



## **CHAIR OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT UNESCO CHAPTER**



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### **STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AT THE 6<sup>th</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO**

*Paris, 8 June 2020*

Azerbaijan takes the floor in its capacity of Chair of NAM Group UNESCO chapter to express the concerns of NAM member states related to COVID-19 pandemic that affected not only our health, but also the vital elements of our social life.

The NAM strongly believes that at these challenging times for humanity, a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation is needed more than ever to fight the growing tendencies of inequality, racism, discrimination, stereotyping and prejudices, as well as unilateral coercive measures against NAM Member States in violation of the UN Charter and international law.

The Online Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to COVID-19 on 4 May, as well as the meeting of health ministers of NAM member states on 20 May were organized by the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan with a view to consolidate our efforts to help countries in mobilizing resources and implementing adequate measures to address the adverse impacts of COVID19.

The NAM welcomes UNESCO's prompt reaction to address the challenges, including disruption of educational and cultural institutions around the world and to find solutions for the future post-pandemic period. However, the NAM believes that these initiatives should be conducted in close consultations with the Member States, without deviating from rules and procedures of Governing Bodies of UNESCO.

Thank you.