**CHAIR**

**NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**GENEVA CHAPTER**

**UN Human Rights Council**

**Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development**

**24th session**

**General statement**

**delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

*Geneva, 15 May 2023*

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Member States.
2. At the outset, NAM expresses its sincere appreciation to the Deputy High Commissioner for sharing with us her thoughtful remarks and we extend our gratitude to the Secretariat for their continued support to the Working Group.
3. NAM also would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Mr. Zamir Akram, for being re-elected as the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development. We assure you of our full support and believe that under your stewardship this Working Group would be able to fulfill its mandate and come up with tangible results. In this regard, NAM welcomes the continuation of elaboration of the draft convention on the right to development and stresses the importance of inclusive and constructive engagement at this session of the Working Group, which will consider the second revised draft convention on the right to development, to be presented by the Chair-Rapporteur for the intergovernmental negotiations.
4. In the Final Outcome Document of the 18th Summit of NAM held on 25-26 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Heads of State and Government of the Movement agreed to promote and protect all universally recognized human rights, in particular the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.
5. Heads of State and Government also urged the UN human rights machinery to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a Convention on the Right to Development by the relevant machinery.
6. At this year’s 52nd session of the Human Rights Council we have commemorated the 35th anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development at the High-level Meeting organized by the OHCHR in close cooperation with the NAM Chairmanship, and in accordance with the Council resolution 49/8 presented by the Movement. The Declaration established development as a human right and described it as a process of exercising individual and collective economic, social, cultural and political rights through both participating in and contributing to development and also enjoying its benefits. Despite being unanimously recognized as a separate human right in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by all states, we see highly divisive international discourse and attempts to misinterpret the concept of the right to development. Therefore, NAM reiterates the need to reinvigorate the implementation of the right to development as an inalienable human right.
7. NAM reiterates that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, and there is an urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone.
8. NAM wishes to recall that the Article 10 of the Declaration highlights that international community has a shared responsibility for the realization of the right to development and for establishing a favourable economic environment based on the duty to cooperate at the international level.
9. NAM believes that the right to development should be central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this vein, urges all UN Member States to pay particular attention to the right to development in the context of the elaboration of their national policies in line with the 2030 Agenda.
10. In this regard, we are of the view that, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Goals is profoundly dependent on acquisition of an integrated, holistic and comprehensive approach by all States, in which a just and equitable development is achieved and human dignity attained.
11. At the same time, NAM recommends the United Nations, its development-related agencies, country and regional offices as well as international financial institutions to mainstream the right to development into their policies and operational activities and multilateral trading frameworks.
12. While we believe in distinct nature of right to development as an inalienable and intrinsic right, we should acknowledge that all human rights including right to development are interrelated and interdependent. Therefore, NAM is of the view that the realization of right to development could foster operationalization of every United Nations Sustainable Development Goals such as poverty reduction, hunger eradication and food security, inclusive education for all, combat climate change and protect sustainable environment.

Mr. Chair,

1. As a complement to the efforts of less developed and developing countries, effective international cooperation is essential in providing these countries with appropriate means and facilities to foster their comprehensive development. In this regard, we believe that international cooperation is integral to the implementation and realization of the right to development, and could help us to overcome the lasting challenges which hinder progress.
2. At this session, NAM is hoping that the Working Group will be able to hold an effective consideration of the second revised draft convention on the right to development by having a constructive engagement through intergovernmental negotiations.
3. We believe that a convention on the right to development can make the Development a reality for all, ensuring the operationalization of the right to development as a priority to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and raise the right to development, as set out in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, in compliance with the mandate of the Working Group, on the basis of the principles set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development.
4. In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement members would like to assure of their full cooperation, by continuing in the same spirit, including in the consideration of the second revised draft of the legally binding instrument which is to be finalized by the Chair-Rapporteur following this process in line with the Council resolution 51/7.

Thank you.