

Statement

*by H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement*

*at the High-level Meeting on the Commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the
Declaration on Right to Development*

Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers and panelists, guests

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. At the outset, NAM would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its cooperation with the Chairmanship of the Movement for an excellent organization of this high-level event.

Last year we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development. It 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 Program of Action by all states, as well as being referred to in many United Nations resolutions and outcome documents of major international events as an inalienable human right, we see highly divisive international discourse and attempts to misinterpret the concept of the right to development, including for taking advantage of the structural inequalities emerged on global economic markets.

Uneven distribution of vaccines and life-saving drugs during the COVID-19 on the one hand between the developed, on the other hand developing and the least developed countries, caused huge suffering and significant human, economic and social costs, which have not been equally shared at the global level, and therefore wide disparities of the respective recovery processes of states worsened the development perspectives and achievement of SDGs.

The weakening role of multilateral institutions, adverse impacts of climate change, erosion of the rule of law at the international level, slow post-pandemic recovery and failure to reform global economic governance require us to engage in good faith into an open dialogue over persistent imbalances and inequalities existing in international order that developing and the least developed countries find more and more difficult to cope with alone.

Therefore, NAM Member States highly value today's discussions and consider them as both timely and relevant as we believe that addressing a broad scope of global challenges that developing world is currently facing can help progressing in sustainable development and achievement of SDGs.

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 favorable economic environment based on the duty to cooperate at the international level.

As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development, on behalf of the NAM, I would like to encourage my colleagues, Ministers and Heads of Delegations of United Nations Member States to make clearly and loudly known the need to reinvigorate the implementation of the right to development as an inalienable human right.

NAM recommends the United Nations and its development-related agencies as well as international financial institutions to mainstream the right to development into their policies and operational activities and multilateral trading frameworks. Identification of obstacles to operationalization and implementation of the right to development can trigger serious debates on the reforms on international system of governance and establishment of favorable international environment for development.

Referring to the UN General Assembly resolution 48/141, which established the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, NAM would like to reiterate that the Office has a special responsibility for mainstreaming the right to development into the broader United Nations system, in particular at the level of its country offices, and mobilizing international support for revitalizing and realization of the right to development.

Our Movement supports the contribution of the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism operating in the field of Right to Development, which contribute to the promotion and understanding of Right to Development and also the efforts being made by the Working Group on the Right to Development aimed at operationalization of this human right at the universal level.

Thank you.