



**Statement**  
**Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting**  
**July 5-6, 2023**  
**Baku, Azerbaijan**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to address you on behalf of the South Centre, the organization of developing countries created upon the inspiration of President Nyerere, one of the great African leaders in the fight against the colonial rule.

The South Centre supports developing countries with policy-oriented research, advice on international negotiations and capacity building. Since its inception, the South Centre has maintained a close relationship with NAM. We are strong supporters of its principles, appreciate its achievements, and believe in the central role that NAM can play in reforming the multilateral system.

NAM's achievements include the fight against colonialism and neocolonialism and against illegal territorial occupations, the pursuit of international peace and security, non-proliferation, disarmament and the affirmation of the principles of the UN Charter. Such achievements have also included the promotion of human rights and of South-South Cooperation as a tool for development.

On the economic front, nearly 50 years ago NAM was successful in launching the initiative for a New International Economic Order. Although it has not materialized and needs to be adapted to a changing world, its basic elements can still inspire action today.

The achievements of NAM are many. They are reflected in a document, now available on our website, that the South Centre has produced on the occasion of this Ministerial meeting, which also includes recommendations for revitalizing NAM.

The challenges facing NAM member countries are many and complex, as highlighted in numerous interventions at this meeting. They include growing indebtedness, the impact of climate change, weak health systems, poverty, food insecurity, the energy crisis,

access to water, loss of biodiversity, and the list goes on. As noted by some delegations, the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved by 2030.

The world has changed dramatically since the creation of NAM more than 60 years ago. The growing share of NAM members in the global GDP, in international trade, in manufacturing output and even in research and development, show that NAM countries now have a significant weight in the world economy.

But this weight is not fully reflected in the international system and in the outcomes of many negotiations. The current international financial structure, the dominance of the dollar and the dependency on technologies developed in the North can explain this situation. A united NAM, however, can contribute to change it.

There is in fact a great opportunity for a decisive role for NAM to collectively address the structural problems that NAM countries face. But there will be a need to focus on some of them to be effective.

First, the reform of the international financial architecture should remain a priority, including adaptation to the new reality of the Bretton Wood institutions and de-dollarization of the world economy. An effective action against illegal financial flows and for the repatriation of assets still retained in developed countries is also necessary. While working for the reform of the United Nations, NAM should promote its engagement to solve these problems and promote the adoption of a Convention on Tax Cooperation to reform the international tax system.

Second, the NAM agenda should focus on actions for the supply of adequate finance by the developed countries, which caused the current climate crisis, to address the catastrophic consequences of climate change, including through the prompt operationalization of a loss and damage fund.

Third, mechanisms for effective technology transfer to support socio-economic development need to be put in place, including for the ongoing digital transformation which is impacting production, education and almost every aspect of life. The current mechanisms are clearly insufficient.

Fourth, the realization of the right to development as a comprehensive human right should also remain a priority. Such a right cannot be realized without the termination of unilateral coercive measures that are incompatible with the international law and the UN Charter.

In addressing these issues, a close a cooperation between the NAM and the Group of 77+China will be essential.

The South Centre will continue to work with NAM and its member countries to support them in their efforts to shape a fairer multilateral system that is responsive to the needs of the Global South.

Let me finally congratulate the Azerbaijan government on its stewardship of the Movement's chairmanship and welcome the Ugandan government to the NAM chairmanship.

Thank you.