



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL FORUM
ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

New York, 10 September 2020

Mr. President,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the 120 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement at the United Nations High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace.
2. We would like to start by expressing our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this event under the theme “The Culture of Peace: Change the world for the better in the age of COVID-19”. We also thank the Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres for his participation and valuable remarks.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes convening of High-Level Forum on such an important issue as Culture of Peace in line with the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 74/21 on the Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.
4. From its inception the Culture of Peace has become one of the most fundamental ideas guiding the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement towards the noble goal of achieving a peaceful and prosperous world. The Movement’s principled stance, as a force of anti-militarism and peacebuilding, is reflected in its dedicated global work of advancing peace and sustainable development in the interest of humanity. This High-level forum serves as an invaluable opportunity, made especially relevant in light of the unprecedented suffering caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, to reiterate our joint commitment to further strengthen the pursuit of a just, equitable and peaceful world order.
5. During the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in October 2019, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, Heads of State and Government of the Movement noted that the world today is composed of 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 that relations



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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.

6. The Non-Aligned Movement has consistently reaffirmed its long-standing position on the pressing need to promote and strengthen multilateralism and multilateral decision-making process by strictly adhering to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. In this connection, it played a pivotal role in the establishment of the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy with a view to advance the common goal of a lasting and sustained peace through diplomacy, cooperation, and solidarity.

Mr. President,

7. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its commitment to promotion of 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, including peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, as well as 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.
8. Member States of the Movement welcomed the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 74/23, highlighting the importance of promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, as well as culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.
9. In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement strongly emphasizes well-established fact that there can be no development without peace. Member of the Movement, therefore, reaffirm 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 call upon all countries and stakeholders 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.

Thank you, Mr. President.