, and underlines 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. In order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities, the NAM reaffirms 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.

The NAM also expresses its concern on and calls for an end to the use of information and communication technologies, including social network, in

contradiction with the norms and principles of international law, including those related to sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of the UN Member States.

In conclusion, the NAM reiterates importance of international and multi-stakeholder cooperation in order to bridge digital divides, benefit from opportunities and to address the challenges arising from the rapid technological change, which affects States in different ways due to their national realities, capacities and levels of development.

Thank you, Madam President.