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of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the opening statement and closing remarks (see annexes I and II) of Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, delivered at the online summit-level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) under the theme “United against COVID-19” held on 4 May 2020, as well as the summary of the meeting and its declaration (see annexes III and IV).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 123 and 126, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 13 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Online summit-level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to COVID-19

4 May 2020

Baku, Azerbaijan

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev:

*Dear Heads of State and Government,
Dear President of the UN General Assembly,
Dear Heads of the International Organizations,*

Excellencies,

In the capacity of a Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement and according to the Movement's Cartagena Document on the Methodology of 1996, Azerbaijan has launched the initiative to establish a Contact Group in Response to Coronavirus and hold a Summit in the respective format.

It is commendable that all the members of the Non-Aligned Movement have unanimously supported this initiative. The Contact Group is comprised of the countries, from all regional groups based on the principle of geographic representation and voluntary participation.

I am grateful to the countries – members of the Contact Group – for the participation at the Summit.

In the meantime, I also express my gratitude to the President of the UN General Assembly, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, and Chairperson of the African Union Commission for joining the Summit.

I thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. António Guterres for his video message.

Excellencies,

The XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Baku, on 25–26 October 2019. The principles of the international law were reflected in the Baku Declaration and the Baku Final Document adopted at the Summit. In the meantime, those documents once again reaffirmed support to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of the borders of the states that are also enshrined in the “Bandung Principles”, the 65th anniversary of which was celebrated most recently. Thanks to the unanimous support by all 120 member states, Azerbaijan has assumed Chairmanship in the Non-Aligned Movement for the next three years. I am thankful for the great trust and confidence we have seen.

As we assumed the Chairmanship, I declared that Azerbaijan would take practical steps to uphold the interests of the Member States on the international arena, guided by the principle of cementing the solidarity and extending mutual support.

Azerbaijan has approved a comprehensive Action Plan regarding its Chairmanship in the Non-Aligned Movement and commenced the practical activity. The Coronavirus pandemic has dramatically changed the situation in the world and

has brought about new realities. Azerbaijan's reaction to the new situation has been rapid and adequate. The Summit Level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in Response to Coronavirus held on our initiative is a testament to that.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on all the countries of the world. No country is immune to that. Only through mutual support, no turning inward and concerted efforts that we can overcome the COVID-19.

We highly appreciate the launch of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the adoption of relevant resolutions by the UN General Assembly, and the crucial role that the World Health Organization has played in the global fight against the pandemic.

We have been communicating with the World Health Organization since the early days of the pandemic. Upon our request, the team of experts of the organization visited our country in the early March and acquainted themselves with the situation on the ground. I wish to thank Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus for his support extended to Azerbaijan and participation at our Summit. This is the second Summit held on Azerbaijan's initiative. At my initiative the Summit Meeting on Response to COVID-19 of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States, where Azerbaijan is also a Chair, held on 10 April. The Director-General of the World Health Organization took part in that Summit as well and provided his valuable recommendations.

It is with pleasure that I note the Non-Aligned Movement's Communiqué of 09 April on extending "Support of the Movement to the World Health Organization and its Director-General".

In his letter addressed to me on 23 March, the Director-General of the World Health Organization highly appreciated the measures implemented in Azerbaijan. He commended Azerbaijan as an exemplary country for our actions against the pandemic. Azerbaijan, as a responsible and reliable member of the international community, made a voluntary financial contribution of \$5 million to the World Health Organization to support the global fight against the Coronavirus.

Excellencies,

Azerbaijan has undertaken timely, rapid, and necessary preventive measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Task Force under the Cabinet of Ministers has been established early this year as per my order.

Safeguarding the health of the people and ensuring their social welfare has been our ultimate priority during this pandemic.

All public engagements across the country have been either postponed or canceled. As of 03 March, the educational process has been gradually halted in all the institutions across the country. Several social isolation measures have been imposed as part of a special regime since 14 March and as of 24 March, a special quarantine regime has been introduced.

Over 20 hospitals in Azerbaijan are used for the treatment of Coronavirus patients. Necessary laboratory tests for the diagnostics and treatment of the virus, as well as certain medical equipment and supplies, were procured and delivered to Azerbaijan. Testing is conducted in 23 laboratories operating across the country and over 160 thousand tests have been made to date.

Production of personal protection gear and some other medical supplies was launched in a short span of time, to meet the domestic demand.

