



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



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

**General debate on item 5
Human rights bodies and mechanisms**

Statement

delivered by 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, September 29, 2020

Madame President,

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

The NAM highlights the necessity of enhancing and improving the work of human rights mechanisms, as appropriate, including human rights treaty bodies, special procedures, expert groups, and the confidential procedures, bearing in mind the need to prevent politicization and double standards in the work of human rights mechanisms, so as to enhance the effectiveness of the system.

The NAM stresses the need for special procedures mandate holders to exercise their functions in full respect for, and with strict observance of their mandates and the Code of Conduct for the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders contained in the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including on resources and funding for special procedures.

The NAM also highlights the need to ensure that the human rights mechanisms and bodies aim at strengthening the capacity of the Member States to implement their obligations on the promotion and protection of human rights upon their request and consent, as well as in consultation with them.

These mechanisms should not be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of the Member States or to question their political, economic and social systems, their sovereign rights, and their national, religious and cultural peculiarities.

The NAM is of the view that while it is necessary to harmonize guidelines on reporting procedures of the human rights treaty bodies, more efforts should be made to ensure that their work is more effective, objective, transparent, and accountable, as well as to ensure a more balanced membership therein, in accordance with the principles of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, representation of different legal systems, as well as ensuring that members nominated to serve with the treaty bodies will serve in their personal capacity, and possess high moral character, acknowledged impartiality, and competence in the field of human rights.

The NAM expresses serious concern over non-representation or under-representation of its Member States in the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the human rights treaty bodies, and in the special procedures of the HRC, and stresses the need for ensuring the adequate representation of the NAM Member States on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Preserving the significance of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is the only international mechanism to review human rights situation in all Member States on equal footing, is of crucial importance for the NAM. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that the UPR is conducted by the Human Rights Council as a result-oriented, cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with full involvement of a country under review and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs. Such mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies.

To conclude, the NAM reiterates the importance of the Office of the High Commissioner in promoting and protecting the enjoyment and full realization of the rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and strictly in line with the mandate upon which it was created.

Thank you.