



**Statement for the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the
Non-Aligned Movement**

Kampala, Uganda

19-20 January 2024

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, and Distinguished Colleagues,

First of all, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for our host, the Republic of Uganda, for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of this 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan for its stewardship of the NAM in the past 4 years, during which we have cooperated closely. We also congratulate the Republic of Uganda as the incoming chairman of the NAM. You can count on the South Centre for our full support to your chairmanship as we did in the past years.

The NAM has reaffirmed, most recently in the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM held in Baku, Azerbaijan in July 2023, the central role of the South Centre as the think-tank of the South, and emphasized its importance in enhancing South-South Cooperation through promoting solidarity and mutual understanding among the countries and peoples of the South; as well as providing the intellectual and policy support required by developing countries for collective and individual action in the international arena. The Baku Outcome Document also called upon the Members of the NAM to further support the South Centre in enhancing South-South cooperation and in supporting countries of the Global South in multilateral negotiating processes in the economic and social fields.

The theme of this Summit, 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence' is very timely as the international community seeks to come together for finding new and innovative solutions to the many major crises facing developing countries today, especially in relation to climate change, unsustainable debt, increasing poverty and inequality, and food insecurity. Enhancing international cooperation and especially South-South cooperation, remains vital for addressing these global challenges, promoting shared affluence, and fostering a more peaceful and interconnected world.

The strong solidarity which has guided the NAM in the past decades and its foundational Bandung Principles are as relevant today as at the founding of the NAM in 1961. Over the years, the member

states of the NAM have led the way in highlighting the important concerns of developing countries at the multilateral level and placing them on the international agenda. The Movement has evolved from a forum garnering solidarity and uniting the visions of its Members to a forum resolutely advancing the causes of justice, peace and prosperity, while staying true to its founding principles.

Today, the NAM stands at a critical juncture, where consolidating non-alignment and deepening cooperation amongst its member states can help build mutual understanding, promote collaboration and defend the interests of developing countries in global governance. As the grouping of non-aligned countries, the NAM should increase its efforts to strengthen multilateralism and build solidarity to face their common challenges, including through effective participation in the multilateral negotiations shaping global rules and relationships. The Movement must continue the process towards its full reinvigoration, and strongly advocate for the many issues of common concern to its member states, especially the situation in the Middle East, including the rights of the Palestinian people, as well as the maintenance of international peace and security, and nuclear disarmament.

The evolving patterns of global trade and foreign investment flows present both challenges and opportunities for NAM member States, which need to bring a united voice against geo-economic fragmentation and the re-establishment of blocs. Increasing access to affordable finance, new and emerging technologies and integrating further with global value chains remains critical for accelerating economic development. Reforming the international financial architecture to better serve the interests of developing countries and preventing its weaponization remains equally important as many developing countries continue to struggle with unsustainable debt burdens. The NAM should ensure that the reform of the international economic order also integrates contemporary realities, and is aligned with efforts towards sustainable development, poverty eradication, and fair and equitable global governance.

The strengthening of South-South cooperation through increased collaboration and cooperation among developing countries and Southern institutions such as the South Centre, can facilitate knowledge-sharing, promote self-reliance and achieving mutually beneficial outcomes among the partners and institutions. While not a substitute for North-South cooperation, increasing South-South cooperation among developing countries, based on and guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, can support the attainment of national and international development goals and priorities.

It is imperative for the international community to adopt collective approaches for overcoming current and ongoing global challenges and mitigate their multidimensional impacts in the spirit of equity, cooperation and solidarity. The NAM, with its experience, achievements and its large membership should play a major role in this effort to reconfigure the international economic order, promote international cooperation towards sustainable development, peace and security, and ensuring shared global affluence for its member States.

The South Centre, as the intergovernmental think-tank of developing countries, stands ready to support the NAM and its member States to achieve their common objectives and priorities across all the fields of endeavour of the Global South.

Finally, we would like to invite all of you to participate in the side event co-organized by the South Centre, the Islamic Development Bank and UNCTAD on “*Leveraging the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Decade of Action*” to be held from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm on 20th January in **the Victoria Ballroom** of this building.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.