Therefore, thanks to all of those measures, the sanitary-epidemiological situation in the country has been kept under control, and cases of mass infections avoided. In the past three weeks we have had a positive dynamic between the number of infections and recoveries. We have once again witnessed the professionalism of our doctors during the pandemic. Azerbaijan is ready to share its experience in the treatment of the Coronavirus disease with the Non-Aligned Movement Member-States and remains open to cooperation in this area.

Given the decreasing rate of infections among the population and the positive recovery dynamic, a phase-by-phase plan of exit from the special quarantine regime has been enacted. Although the special quarantine regime has been extended until 31 May, easing of certain restrictions has started since 27 April and 04 May.

The socioeconomic relief package, worth 3.5 billion manats or \$2 billion has been introduced in Azerbaijan to maintain economic stability, address employment problems, and ensure macroeconomic and financial solidity.

Overall, the jobs of some 900 thousand public service employees have been secured with full pay; while major portion of the salaries of 690 thousand people employed in the private-sector have been covered by the Government. Furthermore, 600 thousand low income, unemployed, and unofficially employed citizens receive two, monthly payments based on subsistence minimum.

The creation of 90 thousand paid public jobs is also envisaged for boosting the social protection of the unemployed individuals.

The Government will issue guarantees for 60% of the loans, lent by the banks to the businesses.

The taxpayers operating in the areas directly affected by the pandemic will be eligible for tax concessions and tax holidays until the 01 January 2021.

These are just a fraction of the measures being undertaken. Overall, the actions of the Government are approved highly by our citizens.

Excellencies,

It is very important that in the environment of the pandemic we maintain the trade between our countries open and ensure seamless transportation of goods. Azerbaijan has already become one of the major transportation and logistics hubs in Eurasia. It has played a key role in the establishment of East-West, North-South, and North-West transportation corridors, linking tens of countries. During the pandemic also Azerbaijan has played its role as a transit-logistical center responsibly, ensuring continuous transit of cargo across its territory.

In the meantime, the exchange of medical experts and the expertise gained in the fight against the virus, sharing of information and scientific knowledge, as well as extending assistance to the countries in need, is of utmost importance.

As the proposed Summit Declaration reads, the to be created Task Force of the Non-Aligned Movement will compile, in a single database, the information on the medical and humanitarian needs of the member states in the fight against the Coronavirus. That information will be shared with the donor nations, international humanitarian relief organizations, and others, to facilitate possible assistance.

In this regard, to support the Non-Aligned Movement's member states that require assistance in the fight against the Coronavirus the most, Azerbaijan announces the additional voluntary financial contribution of \$5 million to the World Health Organization. The funds, to be released with our approval, are allocated to the member

states that are in dire need of the assistance, within the regional groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Non-Aligned Movement is the second largest international body after the UN General Assembly and brings together 120 countries. We are determined, through our joint efforts, to boost the Non-Aligned Movement's international significance and the role it plays in the international scene. Friendship, solidarity, and mutual support among nations play a crucial role here.

With your consent and pursuant to the UN Charter, we - the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement - could propose the holding of a Special Session of the General Assembly in Response to COVID-19, via videoconference, at the level of the heads of state and government.

I once again call for friendship, mutual support, and solidarity between all the countries in this difficult time for all of us.

Thank you for your attention!

Annex II to the letter dated 13 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Online summit-level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to COVID-19

**Closing remarks by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr. Ilham Aliyev**

4 May 2020

Baku, Azerbaijan

Excellencies,

The Summit Level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in Response to Coronavirus is coming to an end. I once again wish to express my deep gratitude to all of you for accepting our invitation and attending the Summit.

It is of great importance that the Non-Aligned Movement's Member States view each other's problems with understanding, demonstrate solidarity, and favor multilateral cooperation.

The solidarity and cooperation between the countries and the international organizations in the environment of the global pandemic is particularly relevant.

I am confident that the valuable ideas and proposals stated today in the speeches by the Heads of State, Government and international organizations will contribute to our joint fight against the Coronavirus.

In the meantime, it would be productive to step up our efforts for cooperation in the economic, trade, transportation and other sectors to alleviate the negative consequences of this disease in the post-pandemic period.

The Summit has demonstrated the readiness of the Non-Aligned Movement for cooperation with other international bodies and the world community. I think our discussions have also shown that the Contact Group is an efficient mechanism. In the future, thematic sub-groups of the Contact Group can be established.

I once again wish to reiterate my confidence that together we will defeat the pandemic.

The Summit Level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group is now adjourned (GAVEL).

Thank you.

Annex III to the letter dated 13 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Azerbaijan hosted the Online Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group in response to COVID-19

Upon the initiative of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Online Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group in response to COVID-19, under the theme of “United against the COVID-19 pandemic”, was held on 4 May 2020.

Promoting the values of multilateralism to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world is one of the chairmanship priorities of Azerbaijan in the NAM. Proceeding from this understanding and in view of the current global emergency caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has initiated the establishment of a Contact Group of the NAM Member States at the highest decision-making level with a view to assessing the impact of COVID-19 on NAM Member States and identifying their needs and requirements for possible remedies and action-oriented follow-up measures.

Given the restricted environment in organizing conventional meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account the urgency of the matter, the Contact Group conducted its first meeting on an online basis.

The meeting was attended by 25 Heads of State and Government, 1 Vice-President, 1 Deputy Prime- Minister and 11 Ministers of NAM Member States.

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammed-Bande, President of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and H.E. Mr. Mousa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, have also joined the Meeting.

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell, High Representative, Vice-President of the European Commission, have addressed the Meeting through video messages.

At the end of the Meeting, NAM Members States have adopted the Declaration*, recalling the Communiqués of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on “The COVID-19 Pandemic” of 25 March 2020 and “In support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Director-General” of 9 April 2020 and expressing serious concern over the rapid spread of COVID-19, which poses a major challenge to humanity and requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation.

NAM Members States decided to establish the Non-Aligned Movement Task Force with the task to work out a database that will include the basic humanitarian and medical needs and requirements of NAM Member States, which will be submitted by the Chairmanship to all donor countries, international humanitarian organizations, international financial institutions, transnational private entities implementing social responsibility projects and others for possible support and assistance.

* Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru expressed reservation on paragraph 12.

Annex IV to the letter dated 13 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Online summit-level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to COVID-19

Declaration

4 May 2020

We, the Heads of State and Government, having met through video conference at the Online Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to Covid-19, under the theme of “United against COVID-19 pandemic” on 4 May 2020, upon the initiative of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, with a view to making an effective contribution to the global efforts in tackling the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 pandemic,

1. *Reiterate* our strong commitment to the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and founding documents of NAM,
2. *Welcome* the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution [A/RES/74/270](#), entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, and [A/RES/74/274](#), entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”,
3. *Express* full support to the United Nations Secretary-General’s plans and initiatives to fight the COVID-19 pandemic,
4. *Recall* the Communiqués of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on “the COVID-19 Pandemic” of 25 March 2020 and “In support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Director-General” of 9 April 2020,
5. *Express* serious concern over the rapid spread of COVID-19, which poses a major challenge to humanity and requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,
6. *Recognize* the unprecedented effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people,
7. *Recognize* also that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,
8. *Reiterate* our support to multilateralism with the United Nations at its core, and acknowledge that preserving and strengthening the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the Charter of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is fundamental to promoting and supporting the three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, development and human rights,
9. *Express* full support to the WHO and its leadership, while recognizing the critical role and guidance they are currently playing on the frontlines, including with the provision of guidance, training, equipment and concrete life-saving services, in order to ensure the effective response of the international community to the ever-increasing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is the greatest human crisis and health emergency of our times,

10. *Call* on the Member States of the United Nations to enhance their cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to confront and combat this scourge,
11. *Emphasize* that in the face of this type of global emergency, the spirit of solidarity must be at the centre of our efforts and a high level of ethical and humanist commitment is required, where solidarity and selfless cooperation prevail in order to provide the peoples in need with medicines, medical equipment and supplies, food, exchange of expertise and good practices,
12. *Express* our strong condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the Movement, that are applied in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, further express our support, in accordance with international law, to the States affected by such measures, and urge the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of such measures, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to ensure the effectiveness of national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic,
13. *Call* for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices and by applying the relevant guidelines recommended by the WHO,
14. *Underline* the need for concerted efforts to prevent the negative effects of the pandemic on the economies of Member States,
15. *Express* our deepest condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones as a result of COVID-19 and express its solidarity with all those who are currently struggling with and recovering from COVID-19,
16. *Recognize* the enormous contribution and dedication of and express our gratitude to medical personnel and health care providers in this humanitarian emergency,
17. *Decide* to establish the Non-Aligned Movement Task Force with the task to work out a database that will include the basic humanitarian and medical needs and requirements of NAM Member States, which will be submitted by the Chairmanship to all donor countries, international humanitarian organizations, international financial institutions, transnational private entities implementing social responsibility projects and others for possible support and assistance,
18. *Express* our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement for initiating and hosting this timely and valuable meeting.